

A man wearing a white shirt, grey pants, and a baseball cap is operating a green John Deere tractor. The tractor is moving through a field, leaving a trail of dirt behind its large rear tire. In the background, there is a field of green crops, possibly corn, and a line of trees under a blue sky with white clouds. A wooden structure, possibly a fence or part of a farm building, is visible in the distance.

MARLEY SKINNER
PD TIANNA DUPONT
PENN STATE EXTENSION

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program Award # 2015-70017-22852

Supporting Pennsylvania New Farmers in the Start-up, Re-strategizing and Establishing Years

Penn State **Extension**

Models for the Future on Farm Demonstrations

Models for the Future will provide on-farm demonstration sites illustrating best management practices and create learning centers for new farmer networks.



Study Circle Networks

For farmers establishing their businesses who want to learn from each other and discuss challenges with invited experts.



New Commercial Fruit Grower School

This ten week program provides a foundation on which to build a commercial tree fruit business.




New Women in Ag Study Circles

A comfortable environment for peer to peer learning.



VIDEOS AND CASE STUDIES

Models for the Future



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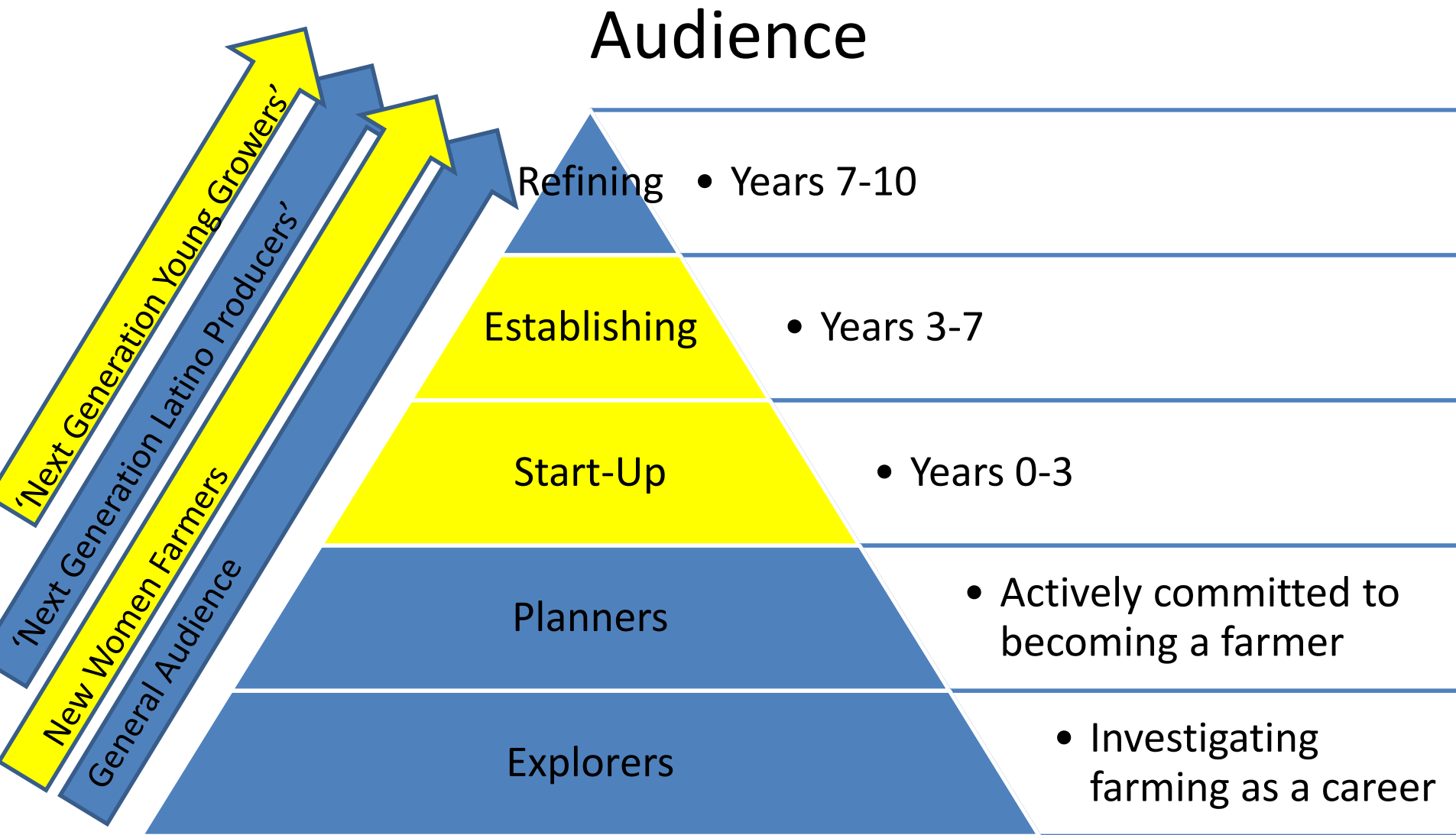
A comfortable environment for peer to peer learning.

