Two Congresswomen receive AAW’s Champion of Agriculture award at Fly-In

This year American Agri-Women awarded Senator Debbie Stabenow of Michigan and Representative Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming its “Champions of Agriculture” award during AAW’s Washington D.C. Legislative Fly-In.

Senator Debbie Stabenow is currently serving as chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and is a member of the Senate Energy, Finance, and Budget Committees. She has a powerful and unique role to play in shaping our nation’s manufacturing, health care, and agriculture policies, which are so critical to our future.

Her leadership on the Agriculture Committee has led to an historic new focus on agricultural research, Michigan’s specialty crops, the development of renewable fuels, and critical land, habitat, and water conservation efforts.

“We are honored to have Sen. Stabenow in a key role during the important discussions of the 2012 Farm Bill,” said AAW President Karen Yost. “She has taken ownership of her responsibility as Senate Ag Committee chair and works tirelessly to promote unity within members of her group to work toward a finalized Farm Bill.”

Upon receiving her award, Rep. Cynthia Lummis thanked AAW by saying, “Agriculture is indispensable to Wyoming and a way of life that has shaped who I am as a rancher, small business owner and public servant. So receiving this award is a tremendous honor for me. I want to thank the American Agri-Women for this distinction and the work they do in support of female ranchers and farmers across the country.”

Rep. Lummis currently serves on the Appropriations Committee, the Subcommittee on Agriculture, the Subcommittee on the Interior and the Environment, and the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

“Congresswoman Lummis has provided leadership and direction among her peers for legislative issues that are important to agriculture,” said Yost. “Her focus on private property rights and responsible government spending is a characteristic that makes her stand out to members of our organization as we continue to work toward those same ends.”


AAW connects with policy makers in D.C.

Leaders of American Agri-Women (AAW) from throughout the country connected with consumers and policy makers at the organization’s 27th annual Fly-In to Washington D.C. During the Fly-In, the Annual AAW Symposium, “Sustainable Development – the Impact on Agriculture,” was held at the National Press Club and covered issues relating to Agenda 21 impacts on American Agriculture. Visits to the Russian Embassy and Brazilian Embassy gave members the opportunity to further diplomatic relations.

AAW members were provided briefings on animal welfare issues, immigration legislation, and problems facing the cattle industry. Pulitzer Prize recipient Gretchen Morgenson, reporter with the NY Times and author of Reckless Abandonment, was the guest lecturer at the Allan P. Kirby Center for Constitutional Studies. Her topic “Absence of Accountability” highlighted how “taxpayers are asked to bail out reckless companies who have not been held accountable for their dealings.”

Every member took the opportunity to engage in a lively discussion regarding farm child labor with Department of Labor representatives Melvina Ford, Senior Policy Advisor Wage and Hour Division, and Nikki McKinny. Each member present articulated how

Continued on page 6.
July is... summertime activities and vacations, parades, and barbecues in the back yard. To those of us in agriculture it means long days of hard work, irrigating, harvesting, moving cattle to summer ranges, and praying for the crops to be good. To me, July brings forth childhood remembrances of the Red Lodge “Rodeo of Champions” rodeo and parade on the 4th of July, of staying in the tiny little Harley’s cabins (which were an extravagance for us!), of Dad picking up bronc and bull riders and roping calves, of Mom packing fried chicken in our little red cooler, and the luxury of having a Coca Cola. It was a big event for these country-bumpkins!

Most of us look forward to the 4th of July as a day of fun and relaxation. I hope we all take the time to remember that really, the 4th of July marks the creation of our nation; a time set aside to honor the bold and brave men and women who wagered their lives to make America a free nation; and that we as individuals will assume the same brave characteristics to keep it free and sovereign. Our nation’s prosperity gained by promoting individual freedoms and liberty is exceptional. It is an experiment in government that has succeeded far above what other nations have accomplished.

