Richard Ulrich Receives 2013 VERITAS Award

Richard Ulrich was awarded American Agri-Women’s VERITAS award at the 38th annual convention held in Niagara Falls, N.Y. Ulrich lives in Ottawa and is the senior advisor on industry engagement at the Canadian Department of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

The VERITAS award is the highest award given to a non-member. It is given annually to a person who has given public witness to “the pursuit of truth” in accordance with the principles enunciated in the AAW statement of philosophy, “The Call to Power.”

Ulrich has been a long-time supporter of women in agriculture. As a Canadian diplomat based at the Consulate General for Canada in Minneapolis, Minn., he participated in the 2007 Women’s Agricultural Leaders Conference, sponsored by the Minnesota Agri-Women. There, he began the efforts to link American and Canadian women in agriculture, which culminated with this year’s convention, the first-ever joint meeting with Canadian ag women.

Ulrich has had a long career in public service in support of agriculture. His previous positions include former Canadian diplomat to the U.S. and South Korea, executive director of the International Grains Council Conference, and agriculture and food international trade policy and market development specialist. Ulrich grew up on a farm in Saskatchewan and continues to manage the farm.

Doris Mold of Minnesota Agri-Women and first vice president of resolutions and vital issues nominated Ulrich, saying that “Richard has worked diligently to change the true image of the farm entrepreneur not only with AAW and Canadian Agri-Women, but with the larger public around the world in his life’s work.”

Ulrich shared these comments in his acceptance speech:

“I commend AAW for its undertakings. Whether in policy development or leading in educating the public or in mentoring youth, AAW is a shining example of what dedicated people united in a cause can achieve. You have been an inspiration to me and there is always, always a little bit of you in me whenever I speak to agriculture issues, or when asked about who influenced me.”

American Agri-Women presented Richard Ulrich (center) with its VERITAS award, the highest honor given to a non-member. Doris Mold (left), American Agri-Women’s first vice president of resolutions and vital issues nominated Ulrich for the award. Pat Yeagle is chair of the VERITAS committee.

LEAVEN awards given to Frances Hendricks, Penny Lauritzen, and Kris Zilliox

Congratulations to our 2013 award winners, the “best of the best:” Fran Hendricks, Penny Lauritzen and Kris Zilliox.

The LEAVEN award is the highest honor bestowed on an AAW member. Nominated by her peers, these women exemplify the meaning of the words that make up “LEAVEN:” loyalty, enthusiasm, anticipatory, valiant, effectiveness and nurturing.

Fran Hendricks

Fran has been a member of Oregon Women for Agriculture (OWA) and American Agri-Women for more than 20 years. She serves on OWA’s executive board and has
President’s Report

Greetings from snowy, northern Maine!

I welcome a New Year. It gives an opportunity to reflect, give thanks for the good things of 2013 and move forward in anticipation as to what we will see happening in agriculture in 2014.

I’d like to thank the past presidents’ council for all their time involved for making our AAW convention in Niagara Falls, NY, such a success. Wasn’t it great to hear from all our guest speakers and especially from one of our past AAW presidents, Mitzi Perdue, as she shared stories of her involvement with agriculture? It was wonderful to meet the New York Agri-Women as they supported this meeting by hosting the hospitality room. It was my first time to view Niagara Falls. What a spectacular sight the falls are!

I do not want to forget our Canadian AAW members and their contribution to making the 2013 AAW convention unique. I live on the Canadian border in Maine and realize that we have great neighbors to the north and east of us. This visit to Canada gave us the chance to see that women on both sides of our border who are involved with agriculture have common issues. How nice it was to sit back, relax and enjoy the meal and program of speakers that was provided. It was so informative and entertaining. I certainly enjoyed the tour of the winery and the explanation as to how ICE wine was produced. AAW will look forward to continuing this friendship between us and our Canadian friends.

Winter was introduced early in December for a good part of the states making for icy and blizzard conditions everywhere. I remember my childhood of visiting grandparents on the farm. I could hardly wait to be let loose of the expected hugs and heading to the barn with my “Bampy.” No matter how cold or how much snow we trudged through, the minute we stepped into that barn, I felt safe. The smell of hay, the warmth caused by the many animals, the cats wrapping around our ankles, the horses stomping a bit and the lowing of cattle were a welcome like no other. Some of us who remember those days gone by get very nostalgic. Time has a way of letting us just remember the good times and not the tough times.

Congress finally passed a budget and the President has signed it. Our Farm Bill is being sent into another new year. How disappointing. I only hope that they put our Farm Bill front and center for attention when Congress returns to D.C. Not only that, the news headlines are suggesting that the price of a gallon of milk could jump to $7.00 a gallon! If this farm bill does not get signed, our Secretary of Agriculture says we may be reverting back to the 1949 days of agriculture. How exciting is that? So much for “The Good Old Days!” We need to contact our state representatives and tell them to get this bill signed! Let’s move forward into 2014 with having our congressmen do the right thing!

With the beginning of 2014, comes a new calendar. Please bring yours out and check out our AAW website for upcoming AAW events and mark your calendars to attend. Our Mid-Year meeting is being held in Minneapolis, MN, April 3-6, 2014. Our FLY IN meeting in Washington D.C. is scheduled for June, 8-11, 2014. There are first time attendee scholarships available for both of these meetings! I also encourage

Continued on page 6.
Hope to see you at Mid-Year April 3-6!

American Agri-Women’s annual Mid-Year meeting is an important gathering for our organization. It’s where our position statements are confirmed or adapted, which will then be used to direct our advocacy efforts at the June Fly-In to Washington, D.C. You can also RSVP now for the meeting using the form on this page.

