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## AAW Members Gather for Midyear Meeting



**2009 Midyear participants pose for group photo during a business meeting break.**

**By Juanita Reed-Boniface**

Nearly sixty AAW members met in St. Louis April 2-5 to update AAW's positions on legislative and regulatory policy for the year and to conduct other business of the organization.

Chairs of the Strategic Action Response Teams (StART) presented background information on ag business and economics, commodities, natural resources, and public understanding and awareness that formed the groundwork for discussion groups to study, review, and update current position statements.

AAW members are especially concerned that labor-intensive agriculture in the United States—fruits and vegetables, livestock and poultry, greenhouse and nursery, dairy and Christmas trees—would face a dire labor crisis if action isn't taken to establish a legalization program that is not amnesty but provides for an experienced workforce to pick the crops that are feeding America. Americans want to eat local food and to do so, we must have local farmers with an adequate labor force.

Other issues discussed at length included public land and animal resource management. Farmers and ranchers face intolerable consequences of wildlife

mismanagement such as overpopulation, overgrazing, disease transmission and crop damages. Additional purchases of private property by or through the government place limits and restrictions on private land for agriculture. Water resource management including definitions of navigable waters and wetland restorations are of concern related to current proposed legislation with the Clean Water Act.

Forest management and incentives for developing renewable energy sources, habitats and /or water improvements as well as adequate funding for forest fire suppression were voiced in support of the forestry and timber industries.

Several new policy statements were drafted supporting responsible treatment of animals and reestablishing horse slaughter plants to guarantee the humane and environmentally sensitive disposition of aged and infirm horses in the United States. AAW members also gave strong support to education and research including support for land grant colleges, research and extension, vocational agriculture, and agriculture in the classroom.

*See the pullout section of this newsletter for the 2009 AAW Position Statements.*

Vice President Chris Wilson and Kansas President Abby Dechant led a workshop on understanding and editing the AAW web site. Funded by a USDA risk management grant, the workshop helped participants navigate and edit the web site. In addition, Chris presented a preview of the "Turning the World Onto Agriculture" RFD-TV segments and facilitated recording of video clips for the series.

President Marcie Williams along with the chairs of consumer understanding and awareness, Heather Hampton+Knodle, networking, Doris Mold and leadership, Kris Zilliox gave comprehensive reports on the goals and tasks from the plan of action adopted in 2007. Significant progress has been made in all areas. Marcie reminded us that planning is a perpetual process, not a periodic event, and plans of action need to be used, reviewed, and changed as people, programs, and issues change. Like all organizations, AAW faces challenges in working across generations and reaching out and including organizations we don't usually think of as agriculture related. These are challenges that we can meet.

Accomplishments highlighted in the reports were:

- Developed clear ways and means for communication; ex. Fly-in, multi-media approaches, new marketing campaigns.
- Became a respected and convenient source of information about women in agriculture through media relationships, information provided to members and networking with groups outside agriculture as well as agriculture related industries.
- Created a virtual office of AAW on the web site.

## President's Report



**Marcie Williams**  
AAW President

*Happy Spring,  
Everyone*

Leaving the beautiful flowers of Missouri was hard to do after our energetic and fruitful Midyear meeting in St. Louis. Spring was in the air. It was even more apparent in North Carolina at the Syngenta "Leadership At Its Best" program. Weather changes daily here in Ohio and I'm starting to see peeks of spring arriving in the countryside. My tulips have opened their petals, trees are starting to green. Rain has fallen for nearly a week here in central Ohio so I guess you could say we are no longer dry. Area farmers are making sure last minute maintenance on equipment is complete and everything is ready for the big planting rush. There is talk no planting will happen in April in Ohio because of this last high pressure leaving so much rain. Only time will tell but promising temperatures of 70 and 80 degrees will help dry soggy fields.

