



3 Visions Farm

Cocoagranola LLC

LGBTQ Agriculture

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Happy Pride Month!!

Agriculture is shifting as it must in the recent climate but not just with the type of methods used. It involves people and their relationship between land and the

community. There have been systems set in place since about the 1930s that focused on strict gender roles in the US. While this doesn't speak for all establishments, why is this important to note? Because of how LGBTQ existence shakes this up.

To explain what I mean by that, I'll take an example from an agricultural research paper written in 2019 on this topic. In the 1930's there was a push to increase rural birth rates in a time of decline and in response, the USDA created 4-H. Farms were primarily run by what's called the nuclear family model; a mother and father with their children. The 4-H program taught youth how to become husband's and wives according to their social codes. Men were taught to be the breadwinners of the farm while the women learned to attract husbands and be nurturing. The division of labor was clear. While this has shifted some since then, there's still difficulty that lays with farmers who don't meet that criteria.



Being the minority in a rural area can be lonely, isolating and potentially dangerous. To get land without inheritance or a spouse is very difficult and even then service providers might discriminate or deny you. These are challenges they face and LGBTQ farmers have spoken about it. In an article by Daily Kos, a lesbian couple described their move to Minnesota. Even when they found a property that was safe, they were told things like "Karla and I were okay because we seemed like "the exceptions" compared to other LGBT people." Alex "Howdy" Paul, a gay animal science student, worked at a Colorado ranch with a homophobic co-worker. The man would regularly talk about how he hated gays and if he saw one, he'd beat them senseless.

Thankfully, this is happening less and less with growing awareness. Humble Hands Harvest, established by Hannah Breckbill, is an inclusive CSA that she created in Iowa using money she raised through fundraisers. She said that she wanted to "queer" agriculture and show you don't have to fit in the norm. Even if rural communities are more difficult to operate in, it's important to keep going

and share stories with other farmers. Nate Looney, a transgender black veteran, emphasizes this with these words; "It's definitely easier to not call attention to yourself as an LGBT farmer, but I came to the point where I felt like people in the agricultural community needed to understand that we're here, and that we're just as passionate about farming as any other farmers."

How could we not be inspired? There will be more to come.

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- Celena Meland

Resources:

LGBTQ+ Farmers Work to Build Queer-Inclusive Rural Communities:[Click Here](#)

Farming is tough. Being LGBT can make it even tougher: [Click Here](#)

Raise the Flag High: Queer Farming in Rural America:[Click Here](#)

Relational Agriculture: Gender, Sexuality, and Sustainability in U.S. Farming: [Click Here](#)

Organizations:

4-H

Humble Hands Harvest

Agrespect - The Rural LGBTQ+ Network



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