



Resource Inventory Checklist

“Starting the Conversation”

Introduction:

The On-Farm Resource Inventory is a tool to help you start the conversation of whole farm planning with yourself, your family, your peers, and your local natural resource professionals. Answering the questions in the inventory will provide you with the opportunity to collect your thoughts, evaluate your resources, and formulate a plan to protect your land for future generations.

The farm inventory checklist is divided into three sections. Each section will be provided to you at the Women & Land meetings to help you prepare for the upcoming session discussion. By the final session, you will have put together a thoughtful description of your land, farming operation, and future plans and potential that can be shared with your family, tenants, and conservation agency staff as a starting place for planning and action on your land.

SECTION I-Overview

Section I of the inventory consists of open-ended questions intended to help you start gathering your thoughts on your “big picture” goals for your land. Think of these questions as a brainstorming activity. This section is merely a place to capture your thoughts on paper. There are no right or wrong answers. Hopefully these questions will help you better define what farming and the land means to you and get you excited to participate in “Women & Land”.

1. Do you actively farm your land?
2. Do you have a tenant farmer?
3. If you have a tenant farmer, what do you find positive about this relationship? What is challenging about this relationship?
4. If you are farming the land, why are you farming? If you plan to farm, why do you want to farm?
5. If you are not farming but have a tenant farmer, why do you want to be involved in the farming operation?
6. What do you want your role(s) to be on the farm? (*I.E. Owner, Manager, Labor, Silent Observer*)
7. What is your vision or big picture goal for your land or farm?

8. Do you need to make a profit from the farm? *Explain your answer.*
9. What are the strengths/beneficial features of your land or farm?
10. What are the problem areas/challenges of your land or farm?
11. What are your strengths do you contribute to your land or farm?
12. What are your weaknesses relating to the farm?

SECTION II-Farm & Operation

Section II is to be completed before the second learning circle. Now that you have your “big picture” thoughts and goals on paper, this section focuses on the farm, the farm operation, and conservation on your farm. It assesses both the current operation and future plans. You are encouraged to answer these questions based on both your current situation and your future or desired situation.

Completing this section before the second learning circle will help you make the most of the conservation planning discussion during the second session as you will already have given great thought to the characteristics and qualities of your own farm. Finally, completing this section will highlight areas where you may need assistance or want more information. It will assist you in forming questions specific to your farm and your operation to ask the natural resource professionals attending the second session.

Instructions: Circle the appropriate letter(s) in each question. You may not have all of the types of farming discussed in this checklist, so may skip the questions that are not relevant to your operation. If there are current and future and boxes, check the box most appropriate for your current or future plans. If a tenant is farming your land, use the current column to describe their operation. If you would like to make changes to the tenant’s operation, indicate your plans using the future column. If you don’t understand a question, be sure to ask about it at the next circle. If you “don’t know” an answer, think about asking a natural resource professional about the topic either during the circle, in a follow-up office visit, or when you have them out to your farm.

Grassland

1. Do you have grassland on your farm?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don’t know
 - d. I don’t know what that is

2. If you have grassland, how do you use it? *(Select as many as apply)*

	Current	Future
a. Fallow (Not in use-naturalized or mown)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Hay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Pasture (grazed)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Same ground is both grazed and cut for hay	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. I don’t know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. I don’t understand the question		<input type="checkbox"/>

3. If you have hay land, what type of hay operation do you have? *(Select as many as apply)*

	Current	Future
a. For on-farm use (feeding livestock on property)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. For sale (off-farm use)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Specialty (square bales for horses, alfalfa)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Round bales	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- c. For trade (in exchange for use of land etc.)
- d. I don't know
- e. I don't understand the question

4. If you have grazed pasture, what type of livestock do you have? *(Select as many as apply)*

- | | Current | Future |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Cattle | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Sheep | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Goats | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Horses | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Pigs | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Poultry | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. I don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j. I don't understand the question | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Traditional Cropland (Row crops like corn and soybeans)

5. Do you have traditional cropland on your farm?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know
- d. I don't know what that is