Look for Syngenta’s Leadership Training on the AAW website.

Syngenta’s Leadership at Its Best training will follow the mid-year meeting April 6-10, in Minneapolis. This is an amazing opportunity to improve your leadership and advocacy skills — and it’s for AAW members only. Plus, if your application is accepted, Syngenta covers your travel and all other expenses! The application can be found on the AAW website. Deadline is Feb. 28.

This conference fills up fast and space is limited. If you’ve already attended, tell a friend about this opportunity. Questions? Write communications@americanagri-women.org.

Thank you, Committees!

Thank you to these AAW members who shared their time and talent last year by serving on committees that recognized outstanding contributors and shaped our leadership team.


The VERITAS award committee included Pat Yeagle (chair), Jacquie Compston, Buenta Burger, Connee Canfield, Sue McCrum and Liz VanLeeuwen.

The LEAVEN award committee included Merlynn Verstuyft (chair), Virginia Kutsch, Jean Meyer and Eleanor Zimmerlein.

### AAW Mid-Year Meeting

April 3-6, 2014, Minneapolis, MN

#### Registration

| Name ____________________________________________ |
| Affiliat e __________________________________ __________ |
| Address __________________________________________ |
| City __________________ State __________ Zip ______ |
| Phone __________________ Fax __________________ |
| Email ____________________________________________ |
| Date of Arrival ___________________________ |
| Roommate needed? ___________________________ |

#### Fees

- Full Registration (breakfast, breaks, & lunch on Friday and Saturday) .... $175
- Full Non-Member Registration .................................................. $200
- ☐ Partial Registration (Friday or Saturday only) ....................... $100
- ☐ Collegiate Full Registration .................................................. $100
- ☐ Partial Collegiate Registration (Friday or Saturday only) ......... $75

Total $ ________

#### To Register

- Mail completed registration and payment to:
  - Peggy Clark, Treasurer
  - 2274 E. Lytle Five Pts. Rd
  - Dayton, OH 45458
  - Phone: 937-885-5965
  - Fax: 937-885-5942
- Email treasurer@americanagriwomen.org
- Register online at www.americanagriwomen.org

#### Hotel Information

- Hyatt Place, Minneapolis Airport South
  - 7800 International Drive Bloomington, Mn 55425
  - Phone: 952 854 0700
  - Deadline is March 14, 2014
  - Rooms are $94.00 + tax
  - Ask for American Agri-Women block

#### Silent Auction Information

Each year, at Mid-Year, AAW has a silent auction to benefit the AAW Resource Center’s education projects. Individuals and affiliates alike are encouraged to bring an item to include in the auction. Keep in mind that winners will have to carry or ship their items home, so don’t make the item too big or bulky. Thank you!

The Mid-Year agenda is coming soon to AAW’s website at americanagriwomen.org. You can also register online.
served as state and county chapter secretary. Fran was recognized for her many contributions to promoting agriculture, including supporting Ag Fest, an annual two-day event. Last year, more than 19,000 children attended the event. She also volunteers for the Agriculture in the Classroom Literacy Project and Farm Safety for Kids. Fran is now retired from production farming.

An excerpt from her nomination: “Fran’s life has been a tribute to hard work. Her love of family and farm is an inspiration to younger members. Fran is a member who will speak up if she disagrees with something. She is always gracious in her comments, but she has the courage to speak her mind and to question a direction the organization might consider taking. Her encouragement and attitude has greatly benefited OWA and her local chapter.”

Penny Lauritzen

Lauritzen has been a member of Illinois Agri-Women and American Agri-Women for more than 30 years. She has held numerous leadership positions within AAW including chairing several committees, helping develop AAW programing for its RFD-TV series, attending AAW Fly-Ins to Washington, D.C., and participating in the planning for two AAW annual conventions held in Illinois. She has also served as president, vice-president and editor of the “Speak Out” newsletter for Illinois Agri-Women.

Lauritzen is known for her long-term efforts in working with agricultural youth within the state, including the IAW career discovery project “Women Changing the Face of Agriculture” directed to high school and college students. The project, which will be held for its fifth year in 2014, helps young women explore different career paths in the agriculture sector. She is also involved with the Illinois Society of Professional Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers’ Memorial Scholarship Program and matching University of Illinois students with Society members for mentoring programs.

An excerpt from her nomination: “Penny’s enthusiasm is contagious as best seen through “Women Changing the Face of Agriculture.” … She is quite a good communicator —with state and federal agencies, FFA chapter advisors and potential speakers. … I think she really has her heart in helping young girls stay connected with agriculture. … Our Illinois Agri-Women membership continues to grow as a result of WCTFA.”

Kris Zilliox

Zilliox is currently serving on the executive committee as vice president of education. She has held numerous leadership positions in AAW, including parliamentarian, leadership chair and co-chaired the 2007 national convention. She served as a state and district officer for Minnesota Agri-Women and was Minnesota Collegiate Agri-Women president, as well as serving as a state FFA officer. She is now Enterprise Learning Manager at ConAgra Foods in Omaha, Neb.
New Member Profile

Jesse Scott

American Agri-Women welcomes all our new members! This issue, we’re featuring Jesse Scott, president of the new affiliate in North Carolina. Here’s what Jesse shared about her background and her thoughts on agriculture.

