

Subject: **Young Farmers are More Optimistic**

Story Summary: **There was plenty of enthusiasm and high expectations at an American Farm Bureau Federation conference for young farmers and ranchers. In part it's a reflection of an improving farm economy.**

Suggested Lead: **According to an American Farm Bureau Federation survey of its young farmers and ranchers, 81 percent are more optimistic about farming today than they were several years ago. Stewart Truelsen reports from Salt Lake City.**

TRT: **1:48**

Suggested Supers: **Keith Dunn
York, Virginia
@ :15**

**Steve Anderegg
Mason City, Iowa
@ :38**

**Angela Dunn
York, Virginia
@ :59**

**Brenda Mihaliak
Willington, Connecticut
@ 1:18**

**Stewart Truelsen
Reporting
@ 1:39**

Anchor Tag: **The good news for consumers is that these young farmers want to continue producing food. Ninety-four percent who were surveyed said they want to make farming a life-long career.**

Young Farmers More Optimistic

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<p>Uncle Sam and wife/ Flag waving group/ Guy dressed as Ben Franklin/ Woman with red, white and blue star in her hair/ Collegiate discussion meet/ Keith and Angela Dunn/</p>	<p>VO/ IF THE MOOD AT THIS CONFERENCE IS ANY INDICATOR, AMERICA'S YOUNG FARMERS AND RANCHERS ARE DECIDELY PATRIOTIC AND ARE INCREASINGLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THEIR FUTURE IN AGRICULTURE.</p>
<p>Keith Dunn York, Virginia Sound bite</p>	<p>SOT/ COMMODITY PRICES ARE TAKING A LITTLE TURN FOR THE UPSIDE AND PUTTING A LITTLE MORE MONEY IN ALL OF OUR POCKETS AND GIVING US A LITTLE MORE FREEDOM TO TRY SOME NEW THINGS THAT WE WANT TO TRY AND BRANCH OUT AND GO IN SOME BIGGER DIRECTIONS AND MAYBE DO A LITTLE EXPANDING ON THE FARM NOW.</p>
<p>Group leaders/ Networking audience/ Steve and Elizabeth Anderegg/</p>	<p>VO/ MANY CHALLENGES EXIST THOUGH, LIKE GETTING A START IN FARMING OR TAKING OVER AN OPERATION FROM RETIRING PARENTS.</p>
<p>Steve Anderegg Mason City, Iowa Sound bite Group discussion/ Young couple/</p>	<p>SOT/ TO FIND THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF CAPITAL TO CONTINUE OR START INTO FARMING IS REALLY DIFFICULT. IF US AS FARM BUREAU MEMBERS CAN HELP IN AIDING THAT TRANSITION FROM OLDER FARMERS TO YOUNGER</p>

	FARMERS WE CAN HAVE A LOT MORE POSITIVE OUTLOOK ON HOW TO CONTINUE FARMING.
A registration table/ Cyber Café/	VO/ YOUNG FARM FAMILIES OFTEN HAVE TO SUPPLEMENT FARM INCOME WITH OFF-FARM EMPLOYMENT.
Angela Dunn York, Virginia Sound bite	SOT/ I WORK OFF THE FARM BECAUSE HEALTH INSURANCE MOSTLY IS VERY EXPENSIVE FOR US AND SO IT'S A CHALLENGE. I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO STAY AT HOME AND BE ON THE FARM, BUT OF COURSE FINANCES DON'T ALWAYS ALLOW THAT.
Woman speaker leading seminar/ Women in audience/	VO/ FARMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN ARE ON THE RISE, HOWEVER.
Brenda Mihaliak Willington, Connecticut Sound bite/	SOT/ ACTUALLY A FEW MONTHS AGO THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S CHAIRMAN CONTACTED ME AND I WAS FEATURED IN A NATIONAL ARTICLE IN THE NEWSPAPER, I BELIEVE IT WAS USA TODAY, ON WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE AND HOW THEIR FUTURES ARE GROWING. THERE'S ACTUALLY A TREND, INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF WOMEN THAT ARE OWNING THEIR OWN OPERATIONS.
Pan of group visiting dairy farm/ Milking parlor/ Owner Dee Hardy/ Couple he is talking/ Calf/	VO/ THIS MULTI-GENERATIONAL DAIRY FARM STARTED WITH SEVEN COWS AND NOW HAS 15-HUNDRED, IT'S FOUNDER A YOUNG FARMER HIMSELF ONCE. IN SALT LAKE CITY, I'M STEWART TRUELSEN.

