

the

VOICE

of the American Agri-Woman



February/March 2006, Volume 33, Issue 2

We can do it together!

Veritas winner Jim Beers uses his wildlife knowledge to help us all

Wildlife biologist Jim Beers was awarded AAW's highest honor, the Veritas Award, this year for his advocacy for the sustainable use and active management of natural resources.

Jim Beers retired from the US Fish and Wildlife Service after 30 years. He served as a wildlife biologist, wetlands biologist, special agent, and refuge manager. While in Washington Jim was a Congressional Fellow, the Chief of Operations for the National Wildlife Refuge System, the



program coordinator for the Animal Damage Control Program, and served as the wildlife biologist in the Central Office who served as project officer on nearly all wildlife projects funded with Pittman-Robertson money.

Mr. Beers was in Washington when the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Acts were implemented and he watched the Federal government evolve from environmental managers to a tool of environmental and animal rights extremists.

His advocacy got him into trouble with political bosses and animal rights radicals in the mid 90's when he represented state fish and wildlife agencies in their confrontation with European radicals that had obtained

passage of a European directive intended to destroy trapping and the fur industry worldwide.

Jim retired in 1999 after receiving a cash settlement from the US Fish

and Wildlife Service. Since that time he has worked to make his experience available to all those being harmed by the environmental and animal rights extremism of the past 30 years.

He combines his extensive wildlife knowledge with a long record of work

within the Washington bureaucracy and power structure. His favorite targets are bureaucrats, politicians, University "experts," and the radical environmental and animal rights groups that manipulate and capture them.

Jim writes prolifically on current events, lectures to groups such as farmers and animal owners, and he offers advice and assistance to those he can. When asked why, his response is to make his final years as useful to his community as possible.

People all over the US get his articles by e-mail or see them in magazines, and hear his lectures. From time to time we print them in *The Voice*, as he is a strong voice for reason.

AAW "Legacy Kids" launched

The AAW Resource Center has launched a new program to provide a vehicle for AAW members to share their enthusiasm and support of agriculture and AAW with young people, while encouraging the ultimate entry of 2nd and 3rd generation individuals into American Agri-Women.

Legacy Kids memberships are available for American Agri-Women members to purchase as gifts to children/young people from birth through age eighteen. New Legacy Kids members will receive an attractive certificate for framing and a letter of welcome signed by the current presidents of both American Agri-Women and American Agri-Women Resource Center. Each year until age eighteen, the Legacy Kids members will receive a Christmas card from AAW. The card will be unique to AAW and will feature a winter scene from the AAW "Experience the Beauty of Agriculture" collection.

With the final Christmas card, each female Legacy Kid will be invited to become a student member of American Agri-Women. All Legacy Kids, whether male or female, will

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President's Column



Yvonne Erickson
AAW President

Winter tends to be meeting time in the agricultural arena. Farmers, ranchers and agri-business people often plan activities around their meeting schedules. Please bring the knowledge base you have gained to the Mid-Year Meeting as we update the position statements. If you cannot attend, send your issues with supporting data to one of your executive board members.

National Agriculture Day, March 20, and Week, March 19-25, is a time our volunteer force is out in full strength. I challenge each affiliate to keep track of the number of teachers and students you reach. Send the statistics to me at the end of March so we can report back the numbers in the next VOICE. I can guarantee you will be amazed at the amount of people who heard our message.

Help promote the weekly public television show "America's Heartland. It celebrates the miracles of American agriculture, as well as the proud farm and ranch families who help make it possible. KVIE television studios, Sacramento, CA, produce it. Ratings have surpassed expectations! American Agri-Women is on the Advisory Board. Check your public television schedule for your viewing times, and if it is not available, call and ask when they will air the program.

One strength of AAW is "armchair activity." From those chairs, our members make phone calls, compose letters, and send e-mails to support our activities. All those tasks put together are a force behind this great, unique organization. Your volunteer efforts are truly appreciated.

All activities bring more

visibility to AAW. We need to be more proactive and grow in our visibility. Remember our motto: We can do it together!