The 2012 Fly-In is history, too! The week flew by as forty AAW members attended agency meetings, the AAW Past Presidents’ Symposium at the National Press Club, made Hill visits and presented the “Champions of Agriculture” awards to Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY). Our Congressional Reception was attended by over 200 on Wednesday evening and the visits to the Allan P. Kirby Center and the Russian and Brazilian Embassy’s were added splash! My appreciation to Chris Wilson, Barbara LeVake, Carol Chandler and Arlene Kovash for helping make these events a success. It could not have happened without you!

We are in the process of adding two new affiliates to AAW. Both Western Nebraska Agri-Women and North Carolina Agri-Women are in the process of establishing by-laws and incorporating.

I had the privilege of attending both founding meetings and am encouraged by the energy and desire of women in agriculture to unite together and with us, to make a difference in the industry. My thanks go to Jody Lamp, Melody Dobson, Sue McCrum and Toni Swaim for their key roles in creating these organizations.

Now, we have Denver, Colorado, “Rushing West to Seek Our Fortune in Agriculture,” to eagerly look forward to. Colorado Agri-Women has planned a great convention for us! Mark it on your calendar for November 7-10 at the Marriott Renaissance Hotel.

Danell Kalcevic and Heidi Kathrens are the coordinators: dkkalcevic@aol.com or Kathrens@estra.com. The registration form is online. Bring a friend and fellow affiliate member who has not attended a national convention. They will be blessed by it!

Karen
2012 American Agri-Women Convention Agenda
November 7-11, Denver, Colorado

**This agenda is subject to change. Check the AAW website for current updates.**

**Wednesday, November 7, 2012**

11:00 am – 3:00 pm  Executive Meeting  
AAW Resource Meeting
3:00 – 7:00 pm  Registration Desk Open
4:00 – 7:00 pm  Tweet & Greet — Marie Bowers/Arwen McGilvra / Tiffany Marx
8:00 – 10:00 pm  Hospitality Room Open

**Thursday, November 8, 2012**

7:30 – 9:00 am  Breakfast
8:00 am  Orientation for First Time Attendees
8:00 – 10:00 am  Silent Auction Set-up
8:45 – 9:00 am  Colorado Welcome — Danell Kalcevic
9:00 – 9:45 am  Stewards of Liberty
9:30 am  Spouse Tour Departs for Wagner Equipment
10:00 – 10:45 am  Stewards of Liberty (EPD Track)  
AAW Committees (A-K)  (MIP Track)
11:00 am – Noon  Parliamentary Procedure — Chris Zilliox
12:00 – 1:30 pm  Lunch & Speaker — Cowboy Ethics, James Owens
1:30 – 2:15 pm  Common Ground (EPD Track) — Gina Ehnhard & Cathryn Wojcicki
1:30 – 2:45 pm  AAW Committees (L-Z)  (MIP Track)
2:15 – 3:00 pm  Farm Business Strategic Planning (EPD Track)  
Jill Eberhart with Kennedy & Coe
3:00 – 4:45 pm  Social Media: Facebook Training — Arwen McGilvra/Tiffany Marx
3:00 – 4:45 pm  Social Media: Twitter & Blogging—Arwen McGilvra/Tiffany Marx
*There will be a signup sheet at registration attend either of the social media trainings.
3:00 – 4:45 pm  AAW Board of Directors Meeting
5:00 pm  Evening & Dinner On Your Own
8:00 – 10:00 pm  Hospitality Room Open

**Friday, November 9, 2012**

7:30 – 11:00 am  Registration Desk Open
7:30 – 11:00 am  Silent Auction Open
7:30 – 9:00 am  Breakfast w/Opening Ceremonies  
Welcome by AAW  
Flag Presentation, National Anthem  
Key Note Speaker — John Salazar
9:00 – 10:15 am  AAW Business Meeting Part I — Karen Yost
(EPD Track) — MaryTina Lawrence/Tiffany Neilson
11:30 am – 3 pm  Tours to Conagra Mills, Wildlife Sanctuary, Whiskey Brewery, & Celestial Seasonings
4:00 pm  Buses Depart for May Farms (buses will begin boarding at 3:45 pm)
4:30 – 6:00 pm  Tour & Reception at May Farms
6:00 – 8:00 pm  Dinner at May Farms — Speaker Gary May
7:30 pm  Live Auction
8:00 – 11:00 pm  May Farms — Square Dance Group to perform and do a little teaching.