Illinois Agri-Women should be praised for their warm welcome and friendly hospitality at our Midyear meeting in St. Louis. Thank you ladies for all of your efforts. I think everyone found their way to a restaurant of their choice, shopping for what ever their needs were and even found time to do a little business. StART Chair Dolly Lillis kept us on our toes, straightened out our mistakes and had us pumped up for policy suggestions, deletions and additions. Thanks go to Arlene Kovash for the new "reader friendly" format.

What is the saying about "It takes a community to raise a child"? AAW has raised several but this is the first time we've had little boys at our meetings. The little toy tractors and trucks scattered across tables showed us the promise of youth for our industry. No one would have known that there were three little boys sitting at our meeting. Their exemplary behavior is a compliment to their mother, Heather Hampton+Knodle. It once again proves why young women have children. I couldn't master that challenge again at my age.

AAW is growing in many ways. At this Midyear meeting we accepted three new

affiliates: Kentucky Women in Agriculture, American National Cattle Women, and CERES. This gives us new avenues for networking and offers members of these organizations a wonderful opportunity to witness firsthand what can happen with women working for the same goal.

I am constantly amazed at the strengths and potential of our membership. This past "Leadership At Its Best" training by Syngenta just confirmed how talented we are. Fifteen AAW members from across the country joined ten members from the National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) to learn about leadership. These ladies were no wall flowers and Syngenta put the final polish on them. Twenty-five ladies soon found a common goal between the two groups and friendships were quickly made. With the attendance of four of our friends from Canada we soon became known as 'North American Agri-Women.' You could actually see the excitement in the air at the final dinner when they were awarded their certificates. Tears were shed as they told how proud they were of themselves for what they now know and can do. These new graduates will make all of you proud. The comradeship between the women was remarkable and I'm sure we will gain new active and vocal AAW members from this meeting. I must add that we now officially have one new AAW member from Canada with more to come. What an exciting time for American Agri-Women!

The leadership training came at an opportune time as we in agriculture face many challenges in the near future. The EPA's Acting Assistant Administrator of Water has downplayed fears that farmers will need a permit for every pesticide application to comply with a federal court ruling. Mike Shapiro claims the court decision has "to do with storm water runoff from agricultural lands, as well as the irrigation return flows, both excluded from permit requirements, even if they do contain pesticide residues in the runoff." Shapiro does admit some aspects of the 6th Circuit's opinion may have broader implications.

The National Animal Identification System is still on the front burner with Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack saying he has the authority to mandate producer participation in an animal identification system, though he wants to hear from the public first. AAW supports a voluntary national premises

**President's Report** *continued to page 4*

## American Agri-Women Executive Committee

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<i>The Voice</i> is published in February, April, June, August, October, and December by American Agri-Women as a service to members. Deadline is the 15th of the month before each issue is published. Articles and suggestions are always welcomed by:	
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Midyear Meeting *continued from page 1*

## Leadership At Its Best

By Juanita Reed-Boniface



**Chris Wilson, vice president of Resolutions & Vital Issues, led the web site workshop for the eager learners.**

- Explored ways and means to enhance leadership development and training, including our partnership with Syngenta and utilizing *The Voice* and national meetings

Janet Braun, Croplife Ambassador program, gave a short luncheon presentation explaining this educational program and the resources available to agri-women for doing educational presentations. For more information on the program check out the web site at [www.ambassador.maca.org](http://www.ambassador.maca.org).

Molly Cline, Industry Affairs Leader, Monsanto, was a luncheon host speaker. Cline emphasized the importance of being dedicated to the truth about agriculture and telling our story. Monsanto along with others in the industry are focused on sustainability around food, fuel and fiber. As a result Monsanto is focused on producing more food and fiber by utilizing plant biotechnology to double yields by 2030 in order to feed a growing world population. At the same time, conserving resources and improving life of farmers/ranchers are priorities.

Competitive and active bidding kept ladies returning to the Resource Center's Silent Auction table where a wide variety of items were for sale. Proceeds from the auction netted \$824.00. Thanks to all who donated and/or purchased items.