What is your role in agriculture?
“I grew up on a primarily tobacco, cattle, corn, and hay farm in Stokes County, North Carolina, so from my earliest memories I have always been involved in agriculture. I was blessed enough for my passion in agriculture to continue and to grow as I got older through showing livestock, being an active member of FFA, and through various organizations in college. In college I majored in agriculture education with the thought that I would help spread my love for agriculture and get more youth involved by becoming a teacher. However during the spring semester of my sophomore year of college I was invited to join the honors agriculture fraternity on campus Alpha Zeta and there I met a guy from my home town and we became friends. He asked me if I wanted a summer job and that summer I began working in non-cropland and aquatic weed management at NC State.

After a summer of work, I had found a new passion, having learned so much about herbicides, weed identification and weed management. I finished my degree in agriculture education but I knew that I wanted to work in weed management. I had also found a new passion for preserving our natural resources and native plants, which allowed me to help educate the public, help farmers, and work with youth.

I have also become an advocate for the safety of herbicide use and the impact of invasive and noxious weeds on our native plants.”

Why did you join AAW?
I joined AAW after learning about it when Karen Yost and Sue McCrum came to North Carolina to speak with a group of women who were all involved in agriculture and interested in starting a group in North Carolina for women involved in agriculture. After listening to Karen and Sue talk about what AAW was and about all the different women involved, I really felt that AAW was an organization that I wanted to be a part of. I went home that day and joined. From there I have helped to charter the North Carolina affiliate and am now the president. I attended my first convention this year in Niagara Falls and now I am hooked and ready to be involved in any way that I can with AAW!

What do you think is the #1 challenge for agriculture in your state?
I think the #1 challenge for agriculture in North Carolina is the rapid urbanization. With more and more land being sold for housing and shopping or being zoned for things other than agriculture, we are seeing a rapid decline in the family farm and the number of farms in general. Some of this stems from farmers retiring and their children not wanting to take on the farm and so it gets sold, or the land value is too high to farm. I can vividly recall many areas growing up that were all farmland and over the past 15 years many of those areas have grown up in houses. According to the 2007 USDA Census of Agriculture, land in farms in North Carolina totaled 8.5 million acres in 2007, down 7%, or about 600,000 acres, since 2002. This is equivalent to losing all of Sampson County, the 2nd largest county in terms of land area in the state.

With more and more people encroaching on farmland, it is causing issues for farmers that we have not seen before. For example, poultry and hog farmers are under scrutiny for the smells that their livestock produce and complaints have drawn in state and federal officials.

This can also be seen in tobacco farming where there are now regulations on how close to certain places you can gas the land and when it can be done. Another example is current pesticide laws—many have come into the books by complaints from people moving to rural America and expecting things to go their way. However, in North Carolina many agriculture companies (Syngenta, BASF, Cotton INC, etc.) have embraced this urbanization and set up shop for research and development. With more and more houses going up and the number of farms declining, it is imperative that the remaining farms produce more food than ever since farmers feed the world!

Anything else you’d like to share?
Here are a couple of North Carolina agriculture stats: North Carolina ranks #1 in tobacco, and sweet potatoes produced in the U.S. and ranks #2 in hogs, poultry/eggs, and Christmas trees!
President’s Column, continued.

2014. There are first time attendee scholarships available for both of these meetings! I also encourage all AAW members who have not attended Syngenta’s LEADERSHIP AT ITS BEST (LAIB) training to consider doing so. This year the LAIB program is also being held directly after our AAW midyear in Minneapolis. It starts the evening of Sunday, April 6 and concludes the evening of Wednesday, April 9 with you returning home on the 10th. The deadline for applying is February 28, 2014. Applications are available online. Don’t miss this opportunity to improve your communication skills at NO cost of your own. Since it is being held following the midyear meeting your travel would be paid to attend our midyear meeting. We certainly encourage that! Please fill out that LAIB scholarship form!

I want to thank all of you for your patience as I take on the new responsibilities as President of AAW. This is a great organization because of all of you and your continued passion to Tell the Truth about American agriculture. Continue doing what you do and share our American Agri-Women story with others and encourage their membership in AAW.

I wish you all a healthy and prosperous NEW YEAR!

Ohio Agri-Women hosting 2014 Convention

By Jane Marshall, 2014 convention co-chair

Ohio Agri-Women is very excited about hosting the 2014 AAW Convention November 6-8, 2014. The Convention will be at the Hueston Woods State Park Lodge. We are asking people to have their hotel reservations made by September 1, 2014. You may be asking why so early? That is a great question with an important answer. Hueston Woods is about 10 minutes from Oxford, Ohio, home of Miami University. The weekend of our convention is parents weekend for Miami and they always sell out of rooms that weekend, so we have to get our rooms reserved early so we have a place to sleep. Please call (513) 664-3500 to make reservations. Many people made hotel reservations for the 2014 convention during the Niagara Falls convention, so it is not too early to make your reservations now.

The hotel will provide free wifi in the rooms and parking is free. We will be using the Dayton airport. The airport is about an hour away from the hotel. The local Convention and Visitors Bureau will provide a complimentary shuttle to and from the Dayton Airport. Because of this shuttle we are going to need to know your flight plans to make the best use of our resources. These questions will be part of the registration form.

Jane Marshall and Rachael Vonderhaar are the co-chairs for the convention. Please feel free to contact Jane at president@ohioagriwomen.com or 937.336.1456 or Rachael at vicepresident@ohioagriwomen.com or 937.603.1984 with any questions you may have.

Food Safety Act, continued from page 15.

also concerns, they wrote, and “the rules as currently proposed would result in a multitude of unintended consequences that would be severely detrimental to national, regional and local agriculture. A longer comment period can help obviate that impact, they said.

