Cultivating (Bio)diversity: Seeding Our Stories, Growing Our Power.
Women, Food, and Agriculture Network
2020 Annual Conference

2020 Conference Goals
Build and strengthen anti-oppression knowledge, initiatives, and action through training, reflection, and collaboration.

Provide practical farm-based educational opportunities for beginning through seasoned agrarians, landowners, and food systems advocates.

Increase our capacity as land caretakers to define, create, and implement practices rooted in ecological justice.

Offer intentional spaces for critical dialogue, networking, coalition building, and story-sharing.

WFAN.org
WFAN members, allies, and friends,

Thank you for joining us for our 2020 conference, Cultivating (Bio)diversity: Seeding Our Stories, Growing Our Power.

2020 has been a hard year for many in our WFAN community. The COVID 19 pandemic highlights and exacerbates the existing challenges and injustices characterizing our agricultural economies. In August, our members across the midwest experienced an unusually powerful storm, damaging over 10 million acres of farmland in Iowa alone. Meanwhile, we join our members in outrage and grief due to the ongoing violence of white supremacy in our communities.

But here at WFAN, we know the power of community is immense. That’s why we’re here, together. We are responding to this year’s challenges, and continuing to build a vibrant, (bio)diverse, community-centered food and agricultural system in which women are strong leaders.

Perhaps most importantly, WFAN members continue to inspire. Together, we have trained and supported aspiring farmers, coordinated mutual aid to respond to farmers’ needs, supported one another in telling our agricultural stories, incorporated conservation practices on-farm and in tenant leases, and advocated for racial justice in our communities and beyond — to name a few highlights.

And we continue to do the work of building community this weekend, together. Thank you for spending your time with us. I can’t wait to see what unfolds this weekend and beyond.

With deep gratitude,

Ahna Kruzic, WFAN Interim Executive Director
(she/hers)
## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
ALL TIMES ARE LISTED IN EASTERN STANDARD TIME.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6th</th>
<th>ACTIVITY/WORKSHOP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00-10:30 AM</td>
<td>Whova 101: Navigating the Virtual Conference Landscape</td>
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<td>11:00-11:30 AM</td>
<td>WFAN Interim ED Welcome Address</td>
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| 1:00-2:00 PM         | Workshop 1: Reclaiming Our Agriculture Narratives as Women of Color  
|                      | Workshop 2: Organic Agriculture: Claiming Your Farm’s Autonomy  
|                      | Workshop 3: Exploring Farmer Social Sustainability Practices |
| 2:00-3:00 PM         | Workshop 1: Create a Media Kit that Brings Publicity to Your Farm  
|                      | Workshop 2: Creating a Buzz! - Introduction to Pollinators |
| 2:00-3:30 PM         | Workshop 1: Supporting Beneficial Birds and Managing Pest Birds  
|                      | Workshop 2: Cultivating Your Relationship with Land |
| 4:00-5:00 PM         | Workshop 1: Roadmap to Your Farm - Accessing Land and Capital  
|                      | Workshop 2: Fronteriza FarmHers  
|                      | Workshop 3: Making USDA Work for You: Opportunities to Engage and Contribute Your Voice |
| 7:00-9:00 PM         | Movie and Discussion: GATHER  
|                      | Get your free ticket to our conference movie night screening of the documentary GATHER at this link: https://story-spaces.com/events/gather-yr2okb. |

**HAVE A GREAT NIGHT!**
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<tr>
<th>SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7th</th>
<th>WORKSHOP/ACTIVITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00-10:00 AM</td>
<td>Live Yoga</td>
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<td>10:00-11:00 AM</td>
<td>Affinity Groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00-12:00 PM</td>
<td>Keynote Address: Sikowis, aka, Christine Nobiss</td>
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<td>12:00-1:00 PM</td>
<td>Award Ceremony</td>
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<td>1:00-2:00 PM</td>
<td>Workshop 1: Food Banks: Feeding Local Communities During a Global Pandemic and Other Natural Disasters</td>
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<td>Workshop 2: Regenerating the Land and Native Communities with Bison: Partnerships for Progress</td>
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<td>Workshop 3: Starting a Business or Nonprofit: The Legal Basics</td>
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<td>1:00 PM-2:30 PM</td>
<td>Workshop 1: Land Access and Rural Vitality</td>
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<td>Workshop 2: Harnessing Your Power Amidst Uncertainty and Change: A Storytelling Practice Workshop</td>
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<td>2:30 PM-3:30 PM</td>
<td>Affinity Groups</td>
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<td>3:30 PM-4:30 PM</td>
<td>WFAN Board of Directors: Meet and Greet!</td>
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<td>SEE YOU IN 2021!</td>
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FOR MORE CONFERENCE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:
https://wfan.org/2020-wfan-annual-conference-1
Reclaiming Our Agriculture Narratives as Women of Color: This session aims to harvest the power of women of color in agriculture and food by giving them the tools to communicate their narratives. By further highlighting the voices of women of color as stakeholders in food and agriculture we build our collective power to advance equity and representation in our industry. Vanessa Garcia Polanco

