

Caroline Jaspart: protecting family farms and preparing the ground for the new generation

Caroline Jaspart is a Walloon farmer and President of the Union des Agricultrices Wallonnes (UAW). Through her role, she advocates for greater recognition of women in agriculture, supports rural women's empowerment, and highlights the essential contribution of farmers to society. Deeply rooted in the realities of the field, she promotes an agriculture based on care for animals and land, practical common sense, and dialogue across farming models. She regularly contributes to discussions on the future of farming, gender equality in the sector, and the social and economic challenges faced by rural communities.



What is one misconception you would like to challenge, about your work or about women's place in the agri food sector?

In 2026, being a woman and a farmer should no longer be surprising. Yet some stereotypes still persist.

The myth I want to challenge is the idea that women are merely "helpers" in agriculture. On farms, women lead, invest, innovate and make strategic decisions.

I am a farmer by choice and by passion. I am also a mother of two boys and a wife. These roles do not contradict each other – they strengthen one another. Being a woman in agriculture today means combining economic responsibility, family commitment and long-term vision.

Our profession is noble. We feed the world and shape our landscapes. We work with living systems, with pride and high standards. Fully recognizing women as farmers in their own right is not symbolic – it is about building a sector that is fairer, more modern and more attractive for future generations.

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What is a key challenge you are tackling right now, and what are you doing concretely to move the needle?

My priority is clear: ensuring the economic viability of family farms and preparing the ground for the young people who represent the future of agriculture. We face regulatory pressure, market instability and an administrative burden that weakens farms. Many farmers work extremely hard without real visibility for their future.

As President of the Union of Walloon Farmers, I advocate for a human-scale agricultural model that is economically viable and socially respected. Female agricultural trade unionism is a real opportunity: it allows women to represent themselves, to voice their realities and proposals, and to stop letting others speak on their behalf. It strengthens both legitimacy and impact.

A person, failure or pivotal moment that changed your path or perspective. What did it teach you?

A turning point in my journey was realizing that simply enduring decisions was not enough. If we want to influence the future of agriculture, we must be at the table. This taught me that legitimacy is not something you wait for – it is something you build – and that collective commitment is more powerful than individual frustration.

How can we ensure a fair and stable income for farmers, so that young people can still choose this profession out of passion – and so that we can continue to feed society sustainably?

The strongest innovation I have experienced is collective action. When women farmers meet and organize, they gain confidence, ambition and the capacity to act. Isolation decreases. The future becomes something we actively shape together.



Photo credit: Caroline Jaspert