Please take a look at these documents and note that one of the controversial issues here is the exemptions. When American Agri-Women met with the representatives of the Food and Drug Administration during Fly-In, were told how important it is for growers to comment. Please let your voices be heard on these matters. According to FDA, when you don’t comment they presume you agree with their new directives.
Marie Bowers

The Voice is launching a new series to showcase our members at work and play — what better way to show who we are, what we stand for and the difference we’re making?

This first installment features Marie Bowers, president of Oregon Women for Agriculture. She is participating in an “Adopt a Farmer” program with a local middle school. Here’s Marie’s post from her blog, oregongreen (http://oregongreen.wordpress.com/) and a link to a video she created. Thanks for sharing, Marie!

oregongreen, November 20, 2013 — 11:20 am

Adopt a Farmer & Journey of Grass Seed Video

This year I am participating in Oregon Agribusiness Council’s Adopt a Farmer program. An environmental science class at Roosevelt Middle School in South Eugene has adopted me. In the middle of October the class visited the farm. We talked about soil, crops and equipment. One kid even got the chance to start a windrower— the look on his face was absolutely priceless. The photos from the field trip can be viewed on ABC’s facebook page.

Yesterday, I visited the classroom. Since the kids only visit the farm one time a year I wanted to show them what we do throughout the year. So I made a YouTube video compile of videos and photos that I have captured on the farm.

Here it is, hope you enjoy! (Go to this link: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jUwp-4W6nsk)

I think it turned out well. Also my dad’s GoPro camera purchase was worth every penny!

Send in your stories and photos for an upcoming “I am an American Agri-Woman” column. Send to communications@americanagriwomen.org.

Resource Center elects new members and announces photo contest winners

The AAW Resource Center (AAWRC) is the non-profit arm of American Agri-Women, through which people, organizations and businesses can make tax-deductible donations to our organization.

At the 2014 convention, two new members were elected to serve on the AAWRC, Jenny Inman from Kentucky and Pam Townsend from Maine. Both are serving their first terms. Jane Marshall from Ohio was re-elected for a second term.

AAWRC held a reorganization meeting where Jane Marshall was re-elected president, Jacquie Compston was re-elected vice president, Rosemary Eckardt was re-elected secretary and Katie Yost was re-elected treasurer.

During their joint meeting with the AAW Board of Directors, it was decided that they are going to investigate changing the Resource Center’s name to the AAW Foundation. The two groups feel that more accurately explains what the Resource Center is.

A fundraising project of the AAWRC is the annual photo contest. The 2013 winners were: Margene Newton from Minnesota; Arlene Kovash from Oregon; Katie Yost from Montana; Darcy Kirk from Oregon; Kristi Bray from Maine and Lynn Beach.

To purchase the cards, please email Katie Yost at katie@nutralix.com or call her at 406-855-1393. The cards are $12 for 12 cards plus shipping.
2013 Convention

The 2013 American Agri-Women annual convention kicked off with beautiful renditions of the national anthems for Canada and the United States and wrapped up with a “Happy Trails” inspired installation of officers. In between, AAW members gained in their personal development, such as by learning about advocating, delegating and networking. They also learned the latest on such important topics as the Affordable Care Act, property rights and Agenda 21. And, just importantly, they had fun – tasting ice wine, sampling cheese made from pure-bred Guernsey cows and much more, not to mention seeing the beautiful sights of Canada and New York, especially the stunning Niagara Falls.

Congratulations to those who were honored at the reception: Richard Ulrich, Ottawa, Canada, was presented the Veritas Award, and LEAVEN award winners were: Penny Lauritzen, Lanark, Illinois; Fran Hendricks of Aumsville, Oregon; and Kris Zilliox, Omaha, Nebraska.

President’s award winners were Carol Chandler, Ruth Jensen, Arlene Kovash, Barbara LeVake, Jody Lamp, Melody Dobson, Karolyn Zurn, Kathy Reavis, and Ardath DeWall.

Thanks once again to the past Presidents’ Council, New York Agri-Women and Canada AAW members for a fantastic convention.

Our new officers are (l. to r.) VP of Communications Lynn Woolf (KS), Treasurer Peggy Clark (OH), VP of Education Kris Zilliox (NE), VP of Vital Issues Doris Mold (MN), President Sue McCrum (ME), Secretary Lisa Condon (WI), and Past President Karen Yost (MT).

This year we had three Helen Whitmore Convention Scholarship winners: Lisa Bodrogo (CA), Jessica Scott (NC), and Kristi Bishop (OK). Read all about Jessica on page 4.

The 2013 Good Neighbo(u)r Award was presented to Marcie Williams, past president of American Agri-Women, by Canadian hosts Denise Zaborowski, Susan Fitzgerald and Brenda Lammens for her exceptional efforts in actively cultivating a strong relationship between Canadian and American Agri-Women.
California Agri-Women members Lisa Bodrogo, Karri Hammerstrom, Sara Reid Herman, and Pamela Sweeten visit with past president and former CA member Mitzi Perdue (middle).

Keynote speaker and past president Mitzi Perdue spoke on success and being all we want to be.

Wanda Kinney celebrates her winning bid at the banquet auction — a weekend at Karen Yost’s Montana ranch.

Ohio president Jane Marshall admonished all to get their hotel reservations early as the convention weekend is also parents weekend at nearby Miami University.

New AAW president Sue McCrum (ME), with husband Jay and granddaughter Catherine McCrum.

Convention delegates work hard, too!
Theodore Roosevelt said it best:  
It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

When we think of these words they seem to apply to our agriculturists, not only here in California but across the USA. In the last year we have seen our agriculturists spend themselves in a worthy cause of feeding the rest of us while enduring setbacks and at times negative press in the media. But still they forge on, like our members of California Women for Agriculture, with passion and courage of conviction for agriculture.

