CWA Hosts AAW 2005 Convention

It’s All About Change

By Sharan Lanini, Convention Co-chair

Look around—change is literally everywhere, and that’s what prompted California Women for Agriculture to pick change as the theme of the upcoming American Agri-Women Convention that they are hosting this November in Monterey. The 2005 American Agri-Women Convention will be held at the Monterey Plaza Hotel and Spa on Cannery Row from November 10-13.

Change has various definitions, and often is viewed with trepidation, but one thing is for sure, in order to remain competitive in the future, all agriculturists will need to figure out how to deal with and embrace change. Einstein once stated, “the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result each time.”

The trends and emerging new realities precipitated by change will be examined at the AAW Convention by a host of world class keynote speakers and hands-on workshops dealing with new methods of implementing strategic change.

“Exploring the possibilities and looking beyond the normal boundaries will be our challenge to this year’s convention participants, while we meet in some of the most spectacular venues on California’s central coast, including the Monterey Bay Aquarium where the final banquet will be held,” according to President Carol Marx.

“Change will not come without perplexing contradictions facing agri-business in the 21st century,” according to Marx.

Everything about this year’s national convention will reflect change, from tours of innovative agricultural operations to the menu which will include a wave of emerging new flavors and products featuring fresh commodities from the diverse regions of California’s agricultural production.

One of the highlights of the newly renovated Ocean’s Edge wing at the aquarium is the giant octopus exhibit, where even that animal embodies change. The octopus is described as a shy, gentle and highly intelligent creature, but one that can change its color, pattern, shape or texture to match its mood.

There definitely seems to be a parable that humans might take from the octopus, and that is the need to be adaptive and open to change to survive in the future.

What can the shy but intelligent octopus teach us about change?

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President’s Column

By Carol Marx
AAW President

“Grandmother’s Roundtable discusses water scarcity” was the headline over the photo of six women of various ages seated around a dinning room table covered with a checkered table cloth. The article was in Agri-Times Northwest, a small agricultural newspaper from Eastern Oregon that has a refreshingly clear perspective born from people who live many hours from Oregon’s urban centers, not just a few minutes from the state capital like we do.

The article told how the Grandmother’s Roundtable (GRT) group meets every Thursday to discuss the issues arising from the development boom and the potential scarcity of water for their region. In their effort to, as they say, “educate people, help us become more informed.”

GRT organized three forums bringing in experts and members of the community. The first was on water, then the economic impact of the community. The first was on water, then the economic impact of the community. The last will be on the implications of growth management laws. Six women, meeting, discussing and taking action. They invented us.

A member of GRT said, “Within our small group there are many different beliefs. We let our differences strengthen us, each one in their own way. Nobody owns us. One of our members said there should be more grandmothers in Washington, D.C.”

A packet of AAW information has been sent to these women letting them know that not only do grandmothers go to Washington, D.C. but AAW members of many ages and experiences go.

What do Women Want? was the title of a Cheryl Tevis article in the August Successful Farming magazine. It referred to the 2002 Ag Census showing that since 1997 there has been a 13% increase in women managing farm assets and a 12.6% increase in women ag producers. In our own communities we see more women as landlords or using their strengths and ingenuity to produce ag products for commodity or niche markets. FFA and agriculture colleges also report vast increases in the numbers of women participating in their programs resulting in larger numbers of women in agri-business professions.

The article examined this phenomenon and how established agriculture organizations must adapt to meet this need and reported on the new conferences and groups that are growing.

What do Women Want?
Is it as simple as the view from a Grandmother’s Round Table? That women want an opportunity to meet with others with common concerns, discuss issues among their equals, learn and then educate others, and take action on issues that impact their families, farms, businesses, and communities? Women also want opportunities to develop their leadership and business skills to help them succeed in their business and personal lives.

A tall order, but American Agri-Women has been doing it for over 30 years. With the help of the women in the following pages who are willing to step out from what they do every day to take on positions of leadership in AAW, we will continue providing opportunities for women and making a difference for agriculture.

Did you know California’s agricultural economy, if ranked separately is the fifth largest in the world? According to California Agriculture Secretary A. G. Kawamura it is behind only the U.S., European Union, China and Brazil. Join us in Monterey as California Women for Agriculture host this years convention and get a glimpse of this agricultural powerhouse.