**Saturday, November 10, 2012**

8:00 – 9:00 am  Breakfast — Past Miss America Theresa Scanlan
9:00 – 10:30 am  AAW Business Meeting Part II — Karen Yost
9:00 am  Kids Tour – Nature & Science Museum
9 am – 5:00 pm  Private Sessions with MaryTina Lawrence
10:45 am – Noon  Farm Bill Panel  — Chris Wilson/Phyliss Philipps
12:00 – 1:30 pm  Lunch w/ speakers — Advocates for Ag  
Troy & Stacey Hadrick
1:30 – 2:15 pm  Advocates for Ag —Troy & Stacey Hadrick
3:00 – 3:45 pm  Turn in your gold to the Assessor’s office & pick up your winnings from the Silent Auction
3:45 – 4:30 pm  Professional Development: Professional Branding — MaryTina Lawrence/Tiffany Neilson
3:00 – 3:45 pm  Professional Development: Personal Branding — MaryTina Lawrence/Tiffany Neilson  
OR  Ag in the Classroom — Bette Binde  
OR  Talk About Trees — Oregon Women in Timber
3:45 – 4:30 pm  Turn in your gold to the Assessor’s office & pick up your winnings from the Silent Auction
6:00 pm  Cocktail Reception
7:00 – 9:00 pm  Dinner, Awards Banquet, Convention Closing
9:00 – 11:00 pm  Hospitality Room Open

**Sunday, November 11, 2012**

9:00 – 10:00 am  Church Service — Pastor Peggy Clark
9:00 – 10:00 am  Possible Post Tour to Leadville and Vail
The Wild Animal Sanctuary is America’s premier sanctuary for large carnivorous animals in captivity.

For 30 years The Wild Animal Sanctuary has been rescuing captive exotic and endangered great cats, bears, and wolves from being abused, abandoned, exploited or illegally kept. This is the place to learn about the 200+ animals who live at TWAS.

Their current facility is situated on 720 acres of rolling grassland—with additional areas under development. The sanctuary was designed and built with a centralized compound located in the middle of the habitats. This portion of the facility is used as an initial receiving area for new rescues, and has specifically designed areas that allow animals to recuperate and adjust to their new surroundings. The rehabilitation process for rescued animals begins here with special playgrounds located within the compound area that help prepare animals for living in large acreage habitats.

The facility also has a unique system of elevated cat-walks and observation platforms which allow people to view rescued animals enjoying their new life in large acreage habitats. As more people contribute to their “Mile Into The Wild” walkway project, they will be able to expand their network of elevated cat-walks and observation platforms that allow people to view rescued animals enjoying their new life in large acreage habitats. As more people contribute to their “Mile Into The Wild” walkway project, they will be able to expand their network of elevated cat-walks and decks over new habitats—including the new Bolivian Lion House.

Stranahan’s Colorado Whiskey

(You must be 21 & have ID for this tour.)

Stranahan’s Colorado Whiskey is Straight Rocky Mountain Whiskey, and is the first COLORADO-BORN WHISKEY, dedicated to making the SMOOTHER, MOST DISTINCTIVELY-FLAVORED WHISKEY on the market using hand-crafted distilling techniques and COLORADO’S FINEST natural ingredients. Stranahan’s Colorado Whiskey is Independent & Family Owned. (Tour is limited to 30 people.)

Explore Colorado’s colorful History!

By Linda Swiercinsky

As a graduate of the University of Colorado in Boulder and a landowner on the Western Slope, I have my favorite places and legends. In fact, I named two show heifers after my favorite personalities from Colorado’s raucus, booming, mining heydays in the late 1800’s!