But in this last year we have seen a greater presence from agriculture in social media, which has given way to a larger voice to dispel the untruth that continues to plague our industry. Many of our members have taken the lead in the social media realm to reach out to educate consumers about what the “real” story of agriculture is. Tackling such subjects as animal welfare and food safety to increase a greater awareness, have proven to be successful.

At the end of this year we will say goodbye to President Karri Hammerstrom as she will hand over the “torch” to the next state president, Lynn Figone, and welcome a new administration. In these last two years with Karri at the helm, we have had a greater presence in California Agriculture and have been able to make connections with other like groups to band together and continue to share the importance of agriculture.

Wisconsin Women for Agriculture works all year  
By Lisa Condon, Past President  
March Events
Fond du Lac Ag Showcase was held and WWA had a booth set-up connecting with consumers about Wisconsin’s agriculture. The showcase theme for this year was “Baseball, hotdogs, apple pie and cheddar cheese. Food demonstrations, petting zoo, children coloring contest and many Wisconsin cheeses, chocolates, beer & wine samples were available for tasting.

Our annual legislative brunch was held on March 6th at the state capitol in Madison. This year’s theme was “Generations Nourishing Generations.”

Hot topics on the legislative plate were budget considerations, farm equipment, transportation on state highways, water quality standards, right to farm legislation, and continued discussion on nonpoint regulations known as NR 151.

A variety of Wisconsin commodity organizations were represented at the brunch, sharing a variety of delicious samples of cheese, sausage, cranberry cookies, cookies made with soy nuts, maple products, chocolate, blue tortilla chips and much more.

This is our opportunity to meet and discuss issues with the legislators while they enjoy the brunch.

WWA welcomed Agriculture Day Babies with Wisconsin Products. New

July
Wisconsin Farm Technology Days took place in Barron County and Rosemary Eckardt and her granddaughter represented WWA with a booth in the family living tent.

August
Rock River Chapter ran a successful ice cream booth at the Dodge County Fair.

September
“Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin” was the theme of this year’s annual state convention. Inspirational local business speakers shared their stories with attendees. A trade show with local products was held and the profits from our silent auction will benefit “SAGES” School of Agricultural and Environmental Studies.

West Virginia Agri-Women holds first annual meeting
On April 12, 2013 a group of West Virginia women met at Jackson’s Mill during the Beef Expo with American Agri-Women to discuss whether we should form an affiliate in West Virginia. President Karen Yost and Vice President Sue McCrum gave a presentation explaining what AAW is all about and how we could benefit from becoming an affiliate, and so we became one.

New officers elected at that time were: President – Shirley Leonhardt; Vice President – Heather Crowder; Secretary – Phyllis Hinterer; and Treasurer – Janet Wigal. We then appointed a Rules & Bylaws Committee to draft our bylaws which were ratified at our meeting in July.

We had our first annual meeting on October 5, 2013. At that time we added five new members, bringing our total membership to 17 paid members. We look forward to a long affiliation with AAW and to growing our membership.
Legacy Kids program continues to grow
By Pam Townsend, Coordinator
We have 18 individuals in our Legacy Kids program. I sent letters to all of them introducing myself as the new coordinator. In March I sent a letter telling them about the Trenna Grabowski Legacy Kids Fly-In Scholarship for Washington DC and included an application with the letter.

Samantha McCrum (Sue McCrum’s granddaughter) and Heidi Wolfe (Marcie Williams’s granddaughter) were this year’s recipients.

We have three new members added in October. Listed below are the names of our Legacy Kids. If I am missing anyone, please let me know, pam@county superspuds.com.

Sarah Harris Hamilton
Sofia Rose Piceno
Aniston Rae Grabowski
Alyssa Ann DeWall
Tess Victoria Stenger
Anna Christian Stenger
Alexa Kristin Bateman
John Matasovic Swiercinsky
Dayna Elaine McCrum
Brooklyn Paige DeWall
Eleanor Gibbs
Henry Gibbs
Heidi Wolfe
Keara Ann McCrum
Samantha Marie McCrum
Catherine Grace McCrum
Anicia Whited
Ava Whited

Affiliate Best Practices: Western Nebraska Agri-Women’s Community Outreach Project
This is the first in a series that highlights affiliate best practices — ideas we can learn from and adapt for our own communities as we carry out the AAW mission to be a force for truth.

Western Nebraska Agri-Women put an “ag twist” on a community Christmas tree decorating contest. They raised awareness about agriculture and their affiliate — and helped those in need — all at the same time. They built a Christmas tree using more than 500 cans, which was displayed at the Legacy of the Plains museum. Cans with green labels made up most of the tree and cans with other colors like red and yellow were the ornaments.

The group asked local stores for canned good donations and posted a donation request on their Facebook page. They also set up a can drop-off location at the Farm Credit Services of America office, where affiliate president Kelly Downer works.

“We’re a new group and we’re advocates for agriculture. This was a way for the community to identify with us a little more. We’re finding things to participate in to say ‘We are here,’” says vice president Lanna Hubbard. The cans were later donated to a local food pantry.

Do you have a Best Practices you would like to share? Send in your ideas to communications@americanagriwomen.org.

‘Call to Power’ membership drive planned for 2014
American Agri-Women is building on the success of last year’s membership drive with its “Call to Power” membership drive for 2014. This year’s membership drive will include three incentives:

1. Free second-year memberships for three new members, courtesy of AAW
2. $200 award to the chapter that signs up the most members, courtesy of AAW
3. A special incentive from a supporter of American Agri-Women who believes in our mission: a $200 “challenge award.” Any supporter of AAW who is able to recruit a new affiliate of five or more members will receive a $200 check as a personal gift to her, as thanks for her efforts.

