



Student Completed Project Information Sheet

Name of Project: **North Carolina Farm Women: Opportunities for Support and Farm-Related Education**

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Sponsor, if applicable: NA

Project Abstract:

The stress that farming visits upon male farmers has been acknowledged for decades. Stress- and work-related injuries among non-migrant farm women is well documented from 1980 through the mid-1990s. A void of literature concerning non-migrant farm women exists since that time. One possible explanation for this deficit is that United States Department of Agriculture Census of Agriculture data only consider the contributions of women on the farm if they are reported as farm operators. From 2002 to 2007, the number of women farm operators in North Carolina (NC) increased by 3%, and currently 13% of the state's farms are operated by women. These numbers emphasize the importance of understanding the self-perceived needs of women farmers. A qualitative research project was conducted to investigate the social-emotional needs of NC farm women. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 15 women with whom the NC Agromedicine Institute had previously worked in collaboration on farm health and safety. Key themes from interviews were (1) chameleonic, (2) inseparable connectedness, (3) farm sword, (4) women of a feather, and (5) one size doesn't fit all. Participants reported multiple roles, difficulty separating from the farm, preferring the farm over any other place, and viewing themselves as misperceived farm professionals. Participants need opportunities to interact with other farm women for support and sharing farm-management techniques. Future study recommendations include (1) inventory existing programs for farm women; (2) further investigate the support and educational needs of farm women; and (3) examine how farm women are perceived by nonfarm individuals.

Links to Project-related Products:

Robin Tutor-Marcom MPH, OTR/L, Jacklyn Bruce PhD & Annette Greer PhD, MSN, RN (2014) North Carolina Farm Women: Opportunities for Support and Farm-Related Education, *Journal of Agromedicine*, 19:2, 191-200, DOI:[10.1080/1059924X.2014.886540](https://doi.org/10.1080/1059924X.2014.886540)

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