In the case of Baby Doe Tabor, she came from Wisconsin to Central City with her first husband, hoping to strike it rich. He went home to his mother in Wisconsin and Baby Doe found herself in Leadville where she captivated the richest man in town, Horace Tabor. Everyone said she was beautiful and her face was painted on the barroom floor. It was just a matter of time until he divorced his wife and married Baby Doe. When he died, Tabor supposedly told Baby Doe to “hold on to the Matchless” mine, which she did until she froze to death in the little shack by the mine.

The town of Leadville, which once was the leading city in Colorado, today is a 70-square block National Historic Landmark with one stoplight and a slew of Victorian homes plus an impressive number of museums. One is the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, often called the “Smithsonian of the Rockies.”

Near Leadville (about 28 miles from Vail) is Camp Hale, where the 10th Mountain Division was activated in 1943 and trained in the harsh terrain and weather conditions which they would encounter in Italy during World War II. We will show a 1996 film, “Fire on the Mountain,” in the hospitality room during convention. Many of the men who participated in the war effort returned to Colorado and began the fledgling ski industry. One of these was the founder of Vail, Pete Seibert.

The 10th Mountain Division also was prominent in “Black Hawk Dawn” and Tom Clancy’s “Clear and Present Danger.” It was reactivated in 1985 for deployments to places like Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia and Kosovo and, after 2001, sent to Iraq and Afghanistan.

If you would like more information or have questions, please email me at showlamb@earthlink.net or call my cell 708/334-4030. I would be happy to put together a two day, one night, trip.
Book your rooms now to ensure you are in the specially reserved block for AAW Convention.

Special Tips:
Book your rooms for the hotel before August 15th to receive free in-room internet and free parking.
Book before September 15th to receive free hotel parking.

Online room reservations are now just a click away with ResLink! Simply go to either link below. Enter the Rate Code of aawaaw and receive the rate of $109.00 per night. Get your reservations in soon to not miss out on the room block rate. Once the block is full, the rate will be higher! If you have specific room needs, you can call the hotel directly at:

**Renaissance Denver Hotel**
3801 Quebec St.
Denver, Colorado 80207
303.336.5214
303.336.5353
renaisancehotels.com | RENAISSANCE HOTELS

No matter where or why you travel, there’s always something wonderfully new to be found.

Contact the Room Reservation Page for the Renaissance Denver Hotel at:
http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/densa?groupCode=aawaawa&app=resvlink&fromDate=&toDate=

Get your hotel booked now to save on parking and internet in your room.

For questions about convention or assistance contact us at
coloradoagriwomen@yahoo.com

You can also email the convention coordinators.

Danell Kalcevic: dkkalcevic@aol.com — or — Heidi Kathrens: kathrens@estra.com
# 2012 American Agri-Women Convention Registration Form

**November 7-11 Denver, Colorado**

Name:___________________________________________________ Affiliate: _____________________________________

Address:_________________________________________________ City/State/Zip:_________________________________

Home Phone : ________________ Cell: __________________________ Email:________________________________________

Spouse/Guest:___________________________________________ Phone:_____________________________________

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Voting Member of AAW: ___ Yes ___ No</th>
<th>Are you a first time attendee: ___ Yes ___ No</th>
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## Registration:

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th># Attending</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>_ Early Registration: (Postmarked by Oct. 8, 2012)</td>
<td>$250</td>
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<td>_ Late Registration: (Postmarked after Oct. 8, 2012)</td>
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| Student Registration: School_____ Grad Yr:_____ (Includes: meals, name badge, bag, & materials) | $200 | _______ | _______ |

| 1 Day Only Registration ___Thur ___Fri ___ Sat | $125 | _______ | _______ |

| Spouse /kid (Includes 6 meals, name badge, promo items) | $175 | _______ | _______ |

### Optional Events: (please indicate if attending & how many)

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Attending</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>_ Wednesday Nov 7th Tweet &amp; Greet</td>
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<tr>
<td>_ Thursday Nov 8th Spouse/Guest Tour – Wagner Equipment</td>
<td>$15</td>
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***Friday Tours are on a first come first serve basis Please rank the tours in order that you would like to see.***

