

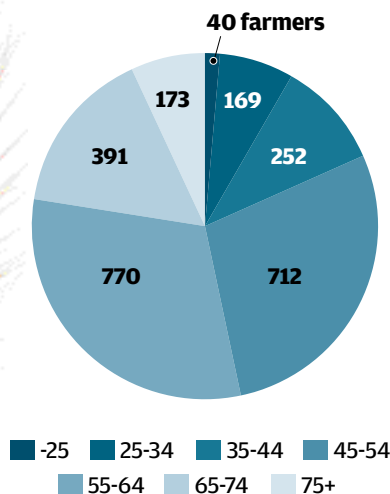
A GROWING BUSINESS

MASSACHUSETTS HAS THE MOST FEMALE FARMERS IN NEW ENGLAND, AND THEIR RANKS ARE ON THE RISE. **BY ELIZABETH GEHRMAN**

Unless noted, all figures are from 2012, the last year of the USDA's agricultural census.



AGE BREAKDOWN OF THE STATE'S FEMALE PRINCIPAL FARM OPERATORS



TOP COMMODITIES, BY SALES, FOR MASSACHUSETTS FARMS WITH FEMALE PRINCIPAL OPERATORS

\$21,359,000

NURSERY, GREENHOUSE, FLORICULTURE, AND SO

\$12,087,000

VEGETABLES, MELONS, POTATOES, AND SWEET POTATOES

\$5,504,000

FRUITS, TREE NUTS, AND BERRIES

\$3,840,000

HORSES, PONIES, MULES, BURROS, AND DONKEYS



20 CENTS

Amount that farmers get of every dollar Americans spend on food

7,755

Number of farms in Massachusetts

2,507

Number with female principal operators in 2012

UP **12.6 PERCENT** FROM 2007

TOP CROPS FOR MASSACHUSETTS FARMS WITH FEMALE PRINCIPAL OPERATORS (IN ACRES)

hay
9,434

vegetables
1,734

berries
1,020
including cranberries

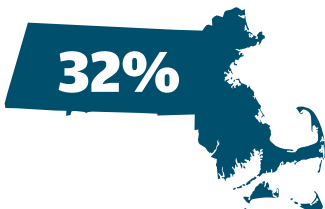
cut Christmas trees
677

cranberries only
665

38 ACRES

Average size of Massachusetts farms run by female principal operators

Percentage of principal farm operators in the state who are women



That's the highest percentage among New England states and the third highest nationwide

94,598

Acres of Massachusetts farmland with female principal operators