

What is a farmer? Not what you may think . . .

After spending many hours in the [combine harvesting soybeans and corn](#), I had plenty of time to think about future blog topics. And it was during my solitude in the combine cab that I thought I really don't fit the typical stereotype of a farmer.

And, unbeknownst to me, that topic seems pretty popular this fall from other **women farmers**. Yes, farmers are as different as songs on the radio. My friend [Sara blogged about women farmers and how they do wear makeup](#). Her inspiration came from a recent plane trip she took where she was told by a young boy that she did not look like a farmer because she wore makeup and he argued that "farmers do not wear makeup!" It's a great read! Another friend, [The Farmer's Wife, talks about other stereotypes](#) that she has encountered. And just like them, here is why I do not fit the "farmer stereotype" either:

1. **I am a female.** Yes, not all farmers are men. Women can be farmers. Women bring a whole different dimension to farming and I truly believe agriculture is better for it. It's fun for me to see young women, such as a [Farmer's Daughter](#) and these [four daughters from Oregon farms](#), coming back to the farm as equal farming partners with their farm families.

And my friend Katie is in the midst of writing a [30 Days Of Women in Ag series](#). YES! "I am Woman, Hear . . ." Okay, okay, I won't break out in song (even though I want to!).

2. **I am a grandma.** Yes, you heard me. A G-R-A-N-D-M-A. You know, cookie baking, kiss the grandkid's booboos, game playing, huggy kind of grandma. I have five grandchildren, four who are on this earth and one who left us too soon and is heaven anxiously waiting for the rest of us to join her. I love all my grandchildren and I promise they will all [know where their food comes from](#) - from farms and not magically appear in grocery stores.

3. **I was not raised on a farm.** Absolutely **NO** farming background. I lived in a farming community but that doesn't give you a farming background. When I met my husband to be, I didn't even know what a plow was and what it was used for. I can honestly say when I was young I had no desire to live on a farm, let alone be a farmer.

4. **I did not always want to be a farmer.** As I was growing up, I stayed pretty persistent with #2. I did not want to live on a farm. I told my best friend in high school I would never marry a hog farmer. I mean, face it, pigs have a smell - farms have a smell. Why, oh why, would I ever want to live on a farm? But you know the old adage, "*never say never*". All I can say is love is blind and I ended up marrying a pig farmer!

What was I thinking? I am a city girl, not a farm girl. Doesn't GOD have the greatest sense of humor? But as you probably guessed, I started my transformation from city girl to farmer. Yes, I don't refer to myself as a farm wife - I am an equal on our farm - a farmer. And I am proud of it!

5. I don't wear the right attire. When I am working on the farm, it is usually "tennies", a t-shirt or sweatshirt and depending on the weather, I either wear shorts or jeans. No cowboy boots, no belt buckles and yes, like my friend Sara, I do wear makeup.

6. I am not a country music fan. I make no apologies - it's just the way it is. I do love and appreciate all types of music. I just don't love COUNTRY!

Farmer stereotypes need to be broken. I love that agriculture has room for all types of farmers! And I especially love that we have women in ag. Even though I never thought I would be a farmer growing up, God had a different plan for me.

And I am so grateful.

And with that, let's just **celebrate all types of farmers . . . women included.**