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<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Limit</th>
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<tr>
<td>_ Friday Nov 9th Tour #1: Wildlife Sanctuary (no limit)</td>
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<td>_ Friday Nov 9th Tour #2: Celestial Seasonings (50 person limit)</td>
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<td>_ Friday Nov 9th Tour #3: ConAgra Mills (50 person limit)</td>
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<tr>
<td>_ Friday Nov 9th Tour #4: Whiskey Brewery (30 person limit)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Must be 21 yrs of age to go to Brewery</td>
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<tr>
<td>_ Saturday Nov 10th Kid’s Tour – Denver Nature &amp; Science Museum ($8.00)</td>
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### Grand Total: $__________

Send registration form & payment to: Colorado Agri-Women PO Box 63 Bennett, CO 80102

Checks paid to: Colorado Agri-Women in memo put registration 2012 convention

**There will be a $7.50 convenience fee for registering online. Online Registration will begin July 15 thru the AAW website.**
AAW Fly-In, continued.

the family farm is a safe, productive learning environment where children can begin training to ensure a thriving and educated agricultural workforce for the next generation.

AAW also brought their 2012 policy positions to their Representatives and Senators on the Hill. Priority issues included the 2012 Farm Bill, estate taxation, immigration reform and ag labor shortages, and the Land and Water Conservation Act.

Over 200 guests attended the AAW Congressional Reception in the House Agriculture Committee Room on Wednesday.

Affiliate and Committee News

Harvest of Knowledge Conference celebrating 30 years
By Rae Desautel, North Dakota Agri-Women

Thirty years ago Minnesota Agri-Women and North Dakota Agri-Women organized the first Red River Valley Harvest of Knowledge Agri-Women’s Conference and Red River Valley Farm Woman selection.

This day-long event is held each year in Grand Forks, N.D. Evelyn Landis, a former president of American Agri-Woman and a co-founder of North Dakota Agri-Women and past president, and Myrna Evenson, a past president of Minnesota Agri-Women, along with a local radio station, were the conference’s organizers.

Quality speakers on national, state and local levels provide quality programs, most of which are centered round an agricultural theme.

A special program has been planned for the anniversary event this year. Coming to help celebrate the event is Karen Yost, president of American Agri-Women. Title of her presentation is “Women in Ag, Our Changing Role and Our Accomplishments.”

Other program selections this year are “Agriculture + Exporting = A World of Opportunities” by Christina Connelly, Minnesota Department of Agriculture; Stephanie Sinner, North Dakota Department of Agriculture; and Vanessa Kummer, United Soybean Board chairwoman. Sara Bedgar Wilson of Jamestown, N. D., will present “Activism in Agriculture.”

Marc de Celle, a rock musician in his twenties, a graphic artist in his thirties and a marketing executive in his forties, and an author who wrote “How Fargo of You,” also is on the program.

Also invited are Sen. Amy Klobuchar and Rep. Collin Peterson, both of Minnesota.

The day is never complete without special entertainment, door prizes and drawings, an ag fair and an auction.

You are invited to this year’s conference on October 26. For added information contact the chairman Donna Ulseth at 1-218-926-5651; 1-218-280-1335, or ribeye@gvtel.com.

2010 Veritas Award winner Henry Lamb dies

One of AAW’s 2010 Veritas Award winners, Henry Lamb, died on May 23, 2012, after a lengthy illness.

Henry was one of our country’s most important and effective advocates for private property rights and national sovereignty. He was a prolific writer and speaker, educating Americans on the value of our constitution and threats posed to our freedom by power-seeking national and international interests.

After a long career in business, Henry brought together a group of limited government advocates, founded the Environmental Conservation Organization in 1988 and began publishing its excellent magazine, named eco-logic. He followed this success by starting other organizations as well over the past twenty years, including Sovereignty International and Freedom21.

Henry was at his best when speaking to groups, dissembling the assumptions and arguments of powerful interest groups piece by piece. He would cite the documents and publications of his opponents and demonstrate, in their own words, the dangers they presented to our freedoms.

