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DECEMBER 2021



## COMING UP

### AgCHAT MWAFF's virtual networking space for everyone

Due to the Chairs' scheduling conflicts, the November session was cancelled. There is no session in December either because it coincides with the holiday season. The next AgChat will be:

**January 24, 7-8 pm CT. - Enabling successful careers in agriculture: A dialogue with Farm Credit Canada's (FCC) Michael Hoffer (President and CEO) and Sophie Perreault (FCC Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer).**

While reflecting on their experiences in building their careers and enabling career development among their peers, they will also share how FCC has evolved its approach to diversity and inclusion. Through personal and organizational anecdotes, they will discuss what it means to enable successful careers in the ag industry. Don't miss this opportunity to have a private chat with them. Often, AgChat is sold out before the deadline for registrations, so **register here now.**

## REFLECTIONS AND HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

2021 was a year to remember. The pandemic impacted MWAFF the same as everyone else. Our fun, in-person events, such as the farm tours and AGM, had to be cancelled and we could not host classes or social gatherings. And yet, it was a year of growth and success.

Our services continue to mature and we are now able to continuously offer cultural and networking opportunities as well as skills training and professional development.

### Some highlights of the year:

- AgChat, which was held each month, except during the summer break, has grown in popularity and demand.
- We offered a PiYo live class with farmer Carrie Plett for fun and fitness.
- Registrations for our regular, professional development webinars are up and we will continue delivering them in 2022.
- We continue to provide updates about business and grant opportunities, as well as events held by our associates.
- Thanks to FCC's sponsorship, we were able to offer a subsidy for women that enrolled in our workshops to learn how to write their business plan; the number one tool business owners need to succeed.

### Partnerships

This year, MWAFF Partnered with the Portage la Prairie Local Immigration Partnership to create a new and exciting event called "**Celebrating women in agri"culture**". It includes a collection of videos released daily, a discussion panel held this past November, and a farmer's market, with an ethnic component, to be held next summer. More information will be provided later. The videos are available [here](#).

MWAFF was also invited to participate in a panel discussion with Manitoba Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, MP Terry Duguid and women in agriculture across Manitoba on April 27, 2021.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### NEW leadership program for women!

### ELLE (Empowering Lasting Leadership Excellence) program for women.

Agri-Food Management Excellence has developed a management leadership program for women entrepreneurs in agriculture and agri-food. It is a unique learning opportunity using a hybrid model for delivering learning content and building networks. Learn more at [AgriFoodTraining.com](#) Download the program brochure [here](#).

### Business Plan Development Workshop Series

This is an opportunity to learn to write your business plan guided by experts. This workshop series is delivered by the Women's Enterprise Centre of Manitoba in partnership with Farm Credit Canada and the World Trade Centre Winnipeg.

Cost: \$231 including tax. MWAFF offers a subsidy to cover 50% to 75% of the cost. Details and dates are [here](#) or email us at [mbwomeninagnfood@outlook.com](mailto:mbwomeninagnfood@outlook.com)

Due to the success of our webinars, we will be offering more in the winter and spring and extending the length of some of them from one hour to two hours. The topics will be announced later on our [webpage](#) and [Facebook page](#)

## FEATURED CAREERS

### Field Researcher - Efficacy Trials, Taber, AB. - AgQuest Summer Research Technicians - MB, SK and AB locations - AgQuest

(Deadline for both: January 4, 2022)  
To see all current opportunities visit our [careers page](#). Our page is updated regularly.

## CONFERENCES/EVENTS

### Manitoba Agronomist Conference: 'Agronomy in an Age of Uncertainty' Dec 15 & 16 Detail and registration information [here](#).

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Farm Credit Canada a Corporate Member of MWAFF

Great news! We are proud to welcome FCC as a MWAFF Corporate Member, which means that their staff can attend our events at no cost.

### MWAFF in the media

MWAFF was featured in the December, 2021 issue of Country Guide. Author, Angela Lovell noticed our work and mission and wrote a kind article about us. The title is "Different Goals", p 22-26. It is about our work to advance diversity, equity and inclusion in Canada.

### New strategic plan for MWAFF

MWAFF has begun a strategic planning process which we hope will help us move our organization to the next level. There are costs associated to this project but FCC has contributed the funding needed. We would not have been able to embark on this exciting project without their sponsorship. Thank you FCC!

We are excited to see what 2022 will bring and to continue to improve the services we can provide to women and industry stakeholders. During the planning process we may have to pause some of our services for a short period in order to roll out a better delivery.

### New Women on the MFGA Executive.

The Manitoba Forage and Grassland Association announced that its 2022 MFGA Board Executive includes Andrea Hamilton from Glenboro, Manitoba as Finance Chair and new board member Chelsi Malach of Hartney, Manitoba. These women join Shauna Breault, (Ste Rose), Kristelle Harper, (Brandon) and Ex-Officio members Mae Elsinger (AAFC, Brandon), Charlotte Crawley (Ducks Unlimited Canada, Brandon), and Dr. Emma McGeough, (University of Manitoba - Animal Science Rep, Winnipeg). Read the full media release at the MFGA website [here](#).