Yvonne

Florida annual convention info

Please begin making your travel arrangements for the 2006 Convention, November 9-11, 2006. We encourage StART Committee and Standing Committee Chairwomen and Affiliate Presidents to participate arrive on November 8 if possible. A tour and sightseeing in sunny Key Largo, Florida will be on Sunday, November 12.

Here is advance hotel information:

Sheraton Miami-Mart Hotel
711 NW 72 Avenue
Miami, FL 33126
Phone (305) 261-3800
Fax (305) 261-7665
www.sheraton.com/miamimart

If you are planning on treating your spouse or even yourself to the Richard Petty Driving Experience, it will be on Thursday, November 9.

We hope this helps members in preparing for a memorable experience!

Katie A. Edwards
1850 Old Dixie Hwy.
Homestead, FL 33033

NOTE: AAW Activity Books are still available for free by contacting Treasurer Kathy Rhoads, 740-474-4649, and paying the minimal "media rate" shipping.

American Agri-Women Executive Committee

President	Yvonne Erickson 34115 County Hwy 74 Battle Lake, MN 56515 Phone: 218-495-2867 Fax: 218-495-2659 president@americanagriwomen.org
1st Vice President	Marcie Williams 11404 Appleton Rd Croton, OH 43013
Resolutions, Vital Issues	Phone: 740-893-4300 Fax: 740-893-4003 resolutions@americanagriwomen.org
Vice Pres. Communications	Chris Wilson 4210 Wam-Teau Drive Wamego, KS 66547 Phone: 785-456-7899 communications@americanagriwomen.org
Vice Pres. Education	Doris Mold P.O. Box 8192 St. Paul, MN 55108 Cell Phone: 612-414-7574 Fax: 715-822-6341 education@americanagriwomen.org
Secretary	Katie Edwards 1850 Old Dixie Hwy Homestead, FL 33033 Cell Phone: 305-281-7323 secretary@americanagriwomen.org
Treasurer	Kathy Rhoads 26669 Kingston Pike Circleville, OH 43113 Home: (740) 474-4649 Office: (740) 474-2028 Fax: (740) 474-3939 treasurer@americanagriwomen.org
Past Pres.	Carol Marx 4150 Oak Grove Rd. Rickreall, OR 97371 (503) 362-6225 Fax: (503) 362-2253 pastpresident@americanagriwomen.org

AAW Web Site:

www.americanagriwomen.org

E-mail Address:

info@americanagriwomen.org

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Articles and suggestions are always welcomed by the editor:

Arlene Kovash, Page Craft
11425 Pedee Creek Rd
Monmouth, OR 97361
Ph: (503) 838-3512 • Fax (503) 838-6851
E-mail: akovash@aol.com

Please send address changes to:

Carolyn Kleiber, Membership Chair
PO Box 111
Hillsboro, KS 67063
Ph: (620) 947-3094 • Fax: (620) 947-2476
carolyn@agpowerinc.net

AAW Mid-Year Meeting Information

Make your mid-year reservations now

Homewood Suites –
 Minneapolis/Mall of America
 2261 Killebrew Drive (south side
 of the Mall)
 Bloomington, MN 55425
 Phone: 952-854-0900
 www.minneapolis.
 homewardsuites.com

King suite- \$89, plus tax, sleeps four
 with sofa sleeper
 Double-double suite- \$109, plus tax,
 sleeps six with sofa sleeper
 Check-in- 3 p.m. Check-out-Noon.
 Parking is free.
 Complimentary shuttle service to
 airport and Mall of America.
 Hot breakfast included in price of
 room.
 Light evening meal and beverages
 Monday-Thursday.
 Full kitchen in each suite.
 Complimentary high speed internet.
 Fitness center and indoor pool.

Syngenta Leadership Training is April 19-22

The Syngenta leadership training program is being offered in Greensboro, NC from Wednesday, April 19 to Saturday, April 22.

The agenda will open with a reception and dinner Wednesday evening, training sessions on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and wrap-up Saturday evening with travel home on Sunday.