6. If you have traditional cropland, what type of crop are you producing? *(Select as many as apply)*

- | | Current | Future |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Corn | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Beans | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Wheat | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. I don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. I don't understand the question | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

7. If you do produce a traditional crop, how do you use it? *(Select as many as apply)*

- | | Current | Future |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Crops used on farm (<i>ex. corn for feed</i>) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Crops sold off-farm for profit | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Crops both used on farm and sold off-farm | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. I don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. I don't understand the question | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Specialty Cropland

8. Do you have specialty cropland on your farm?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know
- d. I don't know what that is

9. If you have specialty cropland, what specialty crop are you growing? *(Select as many as apply)*

	Current	Future
a. Vegetable Production	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Fruit/Orchard/Berries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Aquaculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Agritourism <i>ex. pick your own, pumpkin patch, corn maze</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Silviculture <i>ex. manage/plant trees, nursery stock</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Horticulture <i>ex. cut flowers, nursery stock</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. If you have specialty cropland, how do you use your specialty crop? *(Select as many as apply)*

	Current	Future
a. Pick your own	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Off-farm sales (farmer's market, restaurants, farm stand)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Crops both picked on farm and sold off farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. I don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. I don't understand the question		<input type="checkbox"/>

11. Is there a market for the specialty crop you produce or what you'd like to produce?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know
- d. I don't understand

Farm Infrastructure

Fencing

12. Do you have adequate boundary fencing? *(Does your fencing keep your livestock on your property?)*

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know
- d. I don't understand

13. Do you have adequate interior fencing? *(Is the farm broken into different fields?)*

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know
- d. I don't understand

14. Would you consider using temporary electric fence to maximize rotational grazing? *(Would you consider using temporary fence to divide large fields into several smaller fields to be grazed one at a time?)*

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know
- d. I don't understand

Structures

15. Do you have the farm structures (barns, shade structures, silos, equipment or hay storage) you need for your operation?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
 - d. I don't understand
16. Are the existing farm structures in good condition?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
 - d. I don't understand

Equipment

17. Do you have the adequate equipment for your farm operation?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
 - d. I don't understand
18. If you do not have adequate equipment, would you consider renting it?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
 - d. I don't understand

Water Supply

19. Do you have an adequate water supply for your livestock?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
 - d. I don't understand
20. Do you have an adequate water supply for your crops?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
 - d. I don't understand
21. Do you feel your water system could be updated/improved?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
 - d. I don't understand

Human Resources/Labor

22. Do you have adequate labor to operate your farm?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
 - d. I don't understand
23. If not, do you have a labor force available to you?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
 - d. I don't understand

Natural Resources

24. Are there water features on your farm? *(Select as many as apply)*
- a. Yes
 - i. Stream
 - ii. Pond
 - iii. Seasonally flowing streams
 - iv. Other: _____
 - v. Other: _____
 - b. I don't know
 - c. I don't understand the questions
 - d. No
25. If you have water features and livestock, do your livestock have access to streams & ponds?
- a. Yes
 - b. Yes, but it is limited
 - c. No
 - d. I don't know
 - e. I don't understand
26. Are there environmentally sensitive areas on your farm? *(Select as many as apply)*
- a. Yes
 - i. Wet Areas
 - ii. Springs
 - iii. Sink Holes
 - iv. Steep Hillsides
 - v. Special Plants or Trees
 - vi. Other: _____
 - vii. Other: _____
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
 - d. I don't understand the question

27. Are there eroding areas on your farm? *(Select as many as apply)*

- a. Yes
 - i. Gullies
 - ii. Ditches
 - iii. Exposed Soil
 - iv. Sloughs in Hillsides
 - v. Streambank
 - vi. Other: _____
 - vii. Other: _____
- b. No
- c. I don't know
- d. I don't understand the question

28. Do you have forest on your farm?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know
- d. I don't understand

29. What types of trees are on your property?

- a. Hardwood (i.e. Oaks, Poplar, Walnut etc.)
- b. Evergreen (i.e. Pine, Hemlock, etc.)
- c. Both hardwood and evergreen
- d. I don't know
- e. I don't understand the question