Other Midyear highlights were the introduction of the new book "Women in the Reins," by author LaRayne Meyer Topp; Sunday morning devotional service led by lay chaplain Eunice Guell, meeting of the state presidents, and lots of fellowship in the hospitality room sponsored by Illinois Agri-Women.

*Leadership At Its Best*, Syngenta's signature leadership development program, greeted American Agri-Women with plenty of Southern hospitality as they arrived at the O.Henry Hotel, Greensboro, North Carolina on April 13 for a week of intensive learning, networking, fun, and fellowship. Fifteen Agri-Women representing Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon, Kansas, Montana, Florida and Ontario, Canada were selected for this year's program. Joining them were ten women representing the National Association of Wheat Growers.

Begun in 1985 as a program supporting the National Corn Growers Association, *Leadership At Its Best* is the ag industry's largest program for the training and development of leaders from organizations that advocate for the interests of U.S. production agriculture. When asked why Syngenta sponsors the program founder, Neil Strong said, "We believe that we (Syngenta) are successful when our customers and clients are successful. This is one way that we can help our customers, who are agriculture leaders, be successful."

From early Tuesday morning (April 14) until the closing banquet and graduation event on Thursday evening, participants were fully engaged in activities. The week began with a workshop on "Energized Public Speaking," led by Steve Powell, Bouvier Kelly, Inc. After a review of principles of presentations including knowing your audience, motivating and charging up the audience and building the presentation, participants had an opportunity to work in small groups to give and critique a short presentation.

Jodie Beach, The Etiquette Advantage, led a fast-paced business etiquette workshop on dress, dining tips, and handshakes.

Key to any successful leader is Interpersonal Communication Styles and Understanding Organization and Board Leadership. Dr. Bryan Gentsch, Association Strategies, used the Personal Profile tool (DiSC) to help participants examine why we behave and communicate in the way we do and why others may or may not, respond the way we expect or desire them to. This model was applied to a discussion



**Syngenta Leadership at Its Best, participants pose with host Neil Strong outside Syngenta headquarters.**



**AAW President Marcie Williams joins host Neil Strong, Syngenta, for conversation at the closing reception.**

of attributes of good leaders and leadership behaviors in the session Board Leadership and Governance.

Dealing with media and doing television interviews can be an uneasy experience for anyone in agriculture today, but tips from Skip Ragland and a practice interview with him and Steve Powell gave confidence and focus to the presenters and their messages.

A special highlight of the week was touring Syngenta's Research and Development facility where the theme is "Bringing Plant Potential to Life." Research scientists outlined an demonstrated the steps that are taken to develop new products using today's biotechnology Most of us were amazed at the rigor and detail that is involved in this cutting edge research and the care that is taken to test and retest for consequences to the environment, water, air and wildlife before releasing a new product.

The week closed with a final reception and dinner at which each participant was presented a framed certificate.

For those of us privileged to attend, we are grateful to the generosity and hospitality that Syngenta extends to us. AAW is privileged to be included among the associations that are partners in this program.



**President's Report** *continued from page 2*

registration and animal identification program.

EPA regulations of greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act, could cause U.S. agriculture to be hard hit. Preliminary analysis from Doane Advisory Services estimates carbon costs could add \$40 an acre to corn production costs. The House Energy and Commerce Committee plans to mark up draft climate change legislation that would contain a mandatory cap-and-trade program.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has already marked Ohio for one of their next targets. It is time to move forward and not be timid when talking to your neighbor, relatives or the person next to you in line at the grocery store. We have to be heard. We have to carefully explain why we do what we do and why it is important for American agriculture to grow and be successful, not for our own profits but for the success of our country. Be strong, be loud but most of all, be active! I challenge each and every one of you to educate one person this next week, then one the next week and one the next. Together we can make this happen.

*Marcié*

**Gems shared by some participants at Syngenta's leadership conference**

"This program was a much needed refresher to a two year agricultural leadership program that I took ten years ago. Interacting with all of the AAW woman was amazing. I was truly impressed by all of the hospitality, friendliness and generosity of Syngenta, AAW and by the American people in general. I have been telling everyone about my experiences and lessons learned."