The “Leadership At Its Best” training program offers a first class experience in professional and personal growth. We encourage leaders who have not attended and emerging leaders to apply by February 28.

Note that the affiliate president must acknowledge the application. Call your president for the application or more information.

2006 AAW Mid-Year Meeting Agenda

Thursday, March 30 – Breakfast w/room and dinner on your own

- 8am – 4 pm Women’s Agricultural Leadership Conference: Redefining Agriculture 2006. Registration \$40, student \$15 (Rides available from hotel.) **See p. 6 for details.**
 7-10 pm Executive Officers Board Meeting

Friday, March 31 Breakfast w/room and dinner on your own

- 8-11 am Resource Center Board Meeting
 11:15-12:30 Joint AAW Executive Committee/Resource Center Board Meeting (Dutch treat lunches will be available)
 Noon Lunch on your own
 1-3 pm Board of Directors Business Meeting (everyone invited)
 StART reports at this time
 3-3:30 pm Break – Resource Center Silent Auction starts
 3:30-5:30 pm StART committees break out to work on position statements (all members are encouraged to attend)
 5:30-7:30 pm Affiliate Presidents’ Meeting & Dinner on your own
 Evening Mall of America: Team Building Activity

Saturday, April 1 Breakfast w/room and dinner on your own

- 8:30 am-11 am Focus on Action for 2006-2008
 11:15-12 Speaker
 12-1 pm Lunch (included in registration)
 1:15-5:30 pm Business Meeting – 2006 Florida Convention & approve plan of action from morning session
 Evening Executive Board Meeting. dinner on your own.

Sunday, April 2 Breakfast w/room and dinner on your own

- 8:15–8:45 am Devotional Service
 9-11 am Business Meeting – Adopt 2006 Position Statements
 11 am Adjourn

AAW MID-YEAR MEETING REGISTRATION

- _____ \$75.00 registration fee, includes one lunch and three breaks.
 _____ \$50.00 registration fee, includes one lunch and one break, Sat. only.
 _____ \$25.00 collegiate only full registration, includes meals and breaks.
 _____ \$10.00 collegiate partial registration/breaks only, Saturday only.

Name _____

Affiliate _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-Mail _____

Mail to American Agri-Women, 26669 Kingston Pike, Circleville, OH 43113, or register online at <http://www.americanagriwomen.org>.
 Registration deadline is March 15, 2006.

2006 AAW StART Committee Chairs

Strategic Action Response Team (StART) committee chairs are again looking for members and/or issues of concern from you the AAW members, so give them a call if you have information for them, or if you would like to work on a committee.

START COMMITTEES COORDINATOR

Karen Yost
2343 Shiloh Road
Billings, MT 59106
P: 406-652-9678
F: 406-245-3567
yostksf@nutralix.com
406-860-8888

AG BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

Kathy Reavis, Coordinator
5910 North Shary Road
Mission, TX 78574
P: 956-585-8128
F: 956-585-0191
Jreavis163@aol.com

Ag Labor

Carol Chandler, Chair
9337 E. South Ave
Selma, CA 93662
P: 559-834-5091
carolchand@aol.com

Global Issues

Dolly Lillis, Chair
1823 E. Wilbur Ave.
Dalton Gardens, ID 83815
P: 208-762-3497
dllillis@hotmail.com

Legal Concerns

Martha Rittinger, Chair
23597 State Route 104
Chillicothe, OH 45601
P: 740-993-2593
farming6@yahoo.com

Rural Health/Insurance

Pat Yeagle, Chair
4875 W. Winslow Rd.
Winslow, IL 61089
P: 815-789-4581
peyeagle@aeroinc.net

Tax Issues

Trenna Grabowski, Chair
P.O. Box 38
Dubois, IL 62831
P: 618-787-4430
F: 618-787-4460
grabeau@midwest.net

Trade

Carolyn Cheney, Chair
701 A Street SE
Washington DC 20003
P: 202-547-5048
F: 202-547-8699
cmcheney@aol.com

