

Choices: Where Are the Women Going.? (A01-mcintosh155407-Oral)

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Abstract:

Women have remained a small minority in agricultural sciences despite a substantial increase in the number of women studying and choosing careers in other biological sciences. In 2001, the American Society of Agronomy had approximately 13,000 members and only 10 percent of the members were female. The under representation of women as Agronomy Society members is symptomatic of underlying diversity issues that permeate the agricultural sciences. Based on an internet survey hosted by ASA in 2001, there appears to be a strong pipeline effect indicating that at each level up the professional chain, the proportion of women decreases. The pipeline effect is particularly strong in academia. Suggested causes of the gender imbalance among faculty in disciplines related to agronomy will be discussed. In addition, recommendations for institutional changes regarding tenure and appointment will be presented.

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