The Situation
Farm-related educational opportunities for women have been trending on social media. Women have always served a vital role in North Dakota farms but some were looking to expand their purpose and gain a better understanding of the everyday problems and solutions on the farm. They were seeking additional experience and education to become successful.

Extension Response
The Towner County Advisory Board confirmed this trend and Agent Berg collaborated with the Soil Conservation District and the Precision Ag Center to create “Women on the Farm Workshop”. This two-part workshop comprised of Extension personnel, local educators, specialists, and local experts, was designed to address many topics on the farm. These included, but were not limited to: equipment, tillage practices, soil temps and planting dates, trip to the parts store, chemical uses, burn down, fertilizer, and weed identification.

These sessions were on two nights, each lasting three and a half hours. A total of 15 women attended the first night and 10 attended the second night. Information was delivered by PowerPoint, hands on demonstrations, games, and a combine simulator. The 25 attendees were given a binder with important documents, online tools, and phone apps to organize and keep track of equipment/parts. Extension Agent Berg was present, played a main role in planning both nights, and taught weed identification.

Impacts
Participants were given an evaluation before and after each session, and then 6 months after the workshop. A total of ten survey respondents indicated the following impacts:

- 62% increased their knowledge level in tillage practices
- 85% increased their knowledge level in weed identification
- 90% said they are likely to adopt new practices

6 months post evaluation.
- 100% said the workshop was useful

Feedback
From Participants:
- “I feel more comfortable with the tillage equipment names.”
- “I enjoyed the fact that I can have better conversations with the farmer in my house now!”
- “It was nice to go home and be knowledgeable with my fiancé. He was very impressed with what I had learned. I feel more confident. It’s not always easy being a woman on the farm. We are eager learners.”

Public Value Statement
Increased farming knowledge and succession planning for rural North Dakotan women will lead to a more stable economy with continued local employment and sustainable agriculture to meet the world demand for commodities.

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