From Chuck Cushman and Mike Hardiman, American Land Rights Assn

AAW Fly-In, continued.

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Increase your membership!

**OWA involves members through its auction**

In past issues we have given ideas for increasing your membership. This time we are featuring Oregon Women for Agriculture (OWA), that found a terrific project to both increase and maintain its membership and provide funds for significant projects.

OWA has been putting on a dinner and auction each year for 25 years now, this year hosting almost 900 people and grossing over $102,000.

The auction does so much for OWA. It provides funding for significant projects, such as bus ads; provides the ability to partner with Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom, Summer Ag Institute, and Ag Fest in a meaningful way; and gives it a way to support organizations that support us, such as the Pacific Legal Foundation and Western Resources Legal Foundation.

But not only that, and maybe more importantly, OWA’s auction gives so many members a chance to contribute to OWA and along the way, meet many new friends, which gives members a cohesiveness they wouldn’t otherwise have, as each person who works on the auction plays an important part in the overall success of her organization.

OWA’s auction started 25 years ago on a small scale, bringing in $4000. Members barbecued a pig, lamb, and roast beef and then had a silent and oral auction much like AAW’s auctions at national meetings. It has grown each year, so that there is now a general chair and 35 committees, each with a member in charge: dinner, invitations, decorations, thank you’s, registration, publicity, etc. Each chair has only to worry about her committee so that no one person is overworked.

This is such a successful project that OWA is willing to help other affiliates plan their own. Start small! Invite members to participate! Not enough members? Invite your friends to join so they can help. Your membership will grow, guaranteed!

**Illinois Agri-Women member Eleanor Zimmerlein recognized by Farm Bureau**

Adapted from an article by Danelle Burrs, Lee County, IL, Farm Bureau

Eleanor Zimmerlein, LaMoille, is passionate about agriculture and has been actively fighting on agriculture’s behalf as a member of both American Agri-Women (AAW), Illinois Farm Bureau and other agriculture organizations. She was recently featured in an article by the Lee County Farm Bureau (LCFB), which she has been a member of since 1987.

Eleanor is a member of Illinois Agri-Women, which she served as president from 1992-1995 and currently serves as its legislative chair. She is also currently Natural Resources Advisor and past Land Use Chair of AAW.

Zimmerlein is a past recipient of the American Agri-Women LEAVEN (Loyalty, Enthusiastic, Anticipatory, Valiant, Effectiveness, Nurturing) Award, the highest award given by American Agri-Women. Zimmerlein is also a member of the Illinois Association of Drainage Ditches, the Upper Missouri Illinois Mississippi River Association, Ag Environmental Alliance, a past member of the Lee County Board and a member of the 1st Lutheran Church of Ohio.

As a member of Farm Bureau, Zimmerlein has served in a variety of different leadership roles. She currently serves on the LCFB Governmental and Local Affairs Committee, is the Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) Activator District Trustee and is a member of FB Act.

She has also traveled to Washington DC with both AAW and Farm Bureau, which she commented is one of her more favorite activities that she has participated in.

Zimmerlein is passionate about agriculture, especially when the topic pertains to issues related to natural resources and the environment. She has devoted much of her time working to defend agriculture by contacting legislators and members of the EPA, attended countless meetings, and has worked closely with AAW, Farm Bureau and other organizations for the betterment of agriculture. Zimmerlein has been active not only in AAW and Farm Bureau but in a number of other organizations as well. When asked why she has been so active over the years fighting on behalf of agriculture, Zimmerlein said, “I am just trying to tell agriculture’s side of the story.”

Former START chair Jacquie Compston stated, “When Eleanor comes to Mid-Year, she is always prepared when it comes to writing our position papers. Land Use and Water are her areas of expertise. She always makes herself available to AAW on these subjects and her word is golden. It is so nice to see her recognized for all her work.”

Zimmerlein is currently a retired farmer; however, she is still actively involved in farming with her son Howard. She has three children, Howard Zimmerlein, Bernice Keutzer and Rita May.
American Angus Auxiliary has year-long celebration for their 60th anniversary

By Anne Lampe, President

Establishing connections and building relationships was the theme for the Women Connected conference hosted by the American Angus Auxiliary as part of the year long celebration of the auxiliary’s 60th anniversary.

