

# How to Start Your Farm

**Build Your Skills, Write Your Plan and Try, Try Again**

OnPasture.com

Kathy Voth

2018 - Handout 4

For years, Jenn Colby has kept a lot of balls in the air including working full time in Extension for the University of Vermont, coordinating the annual Vermont Grazing Conference, earning her Masters degree, hitting the competitive BBQ circuit with her husband, AND figuring out how to start a farm, which they purchased and moved to at the end of 2016.

In her On Pasture series, Jenn shares how she and her husband found and bought their dream farm.

Read the series here:  
[bit.ly/StartMyFarm](http://bit.ly/StartMyFarm)



Jenn is available to speak. Click "Find a Speaker" on the On Pasture site to learn more.

## Here's What You'll Find....

### Start by Figuring Out What You Really Want to Do & Build Your Skills in That

Before she bought her farm, Jenn farmed on a small scale wherever she lived. She did vegetables, chickens, pigs and sheep. She describes how this helped her build her skills and decide which enterprises suited her and her family best.

### Business Plans Are Important!

Don't be surprised if your first attempt tells you what Jenn's did: "Don't quit your day job." She also writes about how that answer helped adjust her expectations, and helped her develop a plan that would actually work.



### Get Your Head Right

The obstacles you run into along the way will challenge your resilience. Jenn shares the mindset that kept her moving forward and how thinking about things in a new way gave them the flexibility and experience they could use when looking for farm funding.

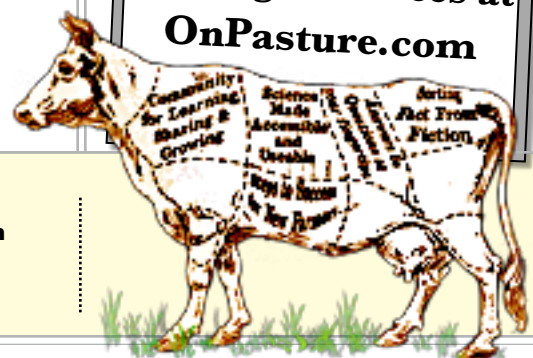
### How to Pick the Right Farm

Until she listed what she really wanted, the farm search stalled multiple times. Jenn talks about what they did to make sure a farm worked, looking at pros, cons and the enterprises the farm could support.

### Financing!

There's a forest of forms and red tape to get through. Jenn describes their path through and some lending options that you might not be aware of.

**Find more great grazing resources at OnPasture.com**



### On Pasture

Translating research and experience into practices graziers can use right NOW!

Have questions?  
Visit us at [OnPasture.com](http://OnPasture.com)  
or send an email to  
[info@onpasture.com](mailto:info@onpasture.com)