COMMODITIES

Vickie Coughlin, Coordinator

N. 901 Welsh Road
Watertown, WI 53098
P: 920-261-1777
F: 920-261-9288
coughlinfarms@ameritech.net

Dairy

Norma Hanson, Chair
21625 330th Ave. N.E.
Goodridge, MN 56725
P: 218-378-4380
F: 218-378-4280

Fibers

Joan Kinkaid, Chair
Dunken Route
Pinon, NM 88344
P: 505-687-3454

Frutis/Vegetables

Lucy Garcia, Chair
901 Business Park Dr., Suite 100
Mission, TX 78572
P: 956-580-8004
lucy@texaset.com

Grains

Pat Magee, Chair
617 Dorothy Jo Circle
Uvalde, TX 78801
P: 830-278-7495
patriciaM830@aol.com

Horticulture

Regina Thomas, Co-Chair
57 East Third Street
Apopka, FL 32703
P: 800-560-1718
F: 407-880-7980
RThomas@FarmCreditCFL.com

Alexis Koester, Co-Chair
2067 Carter Ave
St. Paul, MN 55108
P: 651-646-3786
koes0040@umn.edu

Livestock

Wanda Kinney, Chair
13055 Berryton Road
Carbondale, KS 66414
P: 785-836-7275
dwwkfarm@aol.com

Specialty Crops

Pamela Sweeten-Shaw, Chair
12081 E. Hwy 120
Manteca, CA 95336
P: 209-606-1418
almonds4yours@yahoo.com

NATURAL RESOURCES

Dolly Lillis, Coordinator

1823 E. Wilbur Ave.
Dalton Gardens, ID 83815
P: 208-762-3497
dllillis@hotmail.com

Endangered Species Act

Arlene Kovash, Chair
11425 Pedee Creek Rd
Monmouth, OR 97361
P: 503-838-3512
F: 503-838-6851
akovash@earthlink.net

Energy

Barbara Overlie, Chair
48751 190th ST
Lake Crystal, MN 56055
P: 507-642-8098
donbar@myclearwave.net

Land Use

Linda Gerlach, Chair
4650 IL Rt 78N
Stockton, IL 61085
P: 815-745-2428
F: same as phone
lindag@aeroinc.net

Timber

Ina Pluid
HCR 85, Box 254
Bonner Ferry, ID 83805
P: 208-267-2590
F: 208-267-9814

START COMMITTEES, CONTINUED

Water Resources

Heather Hampton+Knodle
20212 Voils Avenue
Fillmore, IL 62032
P: 217-538-2171
F: 217-538-2692
heather@dtmspeed.net

PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING & AWARENESS

Rae Desautel, Coordiantor

49 W. 14th Street
Grafton, ND 58237
P: 701-352-2884
jackrae@polarcomm.com

Ag Chemicals/Food Safety

Monica MacFee, Chair
PO Box 439
Sublimity, OR 97385
P: 503-767-4100
F: 503-767-4110
monica.macfee@valent.com

Ag Research

Jean Pettibone, Chair
6835 Road 2
Kanorado, KS 67741
785-399-2745
785-399-2205
petti@st-tel.net

Animal Welfare

Eleanor Kiner, Chair
27703 N. Kiner Rd.
Almira, WA 99103
P: 509-639-2294
F: 509-639-0006
kiner@wilbur-wa.com

Biotechnology

Stacie Buhr, Chair
PO Box 414
New Windsor, IL 61465
309-334-2835
309-334-2186

Consumer Awareness

Katie Edwards, Chair
1850 Old Dixie Highway
Homestead, FL 33033
P: 305-281-7323
F: 305-245-9170
dcfb2@bellsouth.net

College Corner

By: Sarah Tesmer, National College Project Co-Chair

If you haven't already started fundraising for the AAW Convention in Florida, the time is now! School is in full swing and finding time to fundraise in between classes, homework, jobs, and activities is a time crunch. If you organize and plan now, your funding search will run smoothly and efficiently in spite of your crazy schedule.