Target Outcomes

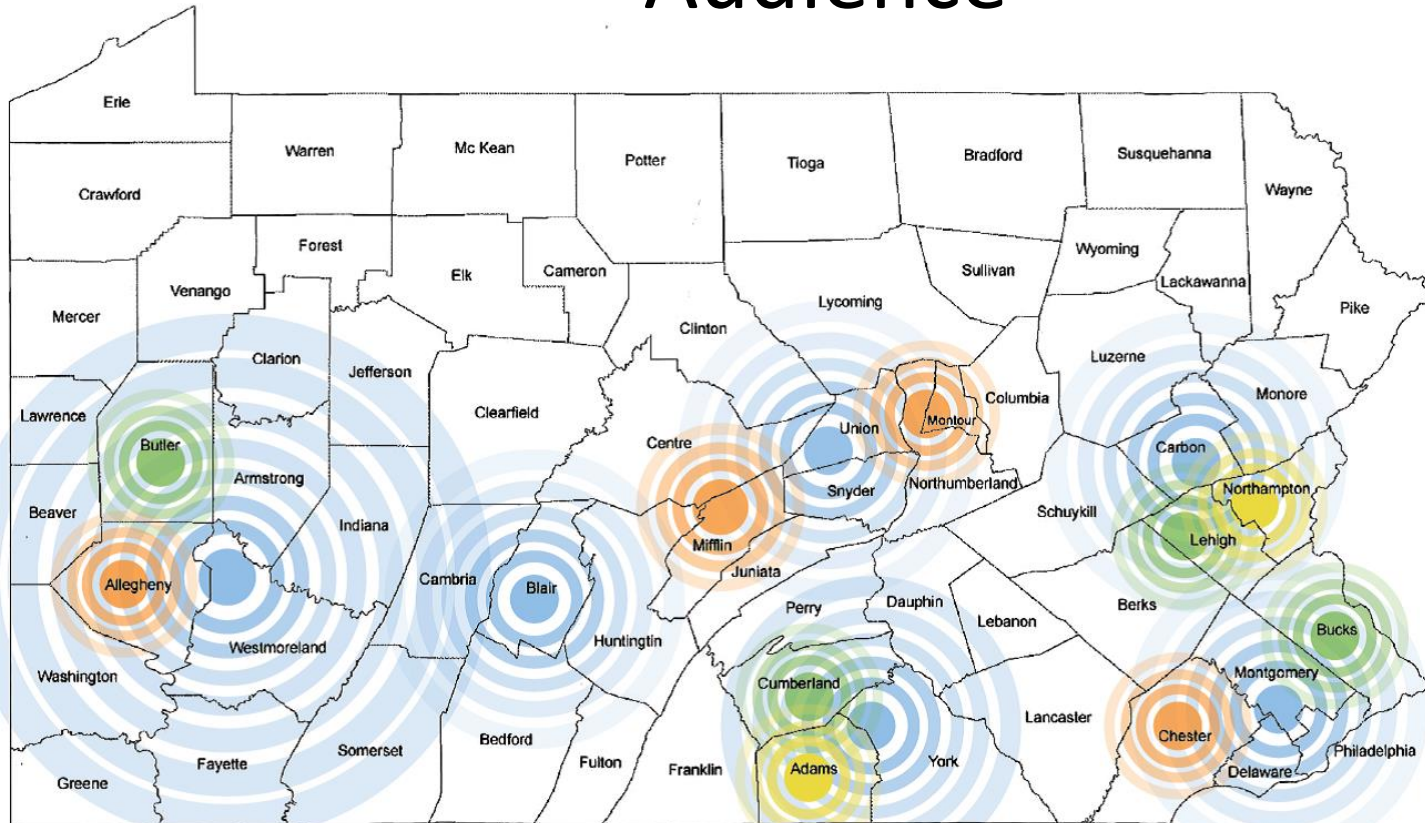






After three years

- 193 of 215 (89%) of study circle participants will have increased knowledge.
- 172 of 215 (80%) will HAVE adopted new practices based on discussions and models.
- 30 participants will have started farming and 175 continued farming.
- 120 will have adopted practices that improve profitability or productivity.
- 172 (80%) will have adopted practices that improve environmental sustainability.
- 100 (50%) will have adopted practices that increase personal/social well being.



Audience



-  New Women in Ag Study Circle Network
-  Young, Establishing and Next Generation Farmer Study Circle Network
-  Start Farming Hub
-  Bilingual Study Circle Network

COLLABORATORS & PARTNERS



Bozzelli Family Farm



Anton and Lisa
Good Work Farm



Corey McCleaf
McCleaf Orchard



Larry, Art, and David King
Harvest Valley Farm



Brett Sadington
Bedminster Orchard



Jake Scholl
Scholl
Orchard



Arturo Diaz,
Michael and
Jesse King
Twin Springs
Fruit Farm

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Pathologist
Greg Krawczyk, Tree
Fruit Entomologist
Shelby Fleisher,
Vegetable Entomologist

Collaborators

Casa de la Cultura
Young Grower Alliance

Impact so Far. . .

- **10** model plots were established with seven farmers across the state.
- **52** new farmers attended Study Circles which discussed marketing, production and business (goal 120 per year).
- **52** new women farmers participated in Women in Ag Network Study circles (goal 75).
- **27** new farmers attended the New Commercial Fruit Grower School (goal 30).
- **83** participants (86%) increased knowledge.
- **75** participants (78%) plan to adopt new practices



To share

Try a Study Circle

- Start with an advisory group of new farmers.
- Have them identify key topics important to them.
- Start each session with an invited speaker.
- Seed the room with other experience.
- Facilitate discussion.
- Share a meal to encourage networking.



Looking to learn. . .

- Creative ways of recruiting/inviting additional participants.
- Discussion/presentation topics you have found to be of interest for the target audiences that we may not have thought of yet.



Keep in Touch

Marley Skinner

Models for the Future
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extension.psu.edu/start-farming