## COMPETITIONS AND GRANTS

### Video contest - up to \$1,250 in cash prizes.

The Women's Enterprise Centre of Manitoba (WECM) is inviting women business owners across the province to enter their Live Local video contest! Create a 1.5-minute video (or less) about your business that inspires Manitobans to shop local. For details and to submit your video entries use this [link](#).

### ATTENTION EMPLOYERS - WAGE SUBSIDY OPPORTUNITY!

MWAFF has partnered with the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) to promote its **STUDENT WORKPLACE PLACEMENT PROGRAM**.

Join CAHRC on December 17, 12-1 pm CT to learn more. This initiative is specifically designed to connect skilled post-secondary students with employers for careers in agriculture. By hiring students, employers benefit from new perspectives and ideas and will qualify for a wage subsidy up to \$7500. REGISTER here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/225378903367>

### Grant opportunity for farmers: Ag Action Manitoba Training - Training and Consulting

This grant helps farmers improve their business knowledge, develop management skills and develop farm business plans, for the purpose of growing profitable farming operations in Manitoba. Farmers under 46 and beginning farmers are eligible to apply. The grant covers 50 per cent of eligible expenses, with funding caps from \$500 to \$2,500 for eligible activities. More details [here](#).

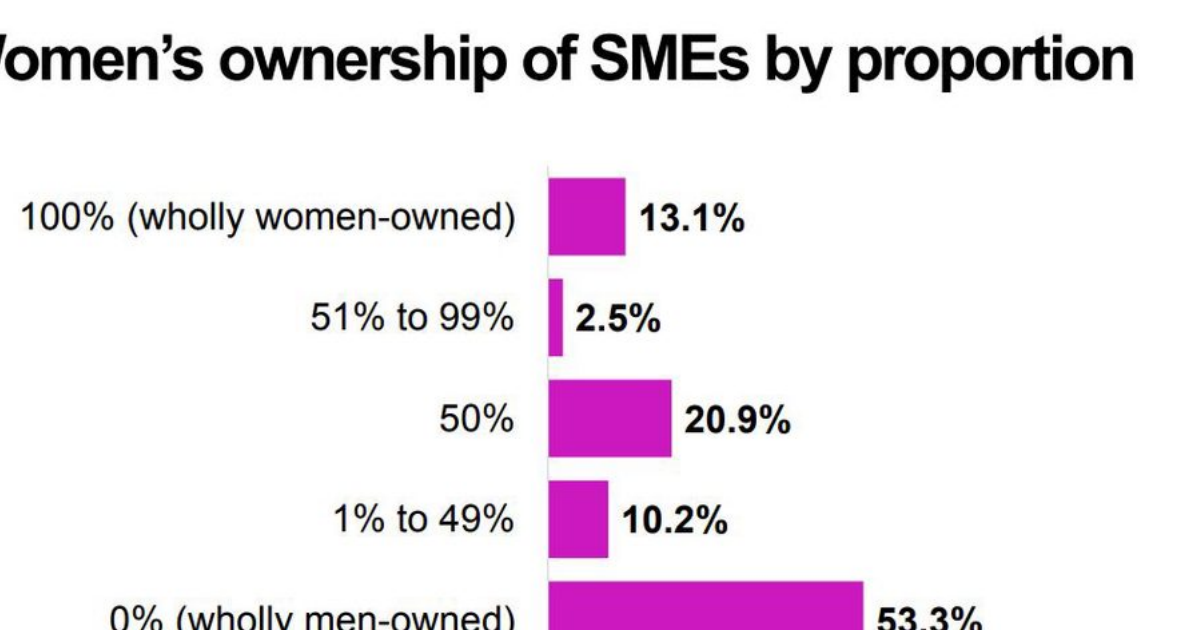
## DID YOU KNOW?

Women are less likely to seek and receive financing than men; firms owned by men are more likely to receive venture capital or angel funding, trade credit, or capital leasing.

Source: Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub - The State of Women's Entrepreneurship in Canada 2020.

The above could in part explain why such a small proportion of small to medium-sized businesses are wholly owned by women compared to men See graph below: (Source: Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council: Supporting the Advancement of Women in Agriculture)

## Women's ownership of SMEs by proportion

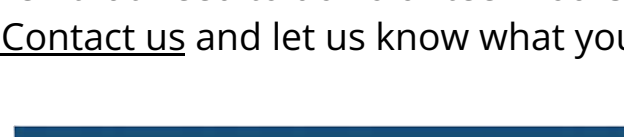


## BECOME AN MWAFF MEMBER TODAY

### JOIN OUR BOARD OR VOLUNTEER

Are you looking for a rewarding experience? Get involved in MWAFF and grow your potential. You'll develop management and team skills, learn, build a network, and get your name out there. Choose the "we do what we can and not more". We have a number of opportunities such as social media, fundraising, membership, networking, website development and marketing that you can choose the role that fits your interests.

Or maybe you have children that need to do volunteer hours for school? There are lots of opportunities to help. [Contact us](#) and let us know what you would like to do.



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Our mailing address is:  
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