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Abstract

Farm, Family, and ME – Summit for Women is a statewide conference held in Missouri. The main goal of the two-day conference is to increase participants’ skills, understanding, and knowledge of farm risk management. Risk management topics include crop insurance 101, rainfall index insurance: pasture, rangeland, and forage (PRF), livestock insurance, crop and livestock marketing, retirement planning, estate planning, farm bill update, and farm financial management. Additionally, the conference includes opportunities for networking and personal development. Conference speakers include nationally known agriculture speakers, Extension specialists, agriculture industry professionals, and farm women. The conference evaluation data captured participants’ opinions of the general & keynote sessions, understanding of concurrent breakout session topics prior to the presentation and after, actions planned with information learned at the conference, and knowledge gain as a result of attending the conference. By attending Farm, Family, & ME - Summit for Women, women are becoming better decision makers, business partners, and leaders through educational activities and networking. As a result, this empowers them to respond to the challenges of farming.

Results and Impact

An evaluation is conducted each year to monitor short-term knowledge gain of engaged participants, planned actions with the information, and suggestions for future conferences. Each year, we incorporate a new idea to strengthen networking and conference participation. Examples include streaming conference sessions on Facebook Live, using social media for post-conference networking, farm women panel, and introducing learning circles to build resiliency. Although the main goal of Farm, Family, & Me is about risk management, an effort is made to cultivate an environment where women can experience friendship, education, and empowerment. Participants’ comments indicate our success in this effort.

- *“This summit was a positive and empowering experience for myself and the other women in agriculture in attendance. I would highly recommend this conference for any woman who is in agriculture, interested in agriculture, or seeking a better understanding of how our farmers meet the needs of our communities.”*
- *“I am still smiling from the inspiration this summit provided.”*
- *“You couldn’t have walked away from this summit without feeling inspired and empowered! The energy in that room was amazing. If the saying “you are what you eat” holds true, then “we become who we hang around with” is a must attend for next year!”*
- *“It was a GREAT learning experience! Enjoyed every minute of it!”*



Begin, review, or change my estate plan	58%
Follow markets for crop & livestock	50%
Visit with my crop, LRP, PRL insurance	31%
Read materials	75%
Share information with others	84%
Continue to educate myself	90%

Table 1. Actions participants plan to take with information learned.

My knowledge or crop insurance, rainfall index insurance, and livestock insurance has increased	61%
My understanding of marketing terminology has increased	66%
My understanding of marketing tools has increased	68%

Table 2. Knowledge/understanding gained as a result of conference attendance.