



Ag Women's Network
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It's Time for a Break

There's no easy way to say this, so I'm not going to draw it out. After a lot of reflecting, I have decided it's time for the Ag Women's Network (AWN) to take a break. I have never felt more burned out than I did this fall, and I no longer have the energy to do this network the justice it deserves.

I'm so damn proud of what we have built and still passionate about achieving gender equality. I believe in the last 8 years, we have heightened the awareness of the ongoing barriers women face in the industry and I'm happy to see more initiatives to support women and mentorship today than when we started.

I also feel it's time to practice what we preach. This is important work and it's not fair to keep expecting it to be done by volunteers, especially without proper rest and support.

Behind the scenes, I have been working with a team of women from across the country to develop a Theory of Change for a national organization (see pinned post). This is exciting and something to celebrate as this organization will build on the Ag Women's Network's strengths.

In the meantime, we have changed the settings on our Facebook Group so it's no longer publicly accessible and will also be pausing the AWN Mentorship Program, as shared yesterday. Joan Craig and Amanda Peer did a tremendous job pivoting the program to online in 2020, and thanks to the support of FCC, we have been able to hold several phenomenal events. A huge thank you to them for all their creating these connection opportunities for women throughout this pandemic.

Thank you to all our volunteers, past and present, who have kept us going. I'm so grateful to each of you: Andrea Gal, Natalie DiMeo, Nicole VanDoornik, Andrea Faubert, Anneke Stickney, Robyn Walsh, Claire Cowan, Maureen Balsillie, Mary Ann Dore, Christina Crowley-Arklie, Christina Fitzgibbons, Megan Van Schaik, Nuzhat Jillani, Meghan Ryerse, Kathleen Baird, Maggie McCormick, Courtney Denard, Stephanie Craig, Amanda Brodhagen and Katie Giddy (I desperately hope I haven't missed anyone and I'm so sorry).

Finally, thank you for being part of this adventure with us. You are what makes the AWN special - the community. We're so proud to have provided you with a forum to connect and encourage you to continue using the private Facebook group.

With kindness,
Jennifer Christie, AWN Founder & Chairperson