Carol

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A Tribute to Gail—THE American Agri-Woman

Gail McPherson, one of the founding members of American Agri-Women passed away July 9. A quote in one of the news clippings about her said Gail “embraced agriculture and she did it with her whole heart, the way she did everything including fighting her illness.” AAW recognized Gail’s dedication by adopting the following tribute at Mid-Year:

Gail’s involvement with American Agri-Women began in the early 1970s. She, like many of us, was a young farm woman and a devoted wife and mother. From Gail’s lips, we first heard the term “Professional Farm Woman.” Vibrant and clever, as well as intelligent and perceptive, Gail had long, beautiful Alice-In-Wonderland hair -- but darker in hue than the young woman in the children’s story.

One of the true Renaissance Women of Agriculture, Gail is a founding mother of the oldest and most successful national farm women’s organizations in the United States—American Agri-Women. Our very name, “American Agri-Women” is a product of the fertile and ever working mind of Gail McPherson.

Gail was one of the original “Farm Women—Proud Partners in America Agriculture.” Whether articulately explaining a complicated piece of legislation, testifying before a Congressional hearing, speaking with a group of consumers or holding up a loaf of bread (a la Earl Butz) to accentuate the point that the wrapper cost more than the wheat in the loaf.

At the 1984 AAW Convention in Peoria, Illinois, Gail led AAW through the difficult “birthing” process for our AAW Goals and Strategies. Although some changes have been incorporated into that document over the years, it has served as a foundation, a source of guidance for our AAW leadership. So comprehensive and forward-thinking are the goals and strategies expressed in this document that almost every issue we address as a group is handled within its lines. Every AAW National President since 1984 has used this document as a guide, finding within it a source of sound reasoning and a basis for rational judgment. Gail never served as AAW President, but she could have and probably should have. She would have outperformed any five of us put together.

Gail was one of the driving forces in creating our very successful annual Fly-In, originated under the Jeanne Mertz administration. The Fly-In continues to add to our success and credibility on the national scene. Gail was a regular participant in the Fly-In and could always be counted upon to pose perceptive, insightful questions to our speakers.

A founder of Peach Partners, we all remember Gail’s comments—such as, “Peaches make you sexy.” Our Gail, who when she wanted everyone to smile for a picture would say, “Say Peaches,” glowed as she discussed her “Passion for Peaches.”

Active in the Agriculture Council of America, Gail often spoke out for agriculture in many venues. We saw the picture Gail organized to demonstrate the number of persons fed by one farmer in the pages of many farm magazines. Many editors, writers, researchers and others in the public eye have counted on Gail over the years for a knowledgeable and responsible analysis of what is happening in farm country. Among those who come to mind are Hiram Drache, Dr. Michael DeBakey, and the founder of Accuracy in the Media.

To those of us in American Agri-Women, Gail is a friend, a colleague, a mentor—an individual to be respected and admired. Gail’s legacy of involvement and dedication continues on as a standard of excellence in service to agriculture.

At Mid-Year this spring, the AAW Resource Center voted to name the Fly-In scholarship in honor of Gail and the family has graciously included it to be a recipient of donations in her memory. Donations may be sent to American Agri-Women Scholarship/Gail McPherson, c/o Trenna Grabowski, P. O. Box 38, Dubois, IL 62831.
Nominating Committee Report

Six women nominated for AAW positions

This year American Agri-Women is nominating officers for the offices of First Vice President of Resolutions and Vital Issues, Vice President of Communications, and Treasurer.

MARCIE WILLIAMS, Croton, Ohio, has a varied background in agriculture that qualifies her to fill the position of First Vice President of Resolutions & Vital Issues. A member of American Agri-Women since 1990, she has served in leadership roles including Vice President of Education and chair of the Agriculture Chemicals and Ag Awareness committees under StART. She also has been a Coordinator of Public Awareness and Understanding.

Representing AAW, she has served on the Triazine Network Committee seeking an accurate, scientifically-based special review of triazine herbicides by the United States Environmental Association.

A member of Ohio Agri-Women since 1990, Marcie has served as president, secretary and treasurer. She also is a past officer and board member of the Licking County Farm Bureau. She served as Women’s Committee and Information chairs of the organization. Marcie is a past secretary of Ohio Ag Awareness Council and C. William Swank Advisory Council on Rural – Urban Policy, Research and Education.

She has worked in public relations for Lord, Sullivan & Yoder. Her background in agriculture also includes serving as Volunteer Soy Promoter (VSP) for 10 years and also coordinator for the VSP program. She feels she gained valuable insight into working with and delegating practices among various members of an organization. Working with Triazine Network Council has prepared her for working with various governmental and agricultural agencies. She also feels that as Farm Spokesman of the Year, noted by Farm Journal magazine, has given her experiences that she can use when meeting with various groups.