The conference held in St. Joseph, Missouri, April 14-16, was designed to bring together a diverse group of women from different regions of the country and backgrounds that are connected by and share a common bond—Angus cattle. Twenty women were selected to join the Angus Auxiliary executive committee to engage one another in conversation and friendship, to empower leadership, and to educate themselves in a variety of relevant topics through listening to top speakers and participating in relevant workshops. In addition, the women were able to connect through networking and a fun-filled evening at a dinner theatre.

Suzy Graven, Cave Creek, Arizona, creator of the in-production television documentary series, Woman behind the Brand, engaged participants during her opening keynote address, sharing stories of women who blazed trails in the American west and laying the foundation for today’s farm and ranch women as well as women in all sectors of the business world.

On day two of the conference began with a video presentation celebrating the mission and programs of the auxiliary. Presentations by staff members Jena Thompson and Derrick Collins linked social media, photography and marketing to promotion and advertising ranches and herds as well as advocating for agriculture.

Debbie Lyons-Blythe, an Angus rancher and industry advocate from White City, Kansas, entertained and informed with her presentation of how she uses her blog, Life on a Kansas Cattle Ranch, and social media to tell the world the story through stories, recipes and photography of how ranching and agriculture provides healthy, safe food. Debbie shared her inspiration for starting her blog. She explained that a cousin, who was just one generation removed from the farm, balked when milk and hamburgers were offered for a meal at the ranch, sharing concerns of unsafe hormones. She encouraged women to help connect the true story of agriculture with consumers.

Marcy Heim, Madison, Wisconsin, founder of The Artful Asker and personal management and fund-raising coach “enter-trained” in a three-hour two part interactive workshop.

Highlighting the final half day, Women Connected concluded at the American Angus Association headquarters with breakout sessions and tours of the Association and Angus Productions, Inc.

Women Connected was underwritten through the generous support of the Angus Foundation, as it was a wonderful opportunity for the Angus Foundation to invest in the education of our members.

Dairy continues to monitor issues

By Ardath DeWall, Foremost Farms USA and Dairy Commodity Chair

Animal rights groups have recently been active with campaigns that relate to dairy.

This summer, the non-profit animal rights group called FARM (Farm Animal Rights Movement) is traveling with a promotion called the Vans Warped Tour. They are offering the public one dollar to watch a video about animal agriculture called “Farm to Fork.” It shows both beef and dairy production and according to FARM, cruel mistreatment of farm animals. FARM is calling its campaign the 10 Billion Lives Tour and it has 41 stops in 27 different states, according to the website for Vans Warped. The FARM van has enough televisions to show the video to 32 people at a time. According to FARM, after seeing the video, consumers are encouraged to decrease consumption of meat.

If you have a booth at a county fair or community event, you may wish to show a video available at midwestdairy.com or the Beef Pasture to Plate site, which shows the other side of the issue.

Left to right: Seated – Susan Pelton, KS; Sam McDonnell, MT; Chris McGarraugh, TX, Carla Malson, ID; Danyal Coon, MO; Rachel Frost, IL; Sheyna Strommen, ND; Barbara Etteredige, TX. 2nd Row – Mary K Vejraska, WA; Lynne Hinrichsen, KS; Heather Bear, IN; Sandy Carmichael, IN; Suzy Hebert, NE; Martha Holshouser, NC; Marlene Dukehart, MD; Cortney Holshouser, NC; Anne Patton Schubert, KY. 3rd Row – Anne Lamp, KS; Emily Tennant, NC; Marsha Corbin, MO; Judy Brown, IN; Carla Jurgenson, IL; Christy Perdue, NC; Beverly Figge, KS; Cortney Hill-Dukehart Cates, IN. Back- Leslie Mindemann,WI; Lezlie Halladay, WI; Suzy Graven, AZ; Myrna Sharpe, MN; Iva Maier, KS.
**EPA and Army Corps of Engineers still seeking to expand regulatory control over all waters**

