

Subject: More opportunities in agriculture for young farmers and women

Story Summary: The average age of farmers is 55, an age when many people start focusing on retirement. But production of the nation's food supply is in good hands with young farmers stepping up to the challenge and women playing a greater role on the farm and in farm organizations.

TRT: 1:49

Suggested Lead: Many farmers are old enough for membership in AARP, but the future of agriculture is in good hands with young farmers gaining experience and women playing an increasing role.

Suggested Supers: Kerry Gibson
Utah farmer
@ :15

Terry Gilbert
Kentucky farmer
@ 1:04

Stewart Truelsen
Reporting
@ 1:38

Anchor Tag Out: A Farm Bureau survey of young farmers found that 92 percent want to make farming a lifelong career, a good sign for the future as older farmers transition out.

Opportunities for Young Farmers and Women in Agriculture
Stewart Truelsen Reporting
August 22, 2002

<p>farmer inspects soybeans/ farmer emerges from cornfield/ Kerry Gibson looking at base of corn plant/</p>	<p>VO/ THE AVERAGE AMERICAN FARMER IS 55 YEARS-OLD. AFTER STRUGGLING WITH LOW COMMODITY PRICES FOR THE LAST TWENTY YEARS, MANY OF THEM COULD BE THINKING OF RETIRING. YOUNG FARMERS ARE NEEDED TO STEP UP TO THE TASK OF FEEDING THIS NATION.</p>
<p>Kerry Gibson Utah Farmer Milking parlor scenes/</p>	<p>SOT/ OUR YOUNG FARMERS AND RANCHERS ARE MORE ENTHUSIASTIC THAN EVER AND FEEL AS THOUGH THERE IS A BRIGHT FUTURE. AND THAT'S WHY THEY DO THEIR BEST TO USE TECHNOLOGY AND MOVE FORWARD AS THEY TRY TO FIND A NICHE MARKET OR SOMETHING THAT WILL HELP KEEP THEM IN BUSINESS FOR A LONG TIME.</p>
<p>Stage at AFBF annual convention/ Wide shot of stage and crowd/</p>	<p>VO/ KERRY GIBSON IS CHAIRMAN OF THE AMERICAN FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMERS AND RANCHERS COMMITTEE. THE YOUNG FARMER PROGRAM IS FOR AGES 18 TO 35.</p>
<p>Kerry Gibson</p>	<p>SOT/ WE ARE YOUNG AND A LITTLE BIT UNEDUCATED, BUT I CAN TELL THAT WE IN THE YOUNG FARMER AND RANCHER PROGRAM ARE THE FUTURE OF THE FARM BUREAU AND THAT IS WHY I THINK OUR LEADERS ARE SO DEDICATED TO THIS PROGRAM.</p>

<p>Terry Gilbert and cows/</p>	<p>VO/ WOMEN ALSO ARE FINDING GREATER OPPORTUNITIES IN AGRICULTURE AND FARM BUREAU.</p>
<p>Terry Gilbert Kentucky Farmer</p> <p>Terry walking through cornfield/</p>	<p>SOT/ I THINK WOMEN IN A LOT OF CASES ARE A FULL PARTNER WITH THEIR HUSBANDS OR SPOUSES IN THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO DO A LOT OF THE BOOKKEEPING. THEY'RE ALSO OUT THERE WORKING ALONGSIDE OF THEIR HUSBANDS IN THE FARMING OPERATION.</p>
<p>Women's Committee meeting in D.C.,</p> <p>Virginia woman at supermarket explaining farmer's share of food dollar to consumer/</p>	<p>VO/ TERRY GILBERT IS CHAIR OF THE AFB'S WOMEN'S COMMITTEE. SHE SEES AN IMPORTANT ROLE FOR WOMEN IN EDUCATING CONSUMERS ABOUT THEIR FOOD SUPPLY.</p>
<p>Terry Gilbert</p>	<p>SOT/ I THINK WOMEN CAN BE VERY ACTIVE IN PROMOTING AGRICULTURE ITSELF IN WHAT AGRICULTURE DOES FOR EVERY BODY. HOW WE NEED AGRICULTURE EVERYDAY TO LIVE AND HOW IT TOUCHES EVERYONE'S LIVES.</p>
<p>D.C. office wide shot of meeting/ Close-up of trainer/</p> <p>Kerry getting on tractor/ Shot from tractor cab/</p>	<p>VO/ LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT IS ONE OF THE WAYS FARM BUREAU IS PREPARING ITS MEMBERS FOR THE FUTURE, A FUTURE THAT SHOULD BE QUITE CHALLENGING. I'M STEWART TRUELSEN REPORTING.</p>