She served on the Licking County Farmland Preservation Task Force and the Bennington Township Farmland Preservation Task Force. Marcie was selected to the Licking County Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2004. Marcie has been a 4-H leader and is a member of Ohio State Tractor Pullers Association and Ohio Corn Growers. She and her husband Don farm corn, wheat and soybeans.

As a nominee to the office of Vice President of Resolutions and Vital Issues, Marcie comes highly recommended.

CHRIS WILSON is a candidate for Vice President Communications of American Agri-Women. She brings experience to the role she served previously. And, in fact, has vast experience and training in agricultural communications; she has been responsible for communications of several organizations.

She has been AAW’s Legislative chair, StART chair in addition to Vice President of Communications for AAW. Chris is a past president of Kansas Agri-Women, past president of Kansas Agricultural Alliance and served on the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership Board of Directors. She also served as executive director for Kansas Dairy Association.

She is a member of Kansas Farm Bureau, Kansas Livestock Association and Kansas Corn Growers Association. Chris also is a 4-H leader.

Chris and her husband Ron raise cattle, wheat, corn, soybeans and sheep on their farm in Wamego, Kansas.

KATHLEEN RHOADS brings experience to the treasurer’s position as she is being nominated for a second term as treasurer.

Kathy and her family, including her husband Brent, lives in Circleville, Ohio. Her agricultural background includes Advisory Board chair of Farm Markets of Ohio, Strategic Planning committee and Project Reinvent Steering committee, both of Ohio State University, advisory committee of the Ohio State Extension Service. She has served as secretary of Ohio Department of Agriculture Governor’s Small Business Advisory Council.

Other organizations in which she has been involved include Pikaway County Farm Bureau, Circleville Chamber of Commerce, Business and Professional Women, Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association and Ohio Fruit and Vegetable Growers.

She is a member of Ohio Agri-Women and AAW. She has received the following awards: Ohio Agriculture Woman of the Year in 1992; Outstanding Leadership in Direct Marketing, 1993; First Place, National Apple Institute Greenthumber, and Woman of the Year, Beta Sigma Phi Civic Sorority. Kathleen is an active member of Ohio Agri-Women and American Agri-Women.

For the past 30 years she has been an active participant in all phases of her family-owned retail farm market, wholesale farming operation, small fruits and vegetable production, wholesale tree nursery, floral shop and retail garden center. Rhoads Farm Market also sells at three farmer’s markets.
Nominees for Resource Board of Directors are Gwen Mulkey, Jean Pettibone, and Peggy Clark.

GWEN MULKEY, president of Oregon Women for Agriculture, has been a member of AAW since 1975 and attended many AAW conventions, two Mid-Year meetings and five Fly-Ins in Washington, D.C.

Gwen has served on the Minor Crops Committee for AAW. Locally, she has served as First Vice President, and Membership and Education chairs. Gwen helped organize OWA’s annual fundraiser auction and has been involved since that time. She represented OWA on the Oregon Seed Chemical. She is also the current editor of OWA’s newsletter.

Although now retired Gwen and her husband Gylan were involved in production agriculture. They live in Monmouth, Oregon.

JEAN PETTIBONE served as President of American Agri-Women in 1996 – 1997 and is a former Secretary and First Vice President. Her experience includes serving on many committees and she has co-chaired two AAW National Conventions: Kansas in 1982 and Florida in 2000.

Jean chaired two AAW symposiums held in Washington, D.C., and currently is serving as chair of the Ag Research/Biotech Committee. She also is an active participant in the Past President’s Council.

Jean has worked on many projects to promote the agriculture of Western Kansas including giving demonstrations throughout the state on the use of edible beans. She has also conducted numerous tours of the farm and ranch for urban school teachers.

Now retired, Jean and her husband Richard’s farm operation consisted of irrigated and dryland wheat, corn, edible beans and a cattle backgrounding operation.

PEGGY CLARK, Dayton, Ohio, has represented Ohio Agri-Women at most AAW conventions since 1995.

She has been president of OAW for seven years and has participated in the OSU LEAD Program (a two-year Ag Leadership Training) and is president of the Warren County Farm Bureau Board and the Warren County Commissin on Farmland. She also is active on the Cincinnati Agribusiness Council.

