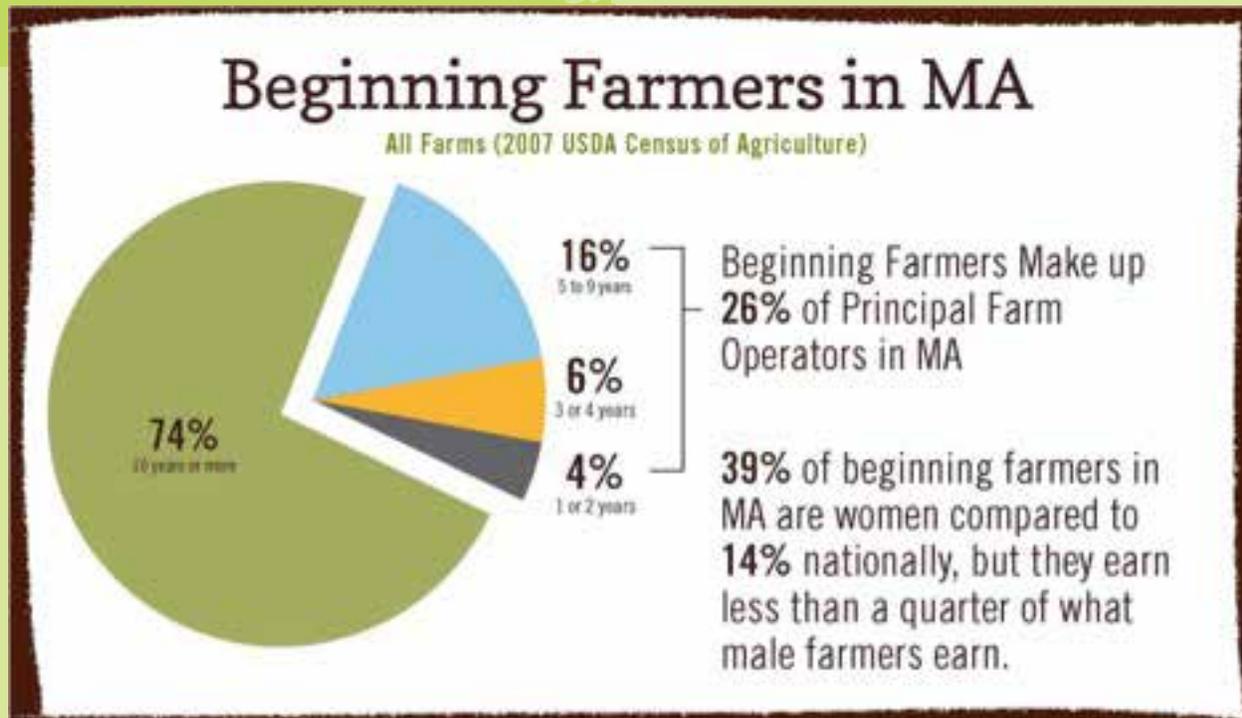


# Fact Sheet # 33 Women in Agriculture



Women in agriculture face unique challenges such as inadequate access to healthcare and childcare and daily work with tools and machinery designed for men. Women have also experienced barriers accessing credit, land, marketing, and education on credit programs and loan qualifications. According to the 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture, 32 percent of Massachusetts principal farm operators are women, making Massachusetts the state with the third highest percentage of women farmers. New England is on the forefront of both obstacles and opportunities for women in agriculture. Below are some resources specifically for women farmers.

## In Massachusetts

CISA's Women in Agriculture Network offers a Beginning Women Farmer [workshop series](#) in partnership with [Holistic Management International](#).

[BFN/Mass](#) is starting up a Women in Agriculture working group.

## Regional, National and Online

Maine Farm Bureau offers programs for [women in agriculture](#) covering issues such as leadership development, political influence, and agriculture education.

[The Women's Agricultural Network](#), based at the University of Vermont, provides educational,

technical assistance, and networking opportunities in an effort to increase the number of women who own and operate profitable farms and ag-related businesses, and to boost women's profiles in leadership positions throughout the agricultural sectors.

Cambridge, MA-based [Root Capital's Women in Agriculture Initiative](#) provides financial support to women farmers around the world.

[Women Food and Agriculture Network](#) is a community of women involved in sustainable agriculture. Find an extensive list of [resources for women farmers](#) on their website.

[Pennsylvania Women's Agricultural Network \(PA WAgN\)](#) offers online and print resources, research publications, web-based "farminars" to link participants to PA-WAgN mentors on specific topics, and links to other resources

Holistic Management International has been running a [Beginning Farmer & Rancher program for Women](#), funded by the USDA/NIFA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program, since 2009. Contact [hmi@holisticmanagement.org](mailto:hmi@holisticmanagement.org) to be put on the interest list for the 2014-2015 season.