The membership committee will start their planning soon, regarding promotions, recruitment materials and time line. Join the “Call to Power” and be part of the membership committee. To get started, just send an email to Lynn Woolf, communications@americanagriwomen.org.
Committee News

Several AAW committees submitted annual reports at the convention in Niagara. We’re printing ones you don’t want to miss.

Native Pollinators Committee provides checklist for bee protection
By Yvonne Erickson, Chair

Insecticides containing neonicotinoids have become a controversial issue in the pollination arena. The most recent research from “Factors Affecting Global Bee Health” published May 2013 by CropLife International states, “However to date, there is no overwhelming evidence from “real-life” situations that any of them cause serious problems. Bees also appear to find neonicotinoids unattractive and several surveys have found that bees in agricultural areas often avoid treated areas, if other food sources are available.” It is important to use only the recommended doses for treatments. Most research has been on the honey bee and not the bumble bee. Some bumble bee experiments used unrealistically high doses of the insecticide.

Since 2006, the United States has had reports of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) with elevated over-winter colony losses. The Varroa mite on honeybees is a contributing factor for weakening colony health. Additional data shows the significant factor of mites playing a role in assisting secondary infections.

Pollinator Protection Checklist
Provided by Cures: Coalition for Urban/Environmental Stewardship (Syngenta & Bayer Crop Science source providers)

Most pesticides are not toxic to honey bees and other insect pollinators. As a general rule, insecticides are more toxic to pollinators than fungicides and herbicides, but not all insecticides are toxic to pollinators. Any pesticide that is toxic to insect pollinators is referred to in this brochure as a ‘pollinator-toxic pesticide’ or a ‘PTP’. Please follow these guidelines before treating an area with pesticides when pollinators are present:

1. Read and follow all pesticide label directions and precautions.
2. Determine if the pesticide may be toxic to pollinators.
3. Understand local pollinator visitation habits.
4. Use and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach.
5. Always follow good pesticide stewardship practices.
6. Cooperate and communicate with others who are concerned about preserving beneficial insects, including pollinators.
7. Know the common symptoms of honey bee exposure to pesticides and what other stressors impact bee health.
8. Check for specific local ordinances pertaining to pollinators, especially beehive locations or designated preserves (if applicable).

Save the Date: Women’s Agricultural Leadership Conference

Minnesota Agri-Women is hosting its Women’s Agricultural Leadership Conference on April 2, the day before AAW’s Midyear meeting begins. The conference is a full day of programming that focuses on ag issues, leadership development, skill building and networking. More details will be announced soon and AAW members will be offered a discounted rate.

LFTB being added to school lunch menus

By Kristy Lage, Beef Chair

More than a year after lean finely textured beef (LFTB), also known as “pink slime,” initially made headlines yielding consumer outrage, the product has been added to 2013 school lunch menus in four more states.

National media attention, unjustly, put the beef product in a negative spotlight last March, prompting the USDA to give schools the choice to order LFTB or beef without the filler for the 2012-2013 school year. While most schools participating in the National School Lunch Program chose beef without LFTB, three states continued to order the BPI product: Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota.

Political newspaper Politico reports four more states have purchased LFTB for the 2013-2014 school year. Counting orders completed before September 3, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Texas joined the other three states to order about 2 million pounds of LFTB.

The LFTB product produced by Beef Products Inc. (BPI) is a budget-friendly option for school districts facing financial worries. Margo Wootan, head of nutrition policy at the Center for Science in the Public Interest tells Politico the school food budgets are under more pressure after new school lunch nutrition standards were passed last year.

The “pink slime” debate led to the closure of three of BPI’s four plants, resulting in the loss of about 650 jobs. BPI saw business drop by 80 percent in just 28 days in early 2012. The beef industry went all out in presenting accurate information about LFTB but BPI took the biggest hit.
According to a recent poll by the Opinion Research Corporation, 71 percent of Americans believed that the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) “is an umbrella group that represents thousands of local humane societies all across America.” And 68 percent believed that HSUS “contributes most of its money to local organizations that care for dogs and cats.” Both of these statements are false.

HumanWatch.org reports that recent research has also uncovered another disturbing finding: HSUS’ own donors are confused about where their money is going. The release states, “A September 2013 poll of 1,050 self-identified HSUS supporters found that 87 percent of HSUS’s donors were unaware that the organization gives just 1 percent of its budget to local pet shelters. When informed of this fact, 83 percent of HSUS’s own donors agreed the group “misleads people into thinking that it supports local humane societies and pet shelters,” and 59 percent were less likely to support HSUS.

Most fundraisers are unaware that in 2012, the most recent tax year for which nonprofit IRS filings are available, only 1 percent of HSUS’s budget was spent on grants to support pet sheltering. This report was sent to Matt Prescott of HSUS for comment, but he failed to respond. Prescott sends PorkNetwork all news releases that tell of companies that take a stand against individual maternity pens for sows, but he has yet to respond to questions regarding funding or other concerns that have been raised against HSUS.

Money is Used Against Animal Agriculture

In the past three years, HSUS has spent $356 million, yet grants to shelters consistently make up 1 percent or less of HSUS’s budget. The majority of the money goes toward salaries, lobbying against animal agriculture practices, pension plans, advertising, fundraising, and other non-pet-shelter-related budget priorities. According to its tax return, HSUS spent nearly $50 million on fundraising-related expenses in 2012, or about 50 times more than it did on grants to support shelter aid. HSUS also put far more money into its own pension plan—$2.4 million—than it put into these grants.

