

**Year of the Woman Farmer gives shared language to women's presence, leadership, and impact in agriculture.**



## **Year of the Woman Farmer Overview**

- 2026 is the International Year of the Woman Farmer (YOWF), declared by the United Nations General Assembly and led nationally by NASDA, state agriculture departments, and other governmental and non-governmental organizations, to uplift and recognize women in agriculture.
- The designation recognizes women's critical role in agriculture, food systems, and rural economies worldwide.
- It raises awareness of barriers women farmers face, such as land, capital, training, and technology, and promotes supportive policies.
- Women make up ~43% of Maine's agricultural producers, exceeding the national average. (2022 Census of Agriculture)
- Maine women farmers are leaders in innovation, conservation, entrepreneurship, and community resilience.
- Maine agriculture contributes \$3.6 billion annually, supports tens of thousands of jobs, and spans 1+ million acres.

## **What Participation Looks Like**

- Recognizing women farmers publicly by sharing stories and profiles.
- Using the YOWF logo in your marketing and events.
- Hosting or highlighting women-led farm experiences.
- Incorporating YOWF into Maine Open Farm Day, markets, fairs and festivals.
- Participation is flexible — from one social post to a year-long commitment.