30. How do you use your forest? *(Select as many as apply)*

- | | Current | Future |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Timber products | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Enjoyment of the forest | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Wildlife habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Shade for livestock | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e. Hunting (Personal Use) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f. Hunt Club Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g. Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h. Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i. Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j. I don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| k. I don't understand the question | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

31. Are there areas where you would consider planting trees?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know
- d. I don't understand

Conservation Planning

32. What are your conservation goals for your property? *(Select as many as apply)*
- a. Wildlife Habitat
 - b. Erosion Reduction
 - c. Water Quality
 - d. Aesthetic
 - e. Native Species
 - f. Organic Farming
 - g. Other: _____
 - h. Other: _____
 - i. I don't know
 - j. I don't understand the question
33. Do you soil test to determine what fertilizer you might need?
- a. Yes
 - b. Yes, Every Three Years
 - c. Yes, Every Year
 - d. No
 - e. I don't know
 - f. I don't know what that is
34. Do you have a conservation plan?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
 - d. I don't know what that is
35. Do you have a nutrient management plan?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
 - d. I don't know what that is
36. Do you have any conservation practices on your farm?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
 - d. I don't understand
37. If you do have conservation practices, were they installed using any government or outside (locality or non-profit) funding?
- a. All practices were installed using government/outside funding
 - b. Some practices were installed using government/outside funding
 - c. None of the practices were installed using government/outside funding
 - d. Other: _____
 - e. I don't know

f. I don't understand the question

38. Do you know your local conservation agencies? (*Farm Service Agency, Department of Forestry, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil & Water Conservation District*)

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know
- d. I don't know what that is

39. Do you know your local natural resource professionals at the conservation agencies?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know
- d. I don't know what that is

SECTION III-Planning for the Future

Section III is to be completed before the last learning circle. This section focuses on future planning. The topics of discussion are leases, financial planning, succession planning, and the next steps you may wish to commit to taking. Completing this section before the circle will prepare you to have an informed discussion on leases, farm lending, alternatives to selling the farm, and what questions you may want to ask conservation professionals about taxes, easements and the difference between LLCs, trusts, and foundations.

This section also lays the groundwork for setting your intention to continue the learning process, as well as setting your intention to put your desires into action. You will finish the section by writing down a few small (or large), simple (or grand) steps you wish to take to move forward with your conservation goals. You will have the opportunity at the final circle to discuss your plan with your peers. In addition, you will have the opportunity to set up site visits at your farm with natural resource professionals.

Instructions: Circle the appropriate letter(s) in each question. Not all the questions may pertain to your farming operation, so skip the questions that are not relevant to your situation. If you don't understand a question, be sure to ask about it at the next circle. If you "don't know" an answer, think about asking a natural resource professional about the topic either during the circle, in a follow-up office visit, or when you have them out to your farm. In the last question, write down the actions you want to take on your farm and the expected month for taking action.

Lease Planning

1. Do you have a tenant farmer?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Other: _____
 - d. I don't know
 - e. I don't understand the question

2. If you do have a tenant, how would you describe your arrangement? *(Select as many as apply)*
 - a. Tenant without written lease
 - i. Short-term (annually negotiated)
 - ii. Long-term (multi-year)
 - b. Tenant with written lease
 - i. Short-term (annually negotiated)
 - ii. Long-term (multi-year)
 - c. Work-trade agreement
 - d. Other: _____
 - e. I don't know
 - f. I don't understand the question

3. If you do have a tenant, do you want to have a written lease?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Other: _____

- d. I don't know
- e. I don't understand the question

4. Do you know what should be included in a farm lease?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Other: _____
 - d. I don't know
 - e. I don't understand the question