There are many different ways to fund your trip and ease the pressure on your checkbook. First, there are always the old standby fundraisers that can be very successful. If done right, these can raise enough funds for many people in your group to attend the conference. For ideas, go to <http://www.ckiohio.org/icon/101%20Fundraisers.pdf> <http://www.ckiohio.org/icon/101%20Fundraisers.pdf> or <http://www.sac.iastate.edu/Resources/Downloads/fundraising.pdf> or <http://www.sac.iastate.edu/Resources/Downloads/fundraising.pdf>.

Second, whether you are seeking funding as part of an organization or individual, consider asking your club or affiliate for donations or propose sponsorship for your trip to a company. Finally, surf your school grant programs or the Internet to find possible travel grants or scholarships for professional development.

Whatever you do, don't give up hope!

Legacy Kids, continued from page 1.

receive a letter wishing them well in their college years and ultimate careers. AAW will pay the student membership fee for the Legacy Kids member's first year as an AAW member. A possibility of a special pin has been suggested for legacy members who ultimately become AAW members. This will be addressed at a later time.

The Legacy Kids Project will be on-going and will be coordinated by the American Agri-Women Resource Center with oversight from the AAW Past Presidents. The Resource Center treasurer will be responsible for coordinating this project and seeing that it is documented in such a way that the on-going nature of the project is not jeopardized.

The initial dollar amount will be a fee of \$100 per membership and may be adjusted for inflation and other reasons over the years. This is a one-time payment and will cover the child until he or she turns eighteen.

Trenna Grabowski, current Resource Center Treasurer, is coordinating this project. We will need the child's name, address and birthdate, as well as the name and address of the AAW member giving

the Legacy Membership. Forms are currently under development and will be available as soon as possible on the AAW website. Trenna can be contacted at grabeau@midwest.net.

Our first Legacy Member is Sarah Harris Hamilton Whyte, daughter of AAW Vice President of Education, Doris Mold and husband Andrew Whyte. Congratulations to Sarah!

American Agri-Women is an organization serving as a communications link for those who join the coalition. Members work on national issues of mutual interest and concern. A national convention is held annually to discuss and take action on those concerns.

American Agri-Women works in areas of legislation, regulations, consumer relations, promotion, and education. We are consumers as well as producers and have a unique point of view to offer.

To contact AAW about our positions go to our website at www.americanagriwomen.org.

Women's Leadership Conference

Agriculture 2006: Redefining Agriculture

EIGHTH ANNUAL WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2006

At the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
3675 Arboretum Drive
Chaska, Minnesota

This year's agricultural leadership conference focuses on the integral roles women play in agriculture; offering sessions on leadership, current events and issues in agriculture and skill-building opportunities.

Program Schedule

8 -8:45 am	Registration and Networking
8:45 am	Opening Session Welcome –Yvonne Erickson, AAW President
9:00 am	General Session: Re-Defining Agriculture – short keynotes Re-Defining Agriculture Discussion by conference participants to follow keynotes
10:30 am	Break and Networking
11-11:50	Breakout Session I (Breakout sessions listed below)
12 noon	Lunch – 3rd Annual Agricultural Mentoring Award winners honoring outstanding mentors in agriculture Remarks and Award Presentations by Lt. Governor Carol Molnau
1:30-2:20 pm	Breakout Session II
2:20-2:35 pm.	Break and Networking
2:35-3:25 pm	Breakout Session III
3:30 pm	Closing Remarks – Val Velde, Land O' Lakes, Inc. and Second Vice-President, Minnesota Agri-Women

Breakout Sessions include:

- Re-Defining Agriculture: The Upcoming Farm Bill – David Ladd, Manager of Government Affairs, AgriBank, FCB
- Re-Defining World Agriculture
- National Animal ID's: How they will re-define animal agriculture in the USA – Dr. Cindy Wolf, University of MN College of Veterinary Medicine and Producer
- Bio-Energy in Minnesota – Kurt Markham, Agriculture Marketing Services Director, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Farm Business Plans/Credit Scoring and much, much more – AgStar Financial Services
- The Bird Flu and other big, bad Zoonotic diseases – Dr. Jeff Bender, Program Director, Veterinary Population Medicine, University of MN
- Dealing with Different Personalities – Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership Program
- Cornucopia – Re-defining the production and marketing of food – Courtney Tschida, Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture
- Re-Defining Agriculture – examples from the Agricultural and Food Sciences Academy – Students and Staff from the Agricultural and Food Sciences Academy