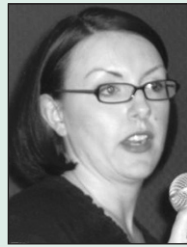
— **Angela Stiles**

P.Ag, Executive Director, Agricultural Adaptation Council

"The Syngenta Leadership training was very thorough and informative. As a conventional farmer, I am faced with multiple questions from the general public about farming practices; the farm bill and food vs fuel concerns. I would try to duck out of answering the question not because I did not have an answer but because I lacked the confidence on delivering my message. Syngenta training provided me with the tools to accurately and positively portray my truths about conventional farming. I belong to AAW because of the networking with farm women. My Syngenta trip was an experience I will cherish. I felt honored yet humbled to be amongst such a gifted group of women from North America. Thanks Syngenta and AAW for giving me the opportunity to grow and lead."

— **Sue Krueger**

Minnesota AAW

**▶▶ Focus on Leadership**

**Kris Zilliox**  
AAW Leadership  
Chair

Leadership has many definitions, yet no true definition. Is it a thing, a concept, an action, or a person? Unfortunately, one of the most respected sources of definitions, *Webster's Dictionary*, does not provide much help when searching for this answer. *Webster's* defines leadership as, "the office or position of a leader, the capacity to lead, or the act or instance of leading." That defines leadership as almost everything—a concept, an action, and a person. Leadership is difficult to define because it is intangible. It cannot be held, seen, or studied in the flesh; yet we know it exists. We may not be able to see it, but we can see it in action and the results it produces. One could even say that they have felt it, whether it was coming to them or from them. Leadership is many things to many people.

A modern tool for seeking definitions which is often much less reliable than Webster, is [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com). Wiki quotes an interesting, yet simple definition of leadership as the, "process of social influence in which one person can enlist the aid and support of others in the accomplishment of a common task"<sup>1</sup>. It is a brilliant definition because it provides the basic structure for one to build their personal leadership definition. A key word in the Wiki definition is influence

"I took away a renewed energy to concentrate on achieving my goals by setting targets, engaging with others and focusing on new avenues to achieve results. I was also fortunate to build relationships with an amazing group of women. I have gained a deeper appreciation that we as an agri-food community are facing many of the same challenges. AAW provides tremendous resources to help unify our voice. Many, many thanks to AAW and Syngenta for this rewarding experience!"

— **Denise Zaborowski**

MSc. Healthy Eating Team, LeadFoodland  
Ontario Program Business Development Branch  
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs

because it is the core of how a leader accomplishes these common goals. A leader must thoroughly understand, motivate, and persuade both individuals and groups in order to have an influence on others. This is why personality theories, public speaking, team building, communication skills, and goal setting often fall under the umbrella of leadership development. These are important and necessary skills of great leaders.

As American Agri-Women continue on their journey of strategic planning, they will continue with their commitment to continuous leadership development of their membership. Leadership development theories and practices are changing constantly, so although AAW members already demonstrate incredible leadership abilities and knowledge, the best can only get better! Remember, a leader does not have to have a title or an elected role. AAW needs strong leaders at all levels of the organization in order to accomplish their common goals of educating and influencing consumers, business leaders, policy makers, and especially each other for the betterment of agriculture.

This column is the introduction to what will now be a regular part of *The Voice*. The content within this will be shaped by the membership. As the chair of the AAW Leadership Committee, I look forward to being a liaison between our members and our continuing leadership development. If you have any thoughts, ideas, requests, or would like to join the committee, please do not hesitate to contact me at 651-260-9916 or [krispoirier@hotmail.com](mailto:krispoirier@hotmail.com).