Financial Planning

5. Do you have the financial resources you need to operate your farm?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Other: _____
 - d. I don't know
 - e. I don't understand the question
6. Do you know about cost-share programs for conservation work?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Other: _____
 - d. I don't know
 - e. I don't understand the question
7. Are you familiar with what farm and small business loans are available to you?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Other: _____
 - d. I don't know
 - e. I don't understand the question
8. Where are you comfortable borrowing money? *(Select as many as apply)*
- a. Family
 - b. Private Investors
 - c. Bank
 - d. Farm Credit
 - e. Farm Service Agency (FSA, part of US Department of Agriculture)
 - f. Rural Development (RD, part of US Department of Agriculture)
 - g. Other: _____
 - h. I'd consider borrowing money if I had more information about my options
 - i. I am not comfortable borrowing money
 - j. I don't know
 - k. I don't understand

Farm Ownership

9. How is the ownership structured?
- a. Individually owned
 - b. Family owned
 - c. Mortgage with bank
 - d. Limited Liability Corporation (LLC)
 - e. Trust
 - f. Foundation
 - g. Other: _____
 - h. I don't know
 - i. I don't understand the question
10. Do you know the difference between the types of ownership listed above (question #9) in terms of taxation?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Other: _____
 - d. I don't know
 - e. I don't understand the question
11. Do you know the difference between the types of ownership listed above (question #9) in terms of ensuring your farm remains in agriculture?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Other: _____
 - d. I don't know
 - e. I don't understand the question

Succession Planning

12. Have you considered a succession plan for your farm?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
 - d. I don't understand the question
13. Do you have a succession plan for your farm?
- a. Yes
 - b. Yes, but it is only for the short-term
 - c. No
 - d. Other: _____
 - e. I don't know
 - f. I don't understand the question
14. Is your family aware of your succession plan for the farm?

- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Other: _____
 - d. I don't know
 - e. I don't understand the question
15. Does your family share your vision for the future of the farm?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Other: _____
 - d. I don't know
 - e. I don't understand the question
16. Do you have a will?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Other: _____
 - d. I don't know
 - e. I don't understand the question
17. If you do have a will, is it up to date?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Other: _____
 - d. I don't know
 - e. I don't understand the question
18. If you don't have any heirs, would you consider a "work/lease to own" arrangement with a farmer who cannot afford to buy his/her own land?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Other: _____
 - d. I don't know
 - e. I don't understand the question
19. Do you know what a conservation easements is?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Other: _____
 - d. I don't know
 - e. I don't understand the question
20. Have you considered a conservation easement on the property?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Other: _____
 - d. I don't know
 - e. I don't understand the question
21. Did you know that some easements are tailored for farm operations, allowing for expansion in designated headquarters areas? (*i.e. new barns, equipment sheds, manure storage facilities, etc as the operation grows/changes*)
- a. Yes

- b. No
- c. Other: _____
- d. I don't know
- e. I don't understand the question

Action Planning

22. Has this inventory made you aware of areas in which you would like more information or education?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Other: _____
 - d. I don't know
23. If you would like more information about any topics covered in this Resource Inventory Checklist or discussed in the Circles, please list them below.
- a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
24. How would you prefer to receive more information? *(Select as many as apply)*
- e. Reading material
 - f. Printed
 - g. On the Internet
 - h. Both printed and on the Internet
 - i. Discussion group with your peers (like the learning circles)
 - j. Classes
 - k. Farm Tours
 - l. A visit from a natural resource professional to your farm
 - m. Other: _____
 - n. Other: _____
 - o. I don't know
25. Will you, after completing this class *(Select as many as apply)*:
- a. Seek out additional educational opportunities
 - b. Visit a conservation agency office for more information
 - c. Contact a peer to discuss your farm operation or farm issues
 - d. Contact a resource professional to discuss farm issues
 - e. Contact a resource professional to make a site visit to your farm
 - f. Request a resource professional develop a conservation plan focused on your land and your conservation goals?
 - g. Pursue implementation of a conservation plan on your farm
 - h. Other: _____
 - i. Other: _____
 - j. I don't know

26. Look over your responses in all three sections of the Resource Inventory Checklist. What are your next steps and the timeframe for moving forward to meet your conservation goals?

Goal

Timeframe

Examples:

a. *Call NRCS for a site visit to farm*

early May

b. *Discuss written leasing agreement with my tenant*

September

c.

d.

e.