Create a Media Kit that Brings Publicity to Your Farm: Looking to attract the press to your farm and ensure they accurately tell your story? A media kit is the place to start. Learn the components of media kits and how to share them with journalists. We'll also discuss photography and archival practices so you always have images at the ready. Diahann Lohr

Food Banks: Feeding local communities during a global pandemic and other natural disasters: This session will take an in-depth look at Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County, the first food bank in California and the second oldest in the nation, and the successful food distribution systems the organization put into place in order to serve hundreds of agencies and thousands of community members. We will also explore Second Harvest’s quick pivot to immediately serve thousands of wildfire evacuees in addition to the growing number of clients during a global pandemic. Emily Jane Freed

Creating a Buzz! - Introduction to Pollinators: This workshop will explore what pollinators are, the threats they face, what they need to thrive, agroforestry opportunities with trees and shrubs, and what you can do to help with the plight of the pollinators. Attendees will get access to a free, electronic version of the pollinator “toolkit” of useful information, publications, and options for landowners. Debbie Fluegel

Cultivating Your Relationship with Land: Take this opportunity to learn strategies to cultivate a deeper connection with land you steward. Ecological Design will share lessons, stories, assessment tools, and practices to help you get to know the land more deeply, appreciate it, regenerate it, and have fun in the process. Paula Westmoreland and Lindsay Rebhan.

Organic Agriculture: Claiming Your Farm’s Autonomy: Emily Newman will facilitate a discussion on perceived barriers and perspectives to adopting organic production practices and becoming certified organic. Attendees will leave with resources and mentors for building resilient, organic farm systems. To facilitate knowledge-sharing the target audience includes experienced and aspiring organic farmers and landowners. Emily Newman

Supporting Beneficial Birds and Managing Pest Birds: This session will educate farmers how beneficial birds can help control pest insects, rodents, and pest birds. When farmers provide habitat for beneficial birds and bring them closer to crops, they may be able to reduce pest-control costs. Beneficial birds can help with production in the same way as beneficial insects. Jo Ann Baumgartner and Rachael Long

Harnessing Your Power Amidst Uncertainty and Change: A Storytelling Practice Workshop: This workshop is for professionals who want to increase their impact as change agents within their work and communities. In this workshop, you’ll be guided through activities that will help you pause to reflect on your own experiences, consider how you can harness your power in this time, and start to craft an empowering story that motivates and grounds you in your work. Kasey Armstrong
Exploring Farmer Social Sustainability Practices: This experiential workshop will practice three techniques farmers and farmer educators can use to develop their own and communal social sustainability. We will guide participants to assess personal stress and coping mechanisms and make meaningful mind/body/spirit connections. Rachel Tayse and Fiona Doherty

Roadmap to Your Farm - Accessing Land and Capital: This session is targeted to beginning farmers and struggling farms. The goal is to provide the steps to achieve success in finding and creating relationships with landowners and investors for your farm business. The audience will come away with clear starting points and steps forward no matter what stage of development they are in. Karen Bouwman

Land Access and Rural Vitality: Land access is frequently cited as the biggest challenge facing beginning farmers. This discussion-based session will touch on both the realities and alternative visions of land ownership and tenure, and participants will develop a collective vision of land access and rural vitality. Hannah Breckbill.

Fronteriza FarmHers: Chihuahuan Desert fronteriza farmHers share reflections and stories of collaboration about their different regenerative practices and challenges in the Chihuahuan Desert. Explore how each farmHer has re-imagined land access to bring their farm vision to fruition, while navigating geographic and political contexts of their tri-state, bi-national Paso del Norte borderlands. Cristina Dominguez and panel.

Regenerating the Land and Native Communities with Bison: Partnerships for Progress: This panel will discuss developments from Tanka and share resources on their lessons learned while building partnerships across sectors to build a regenerative Native-owned business. Dawn Sherman, Kerri McClimen, & Marilyn Noble

Making USDA Work for You: Opportunities to Engage and Contribute Your Voice: This session will present the numerous engagement opportunities available to farmers and ranchers within the US Department of Agriculture, and show how producers can get involved to shape the policies and programs of the Department—from their local county to the national level. Lindsay Mutegi, Sarah Campbell, and Rachel Taylor

Starting a Business or Nonprofit: The Legal Basics: Starting a business or nonprofit is exciting—but there are many legal issues to consider. What kind of business structure should you be—sole proprietor, partnership, LLC, nonprofit? Understanding contracts, leases, employment issues, and how to protect intellectual property are all essential to a successful business. Amy Cook
Rachel Tayse: For over a decade, Rachel has educated about and advocated for culturally-relevant, inclusive, and sustainable agriculture food systems. She currently works as the Begin Farming Program Coordinator for the Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association where she facilitates and delivers programming and technical assistance to beginning farmers. Rachel farms two acres of diversified produce and perennials at her home in Columbus, Ohio.

Fiona Doherty: Fiona is a graduate student at The Ohio State University pursuing her Masters and PhD at the College of Social Work. She is passionate about the intersection of food systems and social work with a particular focus on farmer mental health and well-being. Fiona is collaborating with The Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association (OEFFA) to implement a needs assessment and asset mapping research project of beginning farmer mental health in Ohio.

