

DOT RANCH, A VETERAN'S JOURNEY

FROM THE WAR FIELD  
TO A FIELD OF SHEEP

# IRAQ, 2003

- The values of sheep, women, and war.
- "Them ain't shoats, private"
- Life brings catastrophes and blessings, sometimes in the same basket.







WELL, WE BOUGHT THE FARM

NOW WHAT?

FROM ONE DESERT TO ANOTHER  
A TRADITION OF SURVIVAL, CRAIGSLIST,  
AND THE UNEXPECTED SHEEP.



# ROUGH BEGINNINGS

- Most capital tied up with land purchase
- Few animals to choose from
- Few mentors available
- Little resources for beginning farmer with zero management experience



“Dibé be íiná”

–SHEEP IS LIFE, A NAVAJO PROVERB



THE GRANT THAT ALTERED EVERYTHING

# A CHANGE IN THE TIDE







# ADVICE FOR NEW FARMERS

- Use your peers
- Farming has a fierce learning curve
- Embrace adaptability and resilience
- Read before you buy
- Expect to be humbled





## ON THE MEASURES OF SUCCESS AND FAILURE

- As women, we are assumed to be many things we are not.
- You are not frail, you are not weak, and you are not incapable.
- Knowing your strengths is more important than tracking your mistakes.
- Farming is full of failure, but this does not make YOU a failure

PERSISTENCE PAYS ALL