Registration Fees: \$45 Regular by March 22, \$15 Student by March 22
\$55 Regular after March 22, \$20 Student after March 22

Online registration: www.a2kconference.net www.a2kconference.net

Or mail registration to: Agriculture 2006: Redefining Agriculture, c/o Sunrise Agricultural Associates, P.O. Box 8192, St. Paul, MN 55108

Checks may be made payable to: "District 11 Agri-Women"

We will be attempting to coordinate transportation to the conference for AAW members, please let us know if you will need transportation. We will also have maps available for those who will be driving.

Celebrate Agriculture

*National Ag Day, March 20,
National Ag Week March 19-25*

Events Honor America's Essential Industry, Educate Citizens about Agriculture's Importance
National Agriculture Day, celebrated each year on or around the first day of spring, March 20th, is a time to celebrate American agriculture and honor the people who work to meet our everyday needs.

This year's celebration will kick-off on March 16, when associations, corporations, universities and government agencies will gather in our nation's capital to educate Americans about how food, fuel and fiber products are produced and about the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.

The Agriculture Council of America is coordinating events in Washington, DC, to highlight the importance of agriculture to America's economy and society. With speakers from government and industry, the celebration will serve to educate citizens about an industry many take for granted. American Agri-Women is a proud sponsor of the Ag Day program.

The National Ag Day program has some terrific resource materials that may be found on their web site, www.agday.org. This year's Ag Day poster features the south in its depiction of our nation's agriculture. They also have a new limited edition lapel pin available on the site. There are also many great materials for your public relations and educational needs for the day and week, including public service announcements, fact cards, and lesson plans. Please visit the web site for some new ideas on how to promote agriculture.

National Ag Day and National Ag Week are a great time indeed to Celebrate Agriculture, but I challenge you to celebrate and promote agriculture all year long, because as we know, every day is Ag Day to Agri-Women.

Introduction to Austrian economics

Theories by Independent Thinkers

By Heather Hampton+Knodle, Water Resources Chair

AAW Veritas recipient, Floy Lilley, wanted to introduce AAW members to a field of economics called Austrian Economics. In 2005, she provided a travel and registration scholarship for one AAW member to a seminar entitled, "Austrian Economics and Financial Markets," and so I attended.

The seminar was hosted by the Ludwig Von Mises Institute, named after the founder of Austrian Economics. The three-day seminar was packed with speakers who elaborated on the main tenets of the Austrian theory. Some of the tenets include:

- the necessity of property rights as the basis for an economy
- the necessity of free trade – no tariffs, quotas, subsidies or any other measures that would distort competitive advantages of businesses or countries
- the importance of gold as a financial medium that holds value, versus paper currency
- government intervention in the form of setting interest rates or other efforts to politically alter prices leads to mis-rationing and misguided planning
- war diverts resources away from a steadily-paced economic advancement in many sectors and into a few sectors for short-term economic rally that results in a net loss of economic productivity
- in general, regulations are unnecessary because the marketplace will correct the "bad" actors and reward the "good" actors

Among the thought-provoking presenters, was Congressman Ron Paul of Texas. He remarked that, "Government can only take care of you by undermining liberty."

A few speakers were asked about their views on agricultural policy. They responded there should be no subsidies in any form and that trade should be with all countries, not in the form of unilateral or multi-

lateral agreements. They did not offer any comment on how to achieve this when other countries are not willing to operate with the same guidelines.

For more information on Austrian Economics, you can visit the Institute's website at www.mises.org that lists many seminar opportunities and reference materials, or check out such books as Henry Hazlitt's, "Economics in One Lesson," and Murray Rothbard's "An Austrian Perspective on the History of Economic Thought," at your local library.