<sup>1</sup> Chemers, M. M. (2002). Efficacy and effectiveness: Integrating models of leadership and intelligence. In Riggio, R. E., Murphy, S. E. & Pirozzolo, F. J. (Eds.) *Multiple intelligences and leadership*. Mahwah, NJ, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

"The Syngenta Leadership Conference was a very comprehensive learning experience. Learning how to communicate to others on topics that are of great importance to myself and my industry, and how to have the look of self confidence while doing so, were just a few of the things that I took away from this conference. It was so great to meet people who are involved in several different fields of agriculture, including agri-business. I cannot thank American Agri-Women and Syngenta enough for a most pleasurable learning experience. I feel that I have made new friends for life."

— **Kimberly Schmuhl**

Michigan fruit, grain, and flower farmer

## ▶ Consumer Understanding



**Heather Hampton+Knodle**  
AAW Consumer Understanding & Awareness Chair

The AAW Midyear meeting featured updates on AAW efforts to pursue its strategic objective of improving consumer understanding of agriculture's importance to the United States' economy. The success of this objective hinges on AAW members taking information "into the field." Prior to the AAW strategic planning session that took place in January 2007 and the adoption of the plan at the 2007 annual meeting, AAW offered the coloring activity book and information about AAW policy statements to members. Since the adoption of the strategic plan, many more resources are available to members through AAW:

- ▶ Placemats can be printed from the AAW web site
- ▶ Agriculture fun fact cards can be printed from the AAW web site
- ▶ Activity/coloring books for elementary students can be ordered from the AAW web site
- ▶ "American Grown Goodness" stickers to distribute to local retailers, farmers markets, growers cooperatives, and others who market U.S. grown produce, meat, and other products to consumers. Contact VP Vital Issues Chris Wilson at [resolutions@americanagriwomen.org](mailto:resolutions@americanagriwomen.org), or Past President Yvonne Erickson at [pastpresident@americanagriwomen.org](mailto:pastpresident@americanagriwomen.org)
- ▶ Scripts for 60-second radio public service announcements that emphasize common themes of the need to feed a growing global population, the importance of variety in a nutritious diet, facts about organic and conventional production practices
- ▶ A 30-second television commercial developed by Illinois Agri-Women is also available to other Agri-Women affiliates to modify with their own state logo and voice over. Contact VP Education Pamela Sweeten for information.

Another valuable resource for AAW members is the publication, "Addressing Misconceptions About Agriculture" available for purchase from the American Farm Bureau Federation, [www.afbf.org](http://www.afbf.org). The publication features well-documented research on issues that range from the scientific methodology of DDT studies on eagle populations that were cited by Rachel Carson in "Silent Spring," to the amount of water required to produce one pound of beef.

One more source for AAW members who want to tell an accurate story about production agriculture is the Croplife Ambassador network made available through the Mid-America Crop Protection Association. The [croplifeamerica.com](http://croplifeamerica.com) website has several powerpoint presentations with scripts that include citations for research-based facts on topics that range from conservation and stewardship to biofuels.

In addition to equipping AAW members with resources for their local and regional outreach efforts, AAW continues to seek partnerships to launch broader consumer acceptance and understanding initiatives. The Symposium at AAW Fly-In is one example of an in-depth review of a topic that educates AAW members while also providing an opportunity to inform the non-producing public about timely issues. AAW welcomes input from members on how to better leverage our existing programs and resources in order to amplify the message of agriculture's importance to the U.S. economy.

For example, one area of interest that was identified in the AAW strategic plan is developing a speaker's bureau. If you are interested in being a speaker or in assisting with the development of a speaker's bureau, please contact AAW Vice President, Education Pamela Sweeten at [education@americanagriwomen.org](mailto:education@americanagriwomen.org).

"I am so excited to have been able to attend this Leadership Conference. I learned so much in so many areas for a group of wonderful speakers and presenters. Being able to meet a group of women from all over North America all sharing the same passion for agriculture was a great experience and will certainly benefit us all in the future."

