**Jessica M. Smith**

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# PHILOSPOHY

I believe in the sustainability of the family farm. I believe that one can make a living and pass down a legacy to one’s children through working a piece of ground. I believe in rural education and the values offered to the young and old alike through a strong rural economy. It is these beliefs that spur a passion to revitalize the rural economy by investing in one farm at a time to bring life back to the family farmer and away from the industrialized food system America has moved to.

## EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

## This Old Farm, Inc Owner/President 2000-present

**Grants & Awards written, received, and successfully administered**:

* Wallace Center Food Hub Grant
* Wallace Center Farmer Assistance Grant
* USDA AMS Local Food Promotion Program
* USDA Farm to School Grant Program
* USDA Value Added Producers Grant-Planning grant (\*2)
* USDA Small Business, Innovation, and Research Grant-Phase 1
* Indiana Economic and Development Corporation SBIR match
* USDA Value Added Producers Grant-Working Capital
* USDA Small Business, Innovation, and Research Grant-Phase 2
* ISDA Specialty Crop Block Grant
* EQIP Organic Transition Funds
* Family Farmed Wholesale Success Farmer Training-Grant Partner

## Agricultural

* Procured a row cropped farm and converted to a grass based system with thoughts of soil life and long term fertility including livestock, produce and grain rotations.
* Used natural sources of nutrients and livestock management, intensive grazing, to bring top soil.
* Raising and harvesting of ruminants, poultry, pastured hogs, beef, grain crops, hay, and produce.
* Provide consulting for specialty crop producers regarding wholesale distribution including harvest, post harvest handling, and packaging.

## Management

* Business Development and Growth starting from the ground up of 1st generation farm operation, USDA processing facilities, and produce aggregation facilities (Food Hub)
* Grassland/Daily Animal Management
* Procurement and management of supplies and vendors.
* Accounting, payroll, and tax preparation
* Labor Management of up to 25 employees
* Managed rebuilding of a processing business after fire destroyed the building after just 1 year of operation. Accounted for and managed complete reconstruction while maintaining employment of 90% of the work force. Reopened 6 months after the fire occurred with a complete rebuild.
* Federal regulations/HACCP and food safety plan managed to take the processing business under federal inspection

## Communication/Marketing/Consulting

* Business Plan and Strategic Plan Development
* Board Development
* Maintenance and Growth of Clientele
* Farmer and Consumer Education on a variety of topics from Food Safety, Cold Chain and Produce Handling, Sustainable Farming, Diversified Livestock Farming, Produce Production, Farm and Finance.
* Writer of topics regarding sustainable agriculture and food.
* Speaker on Sustainable Farming Techniques and Food Aggregation starting in 2005.

## Bioanalytical Systems Analytical Chemist 1996-1997

* Pharmaceutical Assays
* Scientific report generation
* SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) writing and documentation

## EDUCATION

Purdue University, B.S. May 1996 Additional Note: Graduated with a BS at 19.

Bachelor of Science in Biology

West Lafayette High School May 1993

### Community Involvement/Leadership

**Indiana Grown-ISDA (Indiana State Department of Agriculture)**

Serve the State Department of Agriculture to provide feedback for the State Branding Initiative

**Farm to School-Procurement Committee**

Serve alongside several State Departments and industry leaders looking to make local food available to children throughout Indiana

**Hoosier Harvest Market Food Hub Development**

Served on board to offer insight into online marketing and food aggregation

**Friends of the Colfax Library**

Served as President for several years and helped plan the creation of a Children’s Library which is now operating; planned many educational programs.

**Friends of the Sugar Creek**

Served on many committees to help establish water testing programs, educational goals, and general clean up of our watershed. Ran board meetings and wrote many meeting agendas

**Sugar Plain Friends Church**

Serve where needed; Facilitated Adult Sunday School Classes

**Mother**

The most important thing I will accomplish in my life, other than serving God, is raising my family of now 5 children. This important task made me decide to leave my initial career in Chemistry and search for a way to incorporate the lives of my children in my work. I believe the Family Farm is the answer to this as I see my children flourish under the guidance and education they receive from the farm.