Car makers assisting in spread of E85 pumps

General Motors and Ford Motor Company have both announced commitments to help increase the number of E85 ethanol gasoline fuel pumps in the nation. Both companies are touting their line-ups of E85-compatible vehicles being built today.

General Motors made its latest statements while announcing 26 new E-85 stations in the Chicago area. The company plans to work with state and federal governments, oil companies and ethanol companies to get refueling stations built.

Ford meanwhile announced it is launching the "Midwest Ethanol Corridor" program for expanding E85 availability by about one-third throughout the states of Illinois and Missouri during 2006. This will be done in partnership with VeraSun Energy, a renewable energy company.

CAFO deadline pushed to July 2007

The Environmental Protection Agency announced this week that concentrated animal feeding operations have until the end of July 2007 to apply for Clean Water Act permits. This is mainly because EPA has not finalized changes to its CAFO rules following a federal court ruling last March that required new

criteria and language. EPA has still not provided regulatory language on who must file, what situations constitute potential pollution discharges and how it will deal with all the paperwork and oversight.

The court ruled that livestock producers should only be required to apply for a Clean Water Act discharge permit based upon actual, not merely potential, discharges, but the court also ruled that every permit application must include a nutrient management plan and be made available for public comment before a permit is issued.

Did you know?

A cow spends up to eight hours a day eating. A cow will eat 100 lbs. of feed a day, 20 lbs. of grain, and drink 40 gallons of water. Cows regurgitate their food and re-chew the cud to help digestion. The process of chewing her cud is called rumination.

[A real filler!]

Membership Form

Please Print – This membership application form will be used for direct computer input to produce your newsletter mailing labels.

Dues may be paid through your commodity/state affiliate or mailed to: American Agri-Women, PO Box 111, Hillsboro, KS 67063.

Please check one: New Renew

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone () _____

Fax () _____

E-Mail _____

AAW Affiliation _____

AAW National Dues (\$20 for both affiliate and at-large or single member), or \$10 if a collegiate member) is enclosed:

Yes No

YES! We take Visa or Mastercard!

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____



American Agri-Women
11425 Pedee Creek Rd
Monmouth OR 97361

**FIRST-CLASS MAIL
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Kleiber at Carolyn
@agpowerinc.**

Mid-Year in Minneapolis, March 31-April 2

Tell your Senators to update and improve the ESA!

Legislation to update and improve the ESA could be considered by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee as early as mid-March.

The Endangered Species Act is more than 30 years old. We have more than 1,300 species in the United States designated as threatened or endangered and less than one percent have been declared to have been recovered.

To do better, we must update and improve the Act. We need to provide incentives for voluntary conservation, increase the role of state and local governments, ensure public participation in an open and sound decision-making process, and end the cycle of litigation.

Please do the following:

- Call and write to your Senators— in Washington D.C. and in the state — and ask them to support timely action to update and improve the Endangered Species Act.
- Write a letter to Members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and urge them to work together to develop a comprehensive bill that updates and improves the Act. Fax or mail the letter to the attention of the staff of Senate EPW Committee members.
- Attend a town meeting with your Senators and ask them to support timely action on improvements to the ESA in 2006.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper calling on your Senators to support timely action to update and improve the ESA in 2006.

Time to register for Mid-Year

Mid-Year Meeting is March 31 – April 2 in Minneapolis, MN. Come for meetings to start Friday at 1 pm with sessions to end by 11 am on Sunday. See page 3 inside for more agenda information. Affiliate presidents are the voting delegates for the business meeting. Position statements are also updated.

American Agri-Women

Calendar of Events

March 31-April 2

Mid-Year Meeting,
Minneapolis, Minnesota

April 19-22

Syngenta Leadership Training,
Greensboro, NC

June 4-7

Fly-In to Washington, DC
Holiday Inn Capitol at Smithsonian (550 Centre Street)

November 9-11, 2006

AAW Convention, Miami, FL

AAW Website

www.americanagriwomen.org

AAW Phone & Fax Numbers

Phone: (218) 495-2867

Fax: (218) 495-2659

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.