



# Soil Sisters: A Toolkit for Women Farmers

*Lisa Kivirist*

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## **Soil Sisters: A Toolkit for Women Farmers** Lisa Kivirist

Women in agriculture are sprouting up in record numbers, but they face a host of distinct challenges and opportunities. Blending *What Color is Your Parachute*-style career advice with sustainable agriculture practices viewed through a gender lens, *Soil Sisters* provides a wealth of invaluable information for fledging female farming entrepreneurs.

The first manual of its kind, this authoritative and comprehensive blueprint presents practical considerations from a woman's perspective, covering everything from business planning to tool use and ergonomics to integrating children and family in farm and field operations. Key topics include:

Finding your niche: mid-life encore careers, young and beginning, Boomerangs, and more  
From concept to crop: diversified farm start-up basics  
Resources, grants, and loans available especially for women farmers.  
*Soil Sisters* also contains case studies, inspirational ideas, and savvy advice nuggets from over one hundred successful women farmers and advocates. Targeted specifically to members of the fastest-growing demographic in local agriculture, this highly readable guide is practical and pragmatic "Chick Lit" for today's food scene.

**Lisa Kivirist** is Senior Fellow, Endowed Chair in Agricultural Systems at the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture and a national advocate for women in sustainable agriculture. She founded and directs the Rural Women's Project of the Midwest Organic Sustainable Education Service, an award-winning initiative championing female farmers and food-based entrepreneurs. Together with her husband, John Ivanko, Lisa is co-author of *Homemade for Sale*, *Farmstead Chef*, *ECOpreneuring*, and *Rural Renaissance*. Lisa and her family run Inn Serendipity Farm and Bed & Breakfast, completely powered by the wind and sun in the rolling green hills of southern Wisconsin.

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