Peggy and her husband Michael own and operate a family farm business overseeing 5,500 acres of corn and soybeans.

Members of the 2006 nominating committee are: Audrey Sickinger, Wisconsin; Dolly Lillis, Idaho; Linda Swiercinsky, Illinois, and Barb Overlie, Minnesota.

Resolution for consideration at the AAW convention

Two resolutions was submitted for consideration by delegates at the AAW convention in November. Oregon Women for Agriculture and Illinois Agri-Women submitted similar ones concerning the recent Supreme Court decision on eminent domain, so the committee has combined them. The resulting resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS, members of American Agri-Women, express our firm opposition to the 5-4 decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of Kelo v. City of New London, Connecticut, which justifies the taking of a person’s private property through eminent domain for the benefit of another private person; and

WHEREAS, the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides “...nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation”; and

WHEREAS, we believe that the Court’s use of the term “public benefit” is contrary to the constitutional meaning of term “public use,” and

WHEREAS, nowhere in the U.S. Constitution is there authorization for any government to take private property to transfer ownership of that property to another private individual or organization, and

WHEREAS, the Fourteenth Amendment extended the application of the Fifth Amendment to each state and local government; and,

WHEREAS, the Court’s dissenting opinions uphold the historical interpretation of the takings clause and contend that “the government now has license to transfer property from those with fewer resources to those with more;” and

WHEREAS, all levels of government have a constitutional responsibility and a moral obligation to defend the property rights of individuals and to only execute its power of eminent domain for public use and with just compensation to property owners; and

WHEREAS, AAW advocates that the appraised value of the property may not be just compensation, due to the vested interest of the person who owns the private property being taken under the Fifth Amendment for public use, and so which should be appraised at a higher value; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that AAW hereby advises and calls upon the U.S. Congress to remedy this terrible injustice by limiting the power of government condemnation exclusively to essential public services.

Forest Facts

The volume of wood in American forests increased 44 percent between 1963 and 1997, according to the U.S. Forest Service.

Scientists estimate that the world’s demand for wood could be met by just 20 percent or less of its forests if some forests were intensively managed for wood production.
AAW Convention Information

2005 AAW Convention
Monterey, California
November 10-13, 2005

Tentative Convention Agenda

Wednesday November 9
3:00-6:00 PM ....................... Registration
6:00-10:00 Pm .......... AAW Executive Board

Thursday November 10
6:30-7:30 AM .... Spouse/Guest Breakfast
7:30-10 AM ...... Resource Center Meeting
7:45-5 PM ................... Registration Open
7:45 AM ......... Spouse/Guest Tour Departs
10:15-11:15 AM ..... Joint Resource Center & AAW Executive Board Meeting
11:30 AM-12:30 PM ........... START Chairs Working Lunch
11:15 AM-12:30 PM ...... Lunch on Your Own
12:30-1:20 PM .......... Education Committee
1:30-2:15 PM ............ START Committees
  Rotation A
  Ag. Business ...................... Big Sur 1
  Commodities ...................... Big Sur 2
  Natural Resources .............. Big Sur 3
  Public Understanding ...... Stevenson 1
  2:15-3 PM ............ START Committees
  Rotation B
  Trade .......................... Big Sur 1
  Plus Three More to be determined
3:45-3:30 PM ............. AAW Board Meets
4:30-6:00 PM .............. President’s Caucus
4:30-6 PM ...... First Time Attendees Meet
6-7 PM .................... Cocktail Reception
7-9:45 PM ............ Dinner with Speakers
  Eric Lauritzen—Welcome to County
  A.G. Kawamura—Welcome to CA
  Jim Carroll—What’s in Ag’s Future?
10-11 PM .... Town Hall Meeting, Carmel

Friday November 11
6:30-7:30 AM ..... Spouse/Guest Breakfast
7:30 AM-2 PM ................. Registration
7:45 AM-5 PM ............... Spouse/Guest Tour
7:30-8 AM..... Opening Ceremonies/Breakfast
8 AM-Noon ............. AAW Business Mtg
10-Noon ......... CWA Executive Board Mtg
12:15-1:45 PM ........ Lunch with Speakers

Scott Horsfall—CDFA Buy CA Program
Sharon Mcnerney—Food Foresight
2-5 PM .... Group Tour meets Spouse Tour
5:30 PM ...................... Free Evening or Winemaker Dinner
6:30-9 PM... CWA Board Meeting/Dinner