Karen Bouwman: Karen founded Big Head Farm in 2009. With only her passion to produce healthy, organic foods for her local community she started from nothing. She bootstrapped her way from zero acres in year one, to over 70 acres by year three, while securing investments and grants of over $2 million in land and capital. All of this by building relationships and sharing her story with the community around her.

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Cristina Dominguez and Panel: Cristina Dominguez is Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of La Semilla Food Center in Anthony, NM. Cristina led the transition of 12 acres of fallow farmland into La Semilla Community Farm, a thriving education and demonstration farm guided by agroecology principles. She holds a Certificate in Ecological Horticulture from the Farm and Garden Apprenticeship from the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems at the University of California- Santa Cruz. Cristina is a native of the El Paso frontera and worked for Heifer International prior to launching La Semilla Food Center.

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Regenerating the Land & Native Communities with Bison: Dawn Sherman is CEO of Native American Natural Foods and founding member of Tanka Resilient Agriculture Coop, a SD collective dedicated to returning bison to lands and improving the lives of Native Communities. Dawn will be in conversation with Kerri McClimen, Vice President of Communications for sustainable and humane meat leader Niman Ranch, and Marilyn Noble, an award-winning, independent food and agriculture journalist and contributing writer for The Counter, a nonprofit, nonpartisan newsroom.

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Esther Lin: Esther is the program manager for the Department of Agriculture’s Farm Service Agency Outreach Office. In this position, she supports the Farm Service Agency’s strategic outreach and engagement efforts. Her work includes developing tools that help field employees engage new and underserved audiences, and building partnerships across Federal, State, and community partners to promote equity.

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Amy Cook: Amy Cook is an attorney specializing in healthy food systems. She runs a legal consulting and professional development firm near Chicago and is founder of the Food Lawyer Network, an organization dedicated to providing pro bono or reduced cost legal services. She is incoming Chair of the Chicago Bar Association Food Law Committee and previously served as the executive director of the Farmer Chef Alliance.

Vanessa Garcia Polanco: Vanessa is an experienced leader, researcher, speaker, writer and organizer working with food, agriculture and sustainability stakeholders to create and strengthen sustainable and just food systems and agricultural communities.

Diahann Lohr: Diahann Lohr is a marketing professional with a commitment to sustainable living. Since 2006 she has owned Adunate Word & Design, a unique marketing studio overlooking the farm fields of rural Watertown, Wisconsin. One of the few professionals skilled in both writing and design, Diahann helps caring organizations grow through branding and marketing.

Emily Jane Freed: Emily Jane Freed is the Logistics Manager at Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County where she manages the annual distribution of 10 million pounds of food. Previously, she was the Regional Production Manager at Jacobs Farm/del Cabo, Inc. where she supervised over 500 acres of organic culinary herbs, edible flowers, and mixed fruit and vegetable production. Emily is also the owner and founder of Farmer Freed, a culinary salt blend company that features local, organic, and seasonal ingredients from farms along the California Central Coast.

Debbie Fluegel: Debbie Fluegel serves as a Field Coordinator and Program Manager for Trees Forever, where she manages the Illinois Buffer Partnership program, the Illinois Community Forestry program and Pollinator Habitat Conservation program in both Iowa and Illinois. Debbie formerly worked for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources as an EcoWatch Regional Coordinator, training adults and high school students to collect biological data on streams, forests, and prairies.

Paula Westmoreland: Paula Westmoreland is a permaculture designer, agroecologist, teacher, activist, and writer who started Ecological Design in 2000. He is passionate about bringing the land back to life laying the foundation for abundance, and finding pathways for people to reconnect to the land. Over the last 20 years she has designed and helped transition hundreds of sites including regenerative agriculture farms, public spaces, campuses, urban farms and backyards.

Lindsay Rebhan: Lindsay Rebhan is co-owner of Ecological Design, a woman-owned land planning and design firm. A specialist in agroecology, land use, farm design and land management, Lindsay works with farmers, land owners, food nonprofits, and organizations to increase the natural wealth of land over time. Lindsay co-teaches an annual Regenerative Farm Design Course at Mastodon Valley Farm and an undergraduate course on Environmental Sustainability with HECUA at Lily Springs Farm.

Emily Newman: Emily Newman is an Organic Crop Consultant at the Rodale Institute Headquarters in Kutztown, PA. She provides one-on-one consultations and regulatory assistance to farmers as they transition to certified organic. She has a B.S. in Environmental Resource Management, focusing in Soil Science, from Pennsylvania State University and is currently pursuing her MBA in Food and Agribusiness from Delaware Valley University.

Jo Ann Baumgartner: Jo Ann Baumgartner, E.D., Wild Farm Alliance, promotes a healthy, viable agriculture that protects and restores wild Nature. She is author of many farm publications on birds and biodiversity, studied avian pest control, and organically farmed for over a decade.

Rachael Long: Farm Advisor, UC Cooperative Extension, Sacramento Valley, CA studies the benefits of hedgerows for attracting natural enemies and bees for enhanced pest control and pollination in adjacent crops. She’s a UC Berkeley and UC Davis graduate; biology, entomology.