“Local shelters are well aware of the confusion most Americans have between national groups like HSUS and similarly named but unaffiliated local groups,” notes the HumanWatch report. “A recent poll of 400 animal shelters, rescues, and animal control agencies found that 84 percent of respondents agree with the statement that ‘fundraising by HSUS and the ASPCA makes it harder for my shelter to raise money,’ with 71 percent agreeing that ‘HSUS misleads people into thinking it is associated with local animal shelters.’

Assault on Farming by Ludddites, continued from page 15.

Dozens of states have considered affirmative labeling mandates in spite of a clear U.S. Food and Drug Administration standard for safety of all food products and a marketplace rich in information about our food including an Organic Standard.

America’s farmers are the linchpin meeting the increasing food demands of a rapidly growing middle class around the world. As population soars toward 9 billion people, we must understand what drives economic growth and where discovery is happening.

Agriculture is where an ecosystem of farmers and scientists provides the highest-quality products to Americans’ tables, employs millions of workers and is saving lives around the globe. It is time to take note.
Allow Golden Rice Now!

At 10 AM on October 2 the global campaign Allow Golden Rice Now! was launched in front of the Greenpeace Canada office in Toronto. Dr. Patrick Moore led the demonstration with a banner that read:

“Greenpeace’s Crime Against Humanity: Eight Million Children Dead — AllowGoldenRiceNow.”

The aim of the campaign is to convince Greenpeace that they should make an exception to their zero-tolerance position on genetic modification in the case of Golden Rice, on humanitarian grounds. The World Health Organization estimates that up to 500,000 children become blind each year due to vitamin A deficiency, half of whom die within a year of becoming blind. About 250 million preschool children suffer from vitamin A deficiency among the nearly 3 billion people who depend on rice as their staple food.

Conventional rice has no beta-carotene, the nutrient that humans need to produce vitamin A. In 1999 Dr. Ingo Potrykus and Dr. Peter Beyer, both science professors who were aware of this humanitarian crisis, invented Golden Rice after a nine-year effort. By inserting genes from corn they were able to cause rice plants to produce beta-carotene in the rice kernel. It is beta-carotene that makes corn golden and carrots orange. Golden Rice can end the blindness, suffering and death caused by vitamin A deficiency.

Clinical nutritional trials with animals, adult humans, and vitamin A deficient children have proven that Golden Rice will deliver sufficient vitamin A to cure this affliction. Yet Greenpeace continues to support the violent destruction of the field trials and trashes the peer-reviewed science that proves Golden Rice is effective and safe. The AllowGoldenRiceNow campaign demands that they end these activities, stop fundraising on this issue, and declare that they are not opposed to Golden Rice. We believe that their continued actions to block Golden Rice constitute a crime against humanity as defined by the United Nations.

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines is coordinating the research and development of Golden Rice. The IRRI is supported by The Rockefeller Foundation, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Helen Keller International, USAID, and many agricultural research organizations. Golden Rice is controlled by non-profit organizations, and it produces viable Golden Rice seeds, so farmers are not dependent on any particular supplier.

“The campaign will carry this protest to Greenpeace offices around the world,” stated Dr. Moore. “Eight million children have died unnecessarily since Golden Rice was invented. How many more million can Greenpeace carry on its conscience?”

An assault on farming by Luddites

By Steve Forbes, in the Houston Chronicle, December 9, 2013

American agriculture is a big deal. It is science-driven, profitable, more environmentally attuned than ever and in a real sense, feeding the world. Yet unlike other key drivers of the economy in the U.S. or Texas, outside of this industry, no one appears to notice it - which is unfortunate because this vital piece of the economy is under assault in a way that will harm the ability of the world to feed itself.

The business of farming has undergone a total transformation over the past quarter-century — so much so, we now refer to it as “agribusiness.” The advent of everything from GPS receivers in farm equipment to track planting, fertilizing and harvesting; to microanalysis of cropland to closely calibrate seed types to soil conditions; to using the Internet to get the best prices for input purchases to when to sell crops and livestock, has created a system where in 2012, 2.2 million farms in the U.S. had cash receipts totaling $390 billion for both crops and livestock.

Of our exports, agriculture is one of the largest segments: According to a paper by the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress, in 2012 it made up fully 10 percent of all exports. In fiscal year 2013, agricultural exports ran a trade surplus of $38.5 billion. And a U.S. Department of Agriculture model shows each $1 billion of agricultural exports supports about 6,800 jobs . . . But American farming’s prodigious output is possible because American biotechnology leads the world. The green revolution will rival and surpass the industrial revolution for its effect on the everyday quality of life of billions of people who live at or below subsistence levels.

In addition, biotechnology married to agriculture means we use less fertilizer and make fewer passes over fields with heavy equipment, and better soil conservation while producing bigger yields.

Yet American agriculture has become a magnet for negative attention from the professional, activist left. As a nation, if we are not careful, this under-appreciated economic gem will cede its future to antibusiness activists who use a variety of political and regulatory ploys to substitute scare tactics for science in our food systems. Over the past two decades, European activists have exported their views and implemented bans preventing the planting of bioengineered crops in all but four African nations: Sudan, Egypt, Burkina Faso and South Africa.

We are not immune to bad ideas. Dozens of states have considered
**Action needed!**

**Comment period for the Renewable Fuel Standards is open until January 28th**

AAW Position Statement #144 states that AAW supports and promotes alternative uses of all grain and related by-products produced in the United States. We support a national energy policy that includes a renewable fuels standard (RFS) for all transportation fuels and less dependence upon foreign oil.