Saturday November 12
6:30-7:30 AM ...... Spouse/Guest Breakfast
7:30 AM-Noon .................. Registration
7:30-9:45 AM ....... Breakfast with Speaker
  Dr. Roberta Cook—Ag Food Chain Changes in Marketing
7:45 AM-4 PM ............. Spouse/Guest Tour
10-Noon ...... Business Meeting Continues
12-12:10 PM .......... Come to Florida 2006
12:15-1:30PM .......... Lunch with Speaker
  Claire Berger—How to Laugh in the Midst of Change
1:45-2:45 PM .......... Business Meeting Cont.
4:15-... Grapevine Wreath Making, Carmel
3:45-5 PM .. Leadership Training, Round 1
  Maggie Cox...................... Cypress 1
  James Bracher.................. Cypress 2
4:15-5:30 PM ................ Round 2
  Maggie Cox...................... Cypress 1
  James Bracher .................. Cypress 2
4:15-... Grapevine Wreath Making, Carmel
6:15-7:15 PM .......... Shuttles to Aquarium
6:30-8 PM .......... Cocktails at Aquarium
8:30-9:30 Banquet, Installation, Awards
9:45-10:30 Keynote: Hon. Leon Panetta,
  former U.S. Congressman, OMB Director and White House Chief of Staff
10:30-11...... Continue viewing Aquarium

Sunday November 13
7:30-9:30 AM ........ Executive Board Mtg
8:30-9:30 AM ........ Remembrance Service in Carmel
10:00AM-4:30 PM ........ Optional Custom Monterey Movie Tour ..Monterey Bay
12:40 PM ... Optional Finale Great Wine Escape .................. Spanish Bay

Registration details
Please make checks payable to: AAW 2005 Convention. Mail completed registration to Sonya Hammond - CWA, c/o UCCE,
1432 Abbott Street, Salinas, CA 93901, telephone 831.759.7358. Register by October 1 for lower rate. If faxing registration or payment, use this fax number: 831.758.3018.

Cancellation & Refund Policy: Cancellations during September will be subject to a 20% handling charge. Registrations cancelled after October 1, 2005 are nonrefundable.

Hotel Reservations
Hotel reservation block cut off date is October 10, 2005. Make reservations at the Monterey Plaza Hotel by calling 1.800.334.3999 or 831.646.1700. Ask for AAW Convention Rates: Single/Double $145.00 to $175.00 plus tax.

Transportation:
Airports: (SFO) San Francisco, CA, 100 miles; (SJC) San Jose, CA, 60 miles; (MRY) Monterey, CA, 5 miles.

Reservations are required. The Monterey-Salinas Airbus operates shuttle buses from SFO and SJC. Reservations and schedules can be obtained at 831.373.7777. For those arriving at MRY airport, the hotel offers a shuttle service, but only by reservation. To make a reservation call the hotel at 1-800-334-3999 and ask for the hotel bell stand.

More Information
For more information, see the last newsletter.
# 2005 AAW Convention Registration

**Monterey, California, November 10-13, 2005**

Please type or print clearly

Name___________________________________________ First time attendee? Yes No Phone ________________________
Address_______________________________________________ City_________________ State__________ Zip___________
Email_______________________ Fax ___________________ Please confirm registration by: email or fax
Affiliate____________________________________ Voting Member Yes or No (convention use only)

Name of Spouse or invitee attending ___________________________________________________________________________

Do you/guest have special accessibility needs? (handicap, transportation, limited, other?) ______________________________

Do you/guest have special food requirements? (vegetarian, etc.) ____________________________________________________

MEMBER REG. INCLUDES admission to all general sessions, workshops, committee meetings, Friday afternoon tour, all meals (except Friday evening), evening wine tasting, gala Saturday evening event – private dinner and showing @ the world - famous Monterey Bay Aquarium. **Note:** does not include Friday night meal, CWA meeting/dinner on Friday, or optional tours.

**SPouse /COMPANION REGISTRATION INCLUDES** meals, tastings and Saturday gala as above, and access to meetings if desired.