— **Chris McDowell**  
*Oregon Women in Agriculture*

## Affiliates

- American Angus Auxiliary
- American Hereford Women
- American National Cattle Women, Inc.
- American Sheep Industry Women
- California Women for Agriculture
- California Women in Timber
- Ceres
- Colorado Wool Growers Auxiliary
- Farm Safety 4 Just Kids
- Florida Agri-Women
- Foremost Farms USA
- Fur Commission USA
- Idaho Agri-Women
- Illinois Agri-Women
- Kansas Agri-Women
- Kansas Cattle Women
- Kansas Sheep Auxiliary
- Kentucky Women in Agriculture
- Lakes States Women in Timber
- Maine Agri-Women
- Michigan Agri-Women
- Michigan Peach Sponsors
- Minnesota Agri-Women
- Missouri Agri-Women
- Missouri Cattle Women
- Montana Agri-Women
- Montana Women in Timber
- National Shorthorn Lassie Association
- Nebraska Agri-Women
- New Mexico CowBelles
- New Mexico Wool Growers Auxiliary
- New York State
- Vegetable Growers Association
- North Dakota Agri-Women
- North Dakota Cattle Women
- Ohio Agri-Women
- Oklahoma Women for Agriculture
- Oregon Women for Agriculture
- Oregon Women in Timber
- Penn's Agri-Women
- Salers Belles
- Sigma Alpha National Alumni Association
- Sigma Alpha Sorority
- Texas Agri-Women
- Texas Produce Association
- Texas Vegetable Association
- United Agricultural League
- Wisconsin Women for Agriculture
- Women of National Agricultural Aviation Association
- Women in Kansas Agricultural Aviation Association

## ▶ Networking Exchange



**Doris Mold**  
AAW Networking  
Chair

Minnesota Agri-Women cordially invite you to a networking retreat July 10-13 at Yvonne and Chuck Erickson's cabin in beautiful lake country near Battle Lake, Minnesota.

### What will you do?

This will be a terrific opportunity to get to know other AAW members. The exchange will combine learning activities with time for participants to enjoy the glorious north woods via trails, watercraft, campfires and more. The activities will be based on participants' interests but may include any of the following: tours of local food and ag processing facilities; a visit to the Phelps Mill Festival, a juried arts festival at the site of an historic mill; a visit to an ethanol plant; events at Red Horse Ranch; a visit to Inspiration Point the second highest point in Minnesota; learning about the agriculture and history of the area and more. We will also have some low-key learning activities and discussion throughout the exchange, as well. There are several country churches in the area for worship.

This is an open exchange, which is when an affiliate announces that they are having a networking exchange and anyone from AAW may attend. Being the first official exchange, it is serving as a pilot for us to learn how to do exchanges for AAW. Even though we are rookies at this, we guarantee that you will have a good time, get to know others better, and learn something, as well.

### Details

Participants are responsible for their travel expenses to Minnesota and any personal expenses. Your hosts will cover lodging and most major meals. Participants may fly into Minneapolis/St. Paul or Fargo and we will do our best to organize transportation from the airports. You may also choose to drive.

# AAW to Partner with American Equipment Manufacturers

By **Anita Sennett,**  
**Coordinator Ag Services, AEM**  
& **Juanita Reed-Boniface**

President Marcie Williams has announced a new partnership with American Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) and their new trade show AG CONNECT Expo to be held in Orlando, Florida in January 2010. AAW will be establishing a gathering place for women in agriculture and sponsoring the Family Business

Management educational track including sessions on Balancing Your Budget, Planning for Your Future, Managing Multiple Tasks on the Farm and Labor Issues on the Farm: Hiring, Wages and Migrant Labor.

AG CONNECT is a new generation of ag trade shows serving as an international gathering place for the agriculture industry; not a regional show, but a large, global show right here in North America.

Pavilions of exhibitors from Europe, Latin American and the Far East are already established, and

delegations of producers from those same regions will be at the show. Structured networking programs allow discussions of farming issues with industry experts and like-minded producers from across the country and around the world. Orion Samuelson will be on hand. A comprehensive educational program will be offered, with sessions presented by Successful Farming, Precision Ag and Informa Economics, among others. Tours of local ag operations will be available. Rooms have been blocked at over 50 area hotels, with rates starting as low as \$79. Free shuttle service is provided between the hotels and the Orange County Convention Center and discounted evening rates at area theme parks will be available. Check it out at [www.agconnect.com](http://www.agconnect.com).