The AAW is so diverse in its membership that we sometimes have a conflict between agriculture groups, from crop farmers and livestock owners. AAW strives to be transparent and therefore is now alerting our membership, whichever stance you take, to please comment.

EPA’s proposal to drastically cut the 2014 volumes of the Renewable Fuels Standard is proving to be a double-edged sword dividing our agriculture industries, corn, cattle, poultry and domestic oil.

From the corn growers’ point of view: It is ludicrous that the EPA proposed lowering ethanol blending goals for 2014 which we set in the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS). The RFS is reducing our dependence on foreign oil, lowering the price at the pump, helping our environment by reducing dangerous exhaust emissions and is a positive forward move for sustainable fuels. According to the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association, ethanol reduces Iowa’s gas prices by $1.69 a gallon. This amounts to $2,363 a year.

Another factor is the dried distillers grains (DDGs), the by-product of the ethanol process and a protein-packed feed source for livestock and poultry. With a bushel of corn, which is 56 pounds, we produce 2.8 gallons and new studies confirm almost 3 gallons of cleaner burning fuel and 17 pounds of high quality animal feed. This in turn creates thousands of American jobs, reaching from the ethanol plants to transportation, to livestock feeders and benefits the consumer all the way around. This proposed cut would not only be devastating to farms but our entire nation.

EPA is sending a huge message to America and that is “we are not committed to developing a domestically produced renewable energy source that is a viable alternative to foreign oil.” The RFS is providing competition for the petroleum industry in the transportation fuels market. These proposed cuts of 1.4 billion gallons will cost consumers dearly.

From the cattle, hogs, poultry and dairy industries point of view: As a result of sharply increased corn prices that resulted from the drought this past summer, several states requested a waiver of the renewable fuel standard (RFS) by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In making her August 14 plea “on behalf of the State of North Carolina,” Governor Beverly Perdue writes, “…Altogether, severe economic harm is being experienced by North Carolina and many of its agricultural regions, as well as important economic sectors in the state, as a direct result of the implementation of the applicable volume requirements of the RFS. This harm could be alleviated by a waiver of the RFS applicable volume for renewable fuel in 2012 and 2013.

There was some heated discussion at the EPA’s public hearing on its proposed changes to the Renewable Fuel Standard recently. National Chicken Council chairman Mike Brown said he’s not leaving the Hill until this problem is fixed. National Cattlemen’s Beef Association past president Steve Foglesong said the RFS gives the ethanol industry an advantage over livestock feeders in purchasing corn. Michael McAdams, with the Advanced Biofuels Association, testified that the EPA’s proposed rule is very draconian, and if it holds up, it will devastate any future investment in biofuels. Growth Energy spokesman Chris Bliley highlighted the resounding success of the RFS and said cutting it would cause severe harm to farmers, the biofuels industry and the nation’s economy.

In October, the EPA proposed cutting the RFS by three billion gallons, including a reduction of 1.4 billion gallons of corn-based ethanol. The EPA will be taking public comments on its proposal to scale back the Renewable Fuel Standard until January 28th.

**Comment period for Food Safety Modernization Act extended**

*Ruth Jensen, AAW’s Food Safety Chair, shares this information and asks that AAW members take action today:*

The following are two pieces of several proposed rules that will establish the foundation of, and central framework for, the modern food safety system as envisioned by Congress in the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

Fact Sheet on Rules for Produce Industry is at [http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm334114.htm#summary](http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm334114.htm#summary)

After you review the summary, take a look at the open dockets to see if there are other related regulations you would like to review and make comment.

While the comment period was extended several times over the year, in December a letter, co-signed by 30 senators and 45 representatives, expressed concerns to FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg about the impact of proposed rules on farmers and businesses that an additional comment period could help alleviate.

The group of lawmakers expressed concern about uncertainty concerning many aspects of the proposed rules and asked that FDA propose and submit a second set of proposed rules for public comment before issuing the final rules. The bi-partisan coalition got some of what they asked for when FDA announced November 15, the original deadline for produce proposed rule comments, that it was extending the comment period for the “Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Rule: Standards for Growing, Harvesting, Packing and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption” until March 15, 2014. The Senators said they’re concerned with the ambiguity of the proposed regulation, and asked the agency to republish a second proposed rule after it has digested comments received on the first proposal.

High costs of compliance and the potential loss of grower operations are

*Continued on page 6.*
American Agri-Women
Calendar of Events

February 28, 2014
Syngenta Scholarship Apps
due. See website for details.

April 3-6, 2014
AAW Midyear Meeting
Minneapolis, MN

April 6-10, 2014
Syngenta Leadership
Training, Minneapolis

June 8-11, 2014
AAW Fly-In to Washington, DC.

November 6-8
AAW 2014 Convention,
Hueston Woods State Park,
College Corner, Ohio

AAW Web Site
www.americanagriwomen.org

American Agri-Women is the
nation’s largest coalition of farm,
ranch and agribusiness women with
over fifty state, commodity and
agribusiness affiliate organizations
throughout the country.

The 2013 American Agri-Women convention was put on by AAW’s past presidents,
who provided us a wonderful time of sharing and learning. Past presidents shown
here are, left to right, Sandy Greiner (IA) Alice Dettwyler (OR), Jean Pettibone (KS),
Marcie Williams (OH) (in back), Karen Yost (MT), Mitzi Perdue (MD), Ardath DeWall
(IL), Carol Ann Gregg (PA), Kathy Reavis (TX), and Yvonne Erickson (MN). They thank
all who shared their time and talent by serving on committees that contributed to
their team.