For tours on Thursday, Friday & Saturday, sign up separately. Friday tour is 8:00 – 2:00, joining member tour at 2:00 for remainder of tour together.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Full Registration</strong></th>
<th>Member(s)</th>
<th>Spouse/Companion Full Registration</th>
<th>Totals</th>
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<tr>
<td>By October 1</td>
<td>@ $325</td>
<td>@ $280</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>After October 1 and on-site</td>
<td>@ $350</td>
<td>@ $305</td>
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<th><strong>One Day Registration for all</strong></th>
<th>- Includes admission to general sessions, workshops, committee meetings, and meal(s) for that day.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>@ $125</td>
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<td>Friday (no dinner)</td>
<td>@ $100</td>
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<td>Saturday (mtgs. only)</td>
<td>@ $100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday (mtgs. &amp; Gala)</td>
<td>@ $200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday Gala only</td>
<td>@ $150</td>
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**Spouse/Companion Tour Options** (including Continental breakfast & lunch)

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>@ $45 Technology in Action</th>
<th>@ $45 Salad Bowl of the World</th>
<th>@ $45 Ag Under Glass</th>
<th>@ $135</th>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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*Children are welcome on tours, provided full fare is paid. Pre-teen or above please.

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<th><strong>Friday Evening Options</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>CWA dinner and meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winemaker dinner**</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Post Convention Sunday Tours</strong> (these two events mutually exclusive)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Movie Sights Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPANISH BAY</td>
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**GRAND TOTAL**

**On a first-come basis participants will be able to reserve a special Friday dinner for the local Vintners Winemaker Dinner event. Local wineries collaborate with local fine restaurants to provide exquisite 4-5 course dinners & wine pairing by celebrity chefs. Check out www.montereywines.org/events_gwescape.html.**

**PAYMENT (to AAW 2005 Convention) by:** Check # _____________ Credit Card (circle): Visa MC Am Ex. Discover Credit Card # ___________________________Expiration Date ___________________________Billing Address: ___________________________

For questions on filling out registration form, phone or email Sonya Hammond, 831.759.7358, or slvareahammond@ucdavis.edu. Mail registration form and payment to Sonya Hammond – CWA, c/o UCCE, 1432 Abbott Street, Salinas, CA 93901.
Many of us have concerns and fears, but haven’t been exactly sure why. I now have more information and background to substantiate many of these issues.

Do I understand it entirely? No, but I have more support for my past concerns and believe that the speakers that I heard at Freedom 21 are in a position to know better than I and are very reliable.

Most things are being directly related to Sustainable Development and Agenda 21, which came from the Rio de Janeiro Conference in ’97. Under the name of Sustainable Development, our government has been managing us, with the help of environmental groups, into a position of losing our freedoms.

The issues and speakers were:

- Government and World: Dr. Steven Yates and Paul Driessen;
- Education: Craig Rucker, Michael Chapman, and Orlean Koehle;
- Medicine: Madeleine Cosman and Dr. Carolyn Dean;
- Water: Allen Quist, Howard Hutchinson, and Jeannie Soderman;
- Government: Craig Rucker, David Hunnicutt, Rodney Stubbs, and Shu Bartholomew;
- ESA and the Invasive Species: Jim Beers (former Wildlife Service Refuge Manager, Special Agent and Wildlife Biologist);
- Legislation: Peyton Knight and Kent Snyder;
- Media: Marc Moreno, Paul Walter, and Dennis Grover.

If you are interested in more specifically what these individuals had to say, you can e-mail me and I have a multi-page report that is more in-depth (dllillis@hotmail.com), or you can go online to research them and their organizations.

I can tell you right now that the United States is under attack and that more of our government know about this than they are letting on OR they are being extremely blind to some very serious issues. Many concerns lie in appointed positions.

When was the last time you read our Constitution? The Bill of Rights?

This country was founded on religious freedoms—but religious...
Dolly Lillis is a member of Idaho and Montana Women in Timber. She has been active in timber issues, land rights issues and U. N. concerns for several years. She is retired and resides in Idaho. She has been involved with AAW for several years. The involvement has taken her to Washington, D.C. several times, meetings with government officials, elected officials and interaction with industry personnel and land users.
PETA isn’t as animal-friendly as you think
By Jeffrey P. Bonner, president and chief executive of the St. Louis Zoo

Apart from what you read on their editorial and opinion pages, newspapers report facts. Those facts are conveyed principally through words. Therefore, newspapers have a special obligation to use words with precision.

The Post-Dispatch recently ran a story that described People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals as an “animal welfare” organization. I think that zoo professionals and, for that matter, representatives of PETA would disagree vehemently with the characterization.

PETA is an animal rights organization, not an animal welfare organization. There’s a big difference.

