

BACKGROUND

The Canadian Farm Family At Work: Exploring Gender and Generation

We would like to thank all the funding agencies that believed in ***The Employment Practices of Farm Families*** research project. Through your funding and often extensive in-kind support, we achieved ***The Canadian Farm Family At Work: Exploring Gender and Generation***.

- Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development
- Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food
- Status of Women Canada
- Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, through the Alberta Women's Institutes
- Canadian Heritage
- Saskatchewan Women's Secretariat
- Statistics Canada
- The Farm Women's Bureau of Agriculture Canada.

Hours of work:

- Compared to the Canadian Population Age 35-44, on average, farm adults in this survey had approximately 2 hours less leisure time/day. This does not take into account the busiest times of the farming year. *Several of the farmers in the survey did not fill out the time diaries that gave us this information and the ones that did fill them out did not fill them out at the busiest times of the year because they were too busy.*ⁱ
- Women still do most domestic work and childcare, which accounts for approximately 5 of their working hours each day.ⁱⁱ
- Farm youth aged 12-19 in this survey were compared to Canadian youth aged 15-18. Not surprisingly, on average, farm youth were spending 2.7 hours more per day at education and work and 3.2 hours less per day on leisure than the average youth. *The extra time spent on education reflects the bus time that farm children have to endure to attend school every day.*ⁱⁱⁱ

Division of labour

- The traditional division of labour continues, but compared to twenty years ago, lines have blurred.
- The number of women who engage in farm field work tasks on a regular basis has increased by an average of 12%. The number engaged in farm management tasks on a regular basis has increased by 22%. Rates for farm household tasks such as cooking, cleaning and childcare remain the same.^{iv}
- Men continue to identify their predominant tasks as focused on farm work. This study cannot make a similar comparison to men in 1982, but other studies and anecdotal evidence suggest that men are more involved in household work and childcare than they were 20 years ago.^v

Non-farm work

- Almost 50% of the adults reported non-farm employment income.^{vi}
- 68% of the farms had at least one adult doing non-farm work.^{vii}
- The number of farm women and men working at non-farm employment has increased by more than 50% from the 1982 study, ***Employment Practices of Farm Women***.^{viii}
- The two top reasons for working off the farm were extra money and to supplement farm income.^{ix}
- Parents' non-farm work means that children have to contribute more to the farm work.^x

Decision-making

- Men thought they were mostly responsible for decisions relating to crops and livestock, marketing, major equipment purchases and land, whereas women viewed these decisions as being made more jointly.^{xi}
- People perceive that in the last five years, they have made more decisions and more critical decisions.^{xii}

Desire to farm

- Over half of the youth respondents said that if they were given the opportunity they would like to farm.^{xiii}

ⁱ Table 3.1.22

ⁱⁱ Table 3.1.22

ⁱⁱⁱ Table 4.18.10

^{iv} Section 2.4, p. 30.

^v Section 3.8, p. 43 and Table 3.1.18.

^{vi} Table 5.1.1

^{vii} Section 2.3, p. 29.

^{viii} Section 2.4, p. 30.

^{ix} Table 5.1.9

^x Table 5.1.18

^{xi} Table 6.1.1 and Table 6.1.2

^{xii} Table 6.1.10

^{xiii} Table 7.5.3