

Queer Farmers: Sexuality on the Farm

Sexuality—with whom and how we build romantic and sexual relationships—has long been studied in agriculture. However, the assumption of heterosexuality hides how sexuality does, in fact, influence farming. For example, the family farm is widely viewed as a “natural” way to farm, but privileges heterosexuality. Land access through inheritance and marriage, as well as ties to the broader farming community, are all entangled with who and how farmers make connections. Thus, LGBTQ farmers face unique conditions in agriculture.

Speaker, Michaela Hoffelmeyer, will present her findings from interviews with 20 LGBTQ farmers in the Northeast, that aimed to understand the barriers and opportunities that queer farmers encounter in maintaining a viable farm. Her research was supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, through the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program under subaward number GNE18-174-32231.



This presentation is open to all students, staff, faculty and the public.

When: Thursday, Oct 31, 8-9.20 AM

Where: 13 Curtiss



Michaela Hoffelmeyer is a PhD student at Pennsylvania State University studying Rural Sociology. Her research interests include gender, sexuality, and sustainable agriculture. She earned a B.S. in Global Resource Systems and Agriculture & Society from ISU in 2017.

This research was the basis of her master’s thesis and a version is forthcoming in Sachs et.al., *Gender and Agriculture Handbook*. Routledge.

Sponsors: Department of Sociology; Women’s and Gender Studies; Graduate Program in Sustainable Agriculture; Soc 350: Women in Agriculture and the Food System.

For more information contact Dr. Carmen Bain cbain@iastate.edu