The philosophy of animal rights says, in essence, that animals have the same rights as humans: For example, we don’t keep other humans as slaves, so we shouldn’t keep dogs as pets, and zoos should not confine exotic animals that are threatened with extinction. All medical testing on animals should be banned. Because we don’t kill and eat human beings or use human byproducts for food, we should ban the consumption of all meat and other animal products, including milk and eggs. We don’t use human hides for clothing, so we should not use leather for shoes, fur for coats or even the silk from silk worms for blouses.

Animal welfare organizations, including reputable zoos like ours, are deeply concerned with the physiological and psychological health and well-being of animals, but they also are concerned with the welfare of animals in the wild.

Animal rights adherents contend, in sharp contrast, that as long as animals are in the wild, their rights are not being violated by humans.

The second profound difference between an animal welfare group such as the St. Louis Zoo and an animal rights group such as PETA is that zoos care about the fate of entire species, whereas PETA focuses on individual animals. This allows them to argue that it is better for a species to become extinct than for individual members of that species to be preserved in zoos.

For animal welfare groups, extinction is the ultimate cruelty, and it is no small irony that in the majority of cases, animals go extinct because of the direct actions of humans. Animal rights groups, therefore, should be concerned with extinction in the wild. Tragically, they are not.

I think that animal rights groups and animal welfare groups both care about animals, but they represent two very different philosophies. If you are a supporter of PETA, you support an animal rights group that does not care about the fate of animals in the wild and does nothing to stop the loss of species worldwide. If you are a supporter of the St. Louis Zoo, you support an animal welfare organization that provides outstanding care for animals in the Zoo and devotes enormous amounts of time, energy, expertise and money to saving wild things in wild places.

By the way, unless you are a vegan, don’t own a pet, wear only plastic shoes and are willing to forego insulin if you ever become diabetic, you either do not embrace the real animal rights philosophy or you are a hypocrite.

I, for one, hope that people never consider PETA an animal welfare organization. It most certainly is not.

More farmers are using computers
According to a National Agricultural Statistics Service survey, more American farmers and ranchers are using computers. However, growth in usage is slower than two years ago.

The survey found that of more than 32,400 farmers surveyed, 55 percent own or lease a computer, and 31 percent use it for business purposes. Of those surveyed, 51 percent have Internet access, which is up from 48 percent in 2003. More than two-thirds of those with Internet access use dial-up service.

Agencies unite to protect nation’s food supply
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Department of Health and Human Services’ Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) have announced a new collaboration with states and private industry to protect the nation’s food supply from terrorist threats.

“Ensuring the safety of our nation’s food supply is a top priority for the President Bush and USDA,” said Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns. “This partnership demonstrates our commitment as government and the private sector work together to protect our agricultural commodities from terrorism. We look forward to working with our partners.”

The Strategic Partnership Program Agroterrorism (SPPA) Initiative supports President Bush’s requirements directing the government to work closely with states and industry to secure the nation’s food supply. Announced at the Food and Agriculture Sector Coordinating Council meeting, four pilot visits will be conducted in September and October. The purpose of these visits is to assess and identify vulnerabilities in the agriculture and food sectors.

Over the next year, teams of federal and state officials will travel to all 50 states to meet with all sectors of the food chain. Together, the federal, state and private industry partners will discuss security issues from farm-to-table and consider ways to better protect our food supply.

These visits will help the federal partners better consider how states and industry can protect the food supply, gain more information about the food industry’s protection needs and assist government and private industry in refining its efforts including research and development goals.
We may eat cheaper on foreign food, but we’ll miss farmers

By Victor Davis Hanson, in the The Fresno Bee

America was created by rural people. Perhaps 95% of its first citizens were farmers when Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence. Now, despite all the talk of a “rural renaissance,” less than 1% are — even as we are awash in food and next year will become a net food importer for the first time in our history.

Industrialization, mechanization and suburbanization did away with the agrarian culture of the traditional family farm. The latest “—zation” comes as globalization. Almost every acre of our farmland — due to instant communications, easy transportation and free trade — is in competition with a counterpart abroad.

Yet, a rice producer in Asia or a grape grower in Chile does not assume the same costs. Few abroad pay sky-high liability insurance, worker’s compensation premiums, minimum wages — or much less deal with government restrictions that regulate everything from burning brush to disposing used fertilizer sacks. These are necessary for an ethical society such as ours, but costly nonetheless.

By the 1980s, it had become impossible for most of the last American farmers to continue on the land without assorted subsidies. The very few who survived found them in three forms.

Big growers of cotton, wheat, dairy products and of a few other targeted staples garnered a great deal of government money — even though they hardly fit our romantic notion of “families” or even “farmers.”

