

Women's Leadership Committees: Where do the leaders go?

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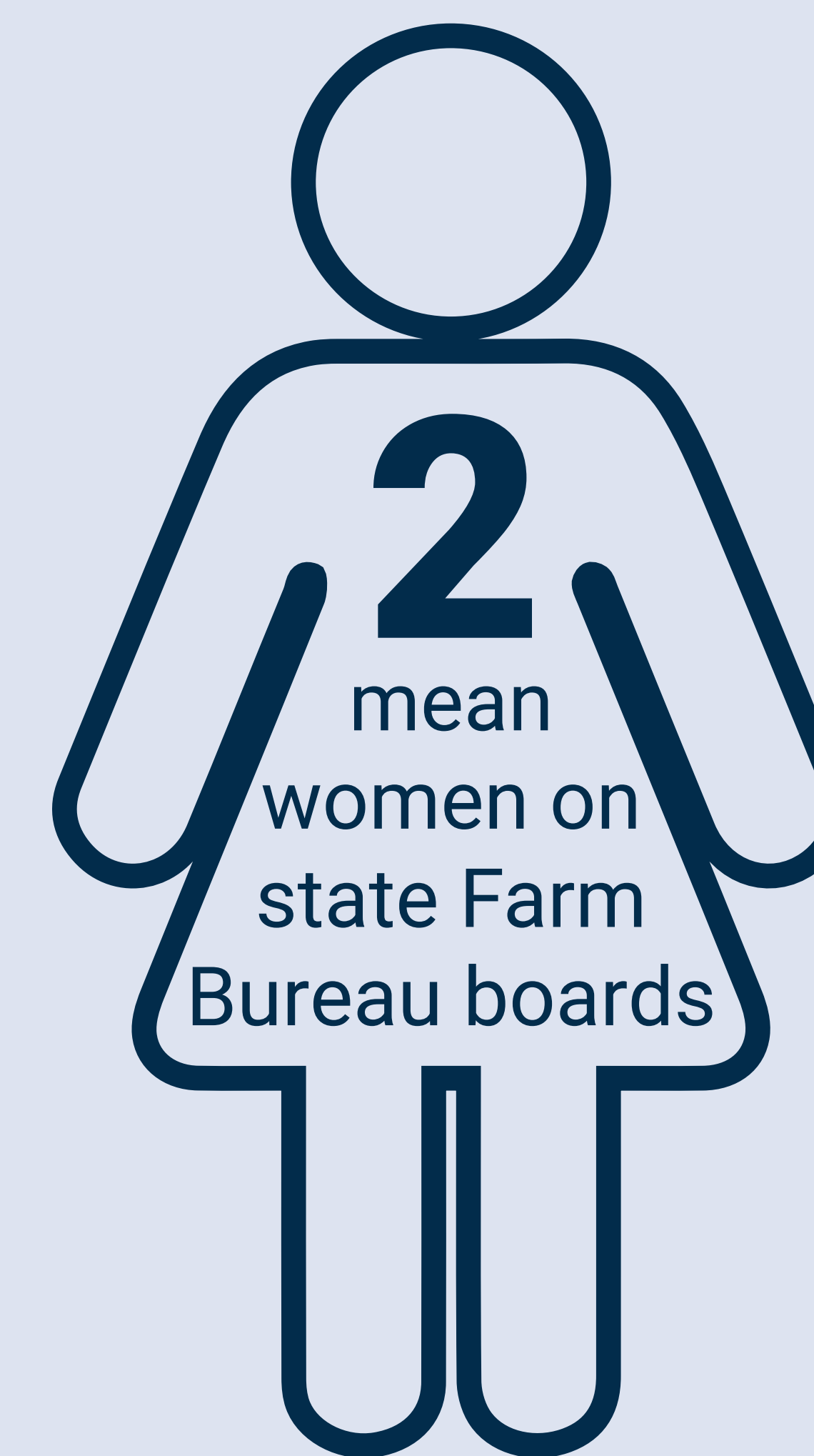
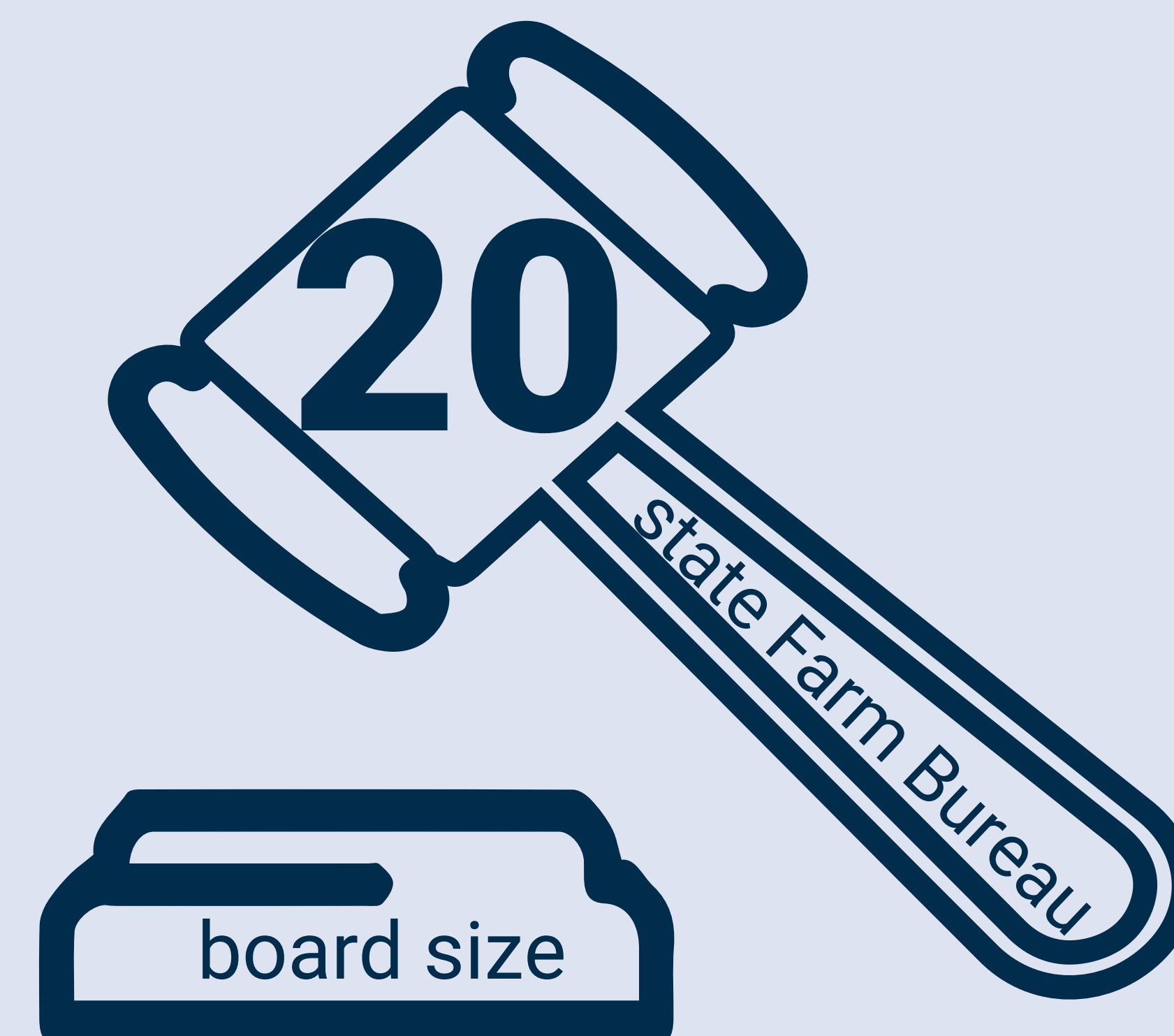
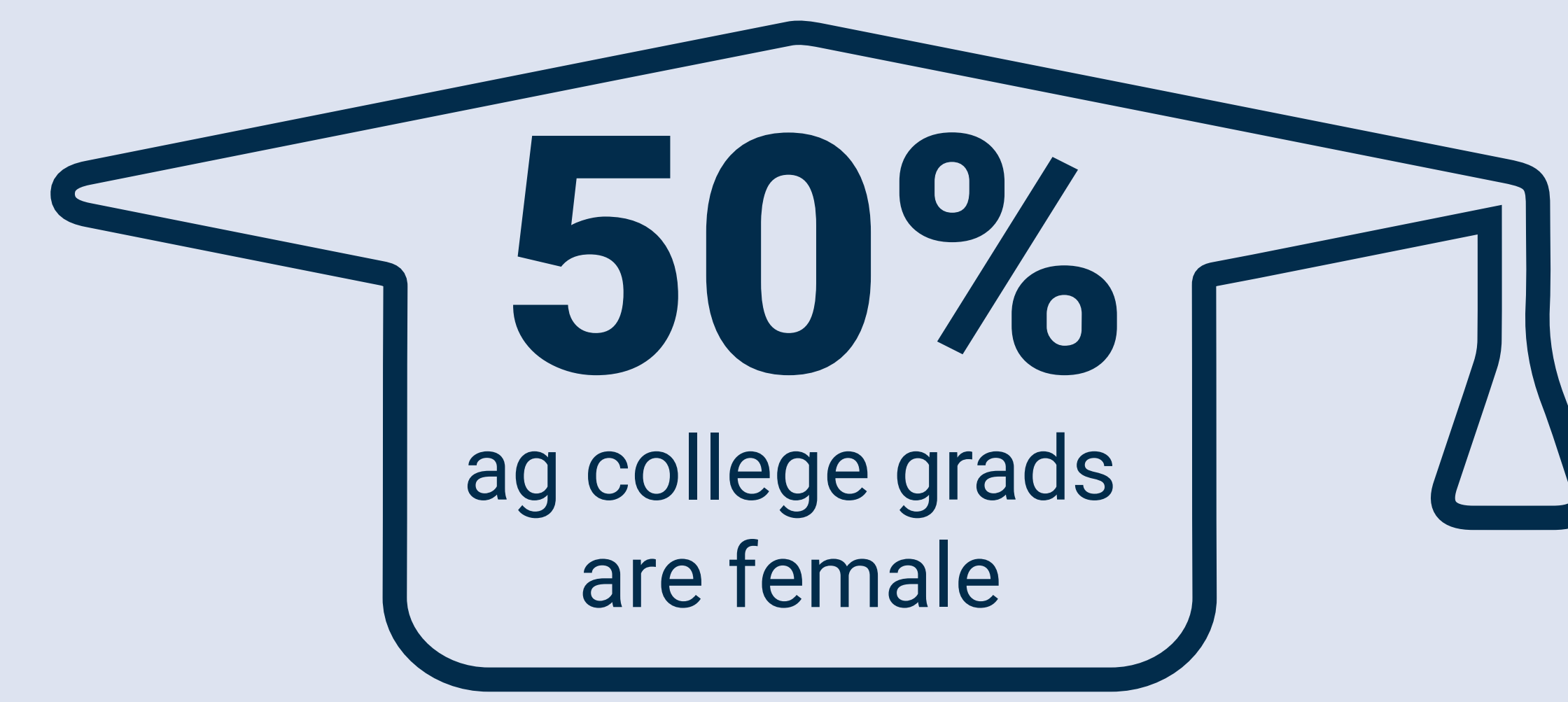