Other organizations taking advantage of this venue are: North American Equipment Dealers Association, Farm Equipment Manufacturers Association, American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association, Florida Farm Bureau, National Association of Conservation Districts, Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America, Farm Equipment Wholesalers Association, AEM Ag Executive Forum, World Summit on Agricultural Machinery, U.S. Mongolian Business Forum, National Fluid Power Association and U.S. Department of Commerce.

Watch for more details on the AAW web site and in upcoming issues of *The Voice*.



### Retreat Schedule

- Friday, July 10 – travel to Battle Lake, settle in, and enjoy an evening meal together
- Saturday, July 11–Monday, July 13 – educational activities, tours, free time
- Tuesday, July 14 – travel home

It may be possible to arrange for a limited number of home stays after the exchange is over. These will be handled on an individual basis. If you would like to stay longer with an Agri-Women member please indicate that as soon as possible.

### Contact by June 1

Please contact Doris Mold, Networking Chair by June 1 if you are interested in participating in this exchange or if you have questions about the exchange. You will be asked to fill out an information/confirmation form once you have contacted Doris and this will be used to finalize arrangements: Doris' contact information P.O. Box 8192, St. Paul, MN, phone 715-822-6347; fax 715-822-6351 or e-mail: [doris@sunriseag.net](mailto:doris@sunriseag.net).

The exchange is first-come, first-served as we have a limited number of spaces. The sooner you let us know the more likely you will be able to participate. In the event that we have more people than we have space, a waiting list will be developed. ■

# AAW Annual Fly-In & Symposium

Washington, D.C. • June 7-10, 2009

**DRAFT AGENDA**

**Sunday, June 7**

- 3:00 p.m. Briefing at Holiday Inn Smithsonian  
550 C Street, SW, 202-479-4000
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner at the Old Post Office Pavillion
- 7:00 p.m. Bus tour, *In Lincoln's Steps*—in honor of the 200th anniversary of President Lincoln's birth Monuments at night
- 9:00 p.m. Return to Holiday Inn

**Monday, June 8**

- 7:45 a.m. Bus departs hotel for USDA
- 8:00 a.m. Immigration update from Craig Regelbrugge
- 9:00-11:45 a.m. 15th Annual AAW Symposium: Energy Issues
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch at USDA, sponsored by Americans for Secure Retirement
- 1:45 p.m. Bus departs for U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- 2:00-3:30 p.m. Meetings at EPA
- 4:00-5:30 p.m. Embassy visit
- 5:45-7:00 p.m. Reception sponsored by The Fertilizer Institute
- 7:30 p.m. Return to hotel or Union Station

**Tuesday, June 9**

- 7:30 a.m. Bus departs hotel for USDA
- 8:00 a.m. Speakers on hot topics
- 9:30 a.m. Briefings at US Department of Agriculture  
104-A-Williamsburg Room
- Noon Lunch at the capitol with congressional speaker, provided by ACLI
- 1:30-4:45 p.m. Capitol Hill visits to congressional offices
- 5:00-5:30 p.m. Meeting in House Agriculture Committee Room
- 5:30-7:30 p.m. Congressional Reception,  
House Agriculture Committee Room
- Return to hotel on your own

**Wednesday, June 10**

- 8:00 a.m. Bus departs hotel
- 8:30-9:30 a.m. Meetings at U.S. Department of Interior
- 10:00 a.m. Tour of White House organic garden (requested)
- Noon Bus drop off at Reagan International Airport, hotel
- Noon For those able to stay, lunch in Crystal City overlooking Washington

**AAW 2009 Fly-In Registration Form**

Registration Fee: \$100 (no partial registration)

Send form with payment to:

Carolyn Kleiber, Treasurer

P.O. Box 111, Hillsboro, KS 67063

Phone: 620-947-3419

Email: treasurer@americanagriwomen.org

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth\* \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number\* \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliate \_\_\_\_\_

\* We must have this information for security clearance at various agencies, including USDA.