Others less fortunate sought relief on their own and so went to town to work — diverting money into their money-losing fields from what they made teaching or selling insurance. Perhaps the romance of agrarianism or hope of a turnaround explains such an economically unsound practice of actually paying to grow food.

All the same, the sweat subsidies of these quasi-farmers also meant land stayed in production that usually did not itself earn a profit.

A final source of money was vertical integration. Prices climb yearly for the poor consumer, even as they decline for the poorer farmer. In between the two, shippers, distributors, packagers, advertisers and brokers expropriated an always larger share of the farm dollar. Those who had the capital or the savvy to tap into lucrative middleman profiteering could use that gain to subsidize their actual losses from growing food.

Wise tax-planning, the desire to have steady supplies or long-term land speculation kept the conglomerates in the food-growing side of their new layered operations. A few small entrepreneurial sorts resisted the big guys by going straight to farmers markets (10% of all fresh food in many states is purchased through such direct sales). In any case, once again more land stayed in production that itself did not produce profits.

The government mostly kept out of this revolution in American agriculture. True, worried about electoral votes in small farm states, both parties granted billions to a few thousand larger “family” farmers.

Usually, however, administrations felt that unfettered imports enrich us all, granting the consumer more choices at cheaper prices, while pressuring squeezed food producers to stay lean by always shaving their costs of production.

That the United States promotes consumer capitalism abroad and democratic government in emerging countries often meant that free trade is not strictly fair. Cheap food is allowed in without reciprocity, as part of the larger aim of jump-starting the Third World and formerly communist states to enter the commercial world of civilized nations.

So here we are in 2005 with most traditional farmers gone and our cropland either vertically integrated or subsidized by commuting part-timers. Are there any dangers in our postmodern agriculture?

At first glance, no. Shoppers have more food, all season round, at cheaper prices than ever before. Obesity, not famine, is America’s problem. Despite questionable farming practices abroad and fears of agro-terrorism, so far our imported food supply is surprisingly safe.

Dependency on foreign food has not yet meant that a hungry America — in the manner of its oil addiction — is at the mercy of illiberal producers.

Yet there is an insidious cultural cost to the end of agrarianism that we hardly appreciate. The family on its own land, using craft to work with nature, was a model practical steward of the environment.

Anyone who loses a crop to rain or hail hours before harvest can offer a needed, tragic perspective to an increasingly therapeutic society. Public shame, not easy private guilt, was the agrarians’ benchmark — and why not when they were rooted for life among wide-eyed neighbors?

Words meant little if not backed by action — as if anyone cared to listen to grand talk of profits to come from an orchard never quite planted.

In short, sober American farmers were a calming antidote to almost everything that makes us uneasy with popular culture, fromgangsta rap and Martha Stewart to Enron and the hyped trial of Scott Peterson.

No, we will not starve without these crusty farmers, but we will sure miss them.

Victor Davis Hanson is a classicist and historian at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. You can reach him by visiting www.victorhanson.com.

If you would like to receive the Voice via email instead of by mail send your request to Carolyn Kleiber, carolyn@agpowerinc.net.
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Calendar of Events
November 10-13, 2005
AAW Convention, Monterey, CA, hosted by California Women for Agriculture at Monterey Plaza Hotel and Spa, Cannery Row, Monterey; rooms $145-$175 depending on the view, call 800-334-3999 or 831-646-1700.

AAW Website
www.americanagriwomen.org

AAW Phone & Fax Numbers
Phone: (503) 581-6610
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American Agri-Women is a national coalition of women’s farm, ranch, and agri-business organizations and individuals formed in 1974. We, as women’s agricultural organizations and individuals, unite together to communicate with one another and with other consumers to promote agriculture for the benefit of the American people and the world.

Jenny Copper, pear and cherry grower from the Hood River Chapter of Oregon Women for Agriculture, introduces two new members, Jean Godfrey and Sue Willis, at Hood River’s “Business After Hours.” Their chapter helped serve 250 business people at the monthly event which featured the agriculture industry in August. It was held at the OSU Experiment Station which overlooked this beautiful valley filled with fruit orchards.

Officers, affiliate presidents and committee chairwomen are asked to please send their annual report on activities to Katie Edwards at secretary@americanagriwomen.org or 1850 Old Dixie Hwy., Homestead, FL 33033. Please send reports to Katie by October 15th.

Wave of Change
See pages 6-7 for convention info!