Introduction

American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) is a non-governmental organization representing farmers and ranchers in all 50 United States and Puerto Rico. The organization works to build a sustainable, safe, and abundant supply of food, fuel, and fiber (AFBF, 2021). AFBF's Women's Leadership Committee (WLC) provides leadership development and communication training to build strong, effective leaders in agriculture.

Theoretical Framework

- Social role theory suggests there are differences in gender roles within leadership due to stereotypical social roles within society.
- Within agriculture, the social role theory takes shape in the farmer and the farm wife that perpetuates the traditional division of labor and may be seen as an obstacle for women seeking leadership roles in agriculture (Keller, 2014, Louder, 2020).



31 state Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committees

States with WLCs
mean state board = 22
mean women board
members = 4 (19%)

States without WLCs
mean state board = 17
mean women board
members = 3 (20%)

Methods

- Content analysis of 51 state Farm Bureau websites.
- Total number of board members and number of women serving on the board was recorded.
- Farm Bureau Women's Leadership 2021 Directory provided a list of active WLCs.
- Microsoft Excel was used to catalog the data and SPSS was used for the statistical calculations.

Discussion

- The number of females holding primary roles in agriculture is increasing.
- The number of women holding state-level Farm Bureau leadership roles remains low.
- The mission and vision of WLCs indicates this program develops and empowers future female leaders in agriculture (Farm Bureau Women's Leadership, 2021).
- Louder (2020) found women in agriculture continue to experience barriers preventing them from advancing.



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