Special interests and issues (legislative/regulatory) \_\_\_\_\_

Senate/House bills in which you are particularly interested \_\_\_\_\_

Planned arrival date/time in D.C. \_\_\_\_\_

Via (plane and airport, car, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want us to find you a roommate?  YES  NO

Comments/suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

**Hotel Reservations:** Call Holiday Inn Capitol at the Smithsonian, 550 C Street, SW, at 202-479-4000. Block code is AG1. Rooms are \$219 with two double beds, non-smoking.

**Transportation Info:** If arriving at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, you can take the Yellow Line of the Metro to the L'Enfant Plaza stop. It's a very short ride, only a block from the hotel.



## American Agri-Women Welcome New Affiliates

By Ardath DeWall, Affiliate Membership Chair

Kentucky Women in Agriculture, American National Cattlewomen and Ceres, were welcomed as new affiliates of AAW at the Midyear meeting.

Kentucky women have been working to make a difference in agriculture for many years. The Kentucky Agricultural Women's Leadership Network was established in 1999 to enhance these efforts, and became a non-profit organization, Kentucky Women in Agriculture in 2003. Jenny Inman, Marketing Consultant and Commodities Broker with Commodity Marketing Services serves as president for the 150-member organization. Tobacco is a new commodity they bring to AAW.

The American National CattleWomen, Inc. (ANCW) is one of the longest standing cattle women organizations. Established in 1952 as a national, nonprofit, membership organization, it is a voice for women who share a passion for the U.S. beef industry. ANCW offers leadership development, education, volunteer opportunities, national programs, and participates in the strategic planning process of the cattle industry. The American National CattleWomen has six national programs to promote beef.

Kristy Lage, rancher from Arthur, Nebraska, is president of this 1200 member national organization. To learn more about ANCW visit their web site at [www.ancw.org](http://www.ancw.org).

Ceres Fraternity grew out of women's groups that had been affiliated with Farm House fraternity as clubs or colonies. In 1985, Ceres International Fraternity became a reality. Local chapters are active at North Carolina State University, University of Illinois, North Dakota State University, South Dakota State University, University of Alberta, Washington State University, Western Kentucky University and the University of Wisconsin, Platteville. Ceres currently has 700 members including collegiate chapters and alumnae.

AAW now has 53 affiliates. Welcome to these new members!

## American Grown Goodness program

By Arlene Kovash, VP Communications

American Agri-Women (AAW) has established a trademark program, American Grown Goodness, which is designed to provide a way for growers, processors and marketers to identify their American grown products. Producers can either print the American Grown Goodness logo on the packaging of American grown products or adhere a small sticker to fresh or packaged products.

More consumers have an interest in knowing where their food is produced. This program will help them make purchasing decisions," asserted AAW President Marcie Williams. "Many states have similar state-grown programs but this program will promote all U.S. grown products."

AAW will be identifying and contacting American grown producers to make them aware of the availability of the program and to encourage them to sign up to participate and use the trademark.

The American Grown Goodness program will be featured on a future episode of the American Agri-Women TV show to air on satellite and cable networks in 2009.

To learn more about this program, visit [www.americanagriwomen.org](http://www.americanagriwomen.org).

"The training was awesome, and as a bonus, I impressed the socks off my Grandma. I made a lot of friends at the training. We had to give an impromptu speech and a faux television interview. My speech was for a 3rd grade classroom and I talked about how grass seed is grown. My television interview was about teenagers employed on the farm. I had a tough interviewer, but I managed to keep my cool and answer everything without giving a single negative sound bite"

— Arwen McGilvra

Albany, Oregon (Her grandmother, Liz VanLeeuwen, also attended.)



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If you would like to receive *The Voice* via email instead of by mail, email your request to Carolyn Kleiber at [Carolyn@agpowerinc.net](mailto:Carolyn@agpowerinc.net)