

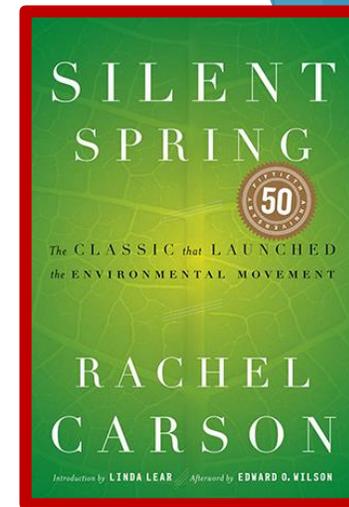


Wonder Women of Agriculture

Chapter 11 Section 3

Rachel Carson

- ▶ American marine biologist and environmentalist
- ▶ Blew whistle on harmful effects of fertilizers and pesticides on our food
- ▶ **Silent Spring**: 1962 book led to banning of DDT (cancer-causing pesticide)
- ▶ Carson's theory: something can't harm the environment if you don't actually put it in the environment
- ▶ No such thing as a "safe" amount of pollution



Back in the day...

- ▶ Historically women have been the food gatherers and preparers
- ▶ Mainly functioned as support staff – rounded up berries and nuts, turned animals brought home by men into dinner



Progress!

- ▶ # of women running farms tripled since 1970s
- ▶ Dept of Agriculture: 1 million female farm operators
- ▶ Most run small operations focused on grains, dairy products, poultry, or specialty crops (Farmers' Market!)
- ▶ Close to half raise livestock (cattle, sheep, horses)
- ▶ Around the globe women play large, but often ignored roles in both subsistence and commercial farming
- ▶ In LDC's (less developed countries) women make up 40%↑ agricultural work force, but most aren't paid for their work
- ▶ In MDC's (more developed countries) female farmers don't pocket much, either → invest in the future (spend \$ on kids' education, feeding them, caring for health)



Move Over, Aquaman!

- ▶ **Aquaculture:** practice of raising fish, shrimp, oysters, plants for sale
- ▶ **Fisheries:** where fish can be captured from the wild in addition to being raised from eggs
- ▶ Almost ½ of people who work in aquaculture and fisheries are women
- ▶ Face same challenges as other female farmers
 - ▶ Lack of access to same resources as men (primogeniture)
 - ▶ Don't get paid for their work, most of which takes place before and after the fish have been raised or caught (ex: mend nets)
 - ▶ Work seen as extension of household duties
- ▶ Relegated to supporting player again!
- ▶ Unite and fight!

Dig That Basement Basil

- ▶ Urban farming: practice of cultivating, processing, and distributing food in or around a town/city
- ▶ Primogeniture (handing down land from father to son) not an issue!
- ▶ Start out small so not a lot of \$ required
- ▶ Not restricted to plants → dairying
- ▶ Helps women earn extra \$
- ▶ Brings communities together
- ▶ Helps keep everyone fed
- ▶ Remedy to food deserts (areas where it's nearly impossible to buy healthy food)



Sharing is Caring!

- ▶ **Sustainable farming:** production of food and animal products using techniques and tools that protect the environment, human health, and animal welfare
- ▶ Women more likely to pursue this type of farming over conventional farming
- ▶ Well-suited for smaller, organic farms
- ▶ Doesn't require resources that women are frequently denied
- ▶ Fueled by innovation and knowledge
- ▶ Women quickly establish strong networks with other female farmers
- ▶ Share techniques, animal welfare strategies, where to buy resources on the cheap, etc.
- ▶ Sustainable farming = good for Earth, human nutrition, and women