**Take Action! Ask Senators to Stop the EPA Guidance Document!**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed a Guidance Document to the Clean Water Act (CWA) that attempts to establish regulatory control over virtually all waters. The Guidance Document will expand EPA’s authority beyond what Congress authorized it to do in the CWA and is contrary to limits imposed by the Supreme Court. Congress has specifically chosen to limit EPA authority by keeping “navigable” in the CWA. The Guidance Document in turn ignores Congressional intent and effectively writes the term “navigable” out of the CWA. This document is much more than “guidance” and will function like a regulation because it will be used to bind the actions of the agencies and public.

Once finalized, the Guidance Document would allow EPA to “interpret” beyond what Congress authorized and expand its authority to regulate any or all waters found within a state, no matter how small or seemingly unconnected to a federal interest. Farm Bureau is concerned that EPA’s guidance document will now enable it to claim federal jurisdiction over any wet area in the U.S. Even if water is present for only a few days a year!

The Guidance Document is much more than mere guidance to the field. According to the CWA, the term “waters of the United States” means “navigable” waters, which are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce. But the agency’s guidance has allowed “waters of the U.S.” to include any isolated area a goose could potentially land in!

These sweeping changes in regulatory authority allow the EPA and the Corps to encroach on state and local water decisions.

**TAKE ACTION NOW** and send a letter to your Senators and Representative. Go to the Grass Roots Advocacy Center under “Legislation” on the AAW website. There you can write a letter and fill out the form and it will go out to your congressional delegates very fast.

The Guidance is inconsistent with the existing Clean Water Act, regulations and the Supreme Court Decisions in four specific areas:

**Aggregation** - The guidance document allows the federal government to regulate ditches as “waters of the US.” The Agencies are also allowed to “aggregate” the contributions of all similar waters (small streams, adjacent wetlands, ditches, or certain otherwise isolated waters) within an entire watershed in order to establish remote connections to navigable waters and therefore establish broader federal control.

**Channels** - The Guidance contains new definitions that encompasses most features that have “channels” and establishes a presumption that most features that meet this “new” definition will be jurisdictional.

**Any Connection** - The Guidance document allows the federal government to regulate ditches as “waters of the U.S.” if the agencies can find “any hydrological connection” to a “navigable” water hundreds of miles away.

**Isolated Waters** - The guidance also allows the federal government to regulate even isolated waters if they can contend there are other chemical, physical or biological connections.

Congress should not permit the agency to adopt these requirements in the guidance document. And your messages can make sure EPA follows the intent of the law and not its own political agenda.

**Status report on the NPDES Case/EPA**

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear the case in regards to requiring a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for every new road or repair of an existing road on national forests.

At the AAW mid-year meeting in Nebraska City in March, our speaker from Pacific Legal Foundation talked about this case. Oregon Women In Timber is part of a group that filed an amicus brief in support of the Supreme Court to review this decision handed down by the Ninth Circuit Court in May, 2011.

The Forest Service alone has approximately 378,000 miles of roads under its jurisdiction, covering 193 million acres. The administrative cost of obtaining and tracking compliance with these permits would run to tens of thousands of dollars annually.

Because forest roads on federal lands are built and maintained under stringent contract and best management practices standards, imposing Clean Water Act permit requirements would impose an expensive administrative process with no commensurate benefit to environmental quality.
Media hype has created another wave of hysteria among American consumers. The latest rumor targets beef, with journalists accusing food chains like McDonald’s of using “pink slime” in their hamburger patties. ABC News reported on this topic, spurring a frenzy of related articles, blogs, tweets and Facebook posts all related to the scary ground beef debacle. Here’s an excerpt:

“Gerald Zirnstein grinds his own hamburger these days. Why? Because this former USDA scientist and, now, whistle-blower, knows that 70% of the ground beef we buy at the supermarket contains something he calls ‘pink slime.’ Pink slime is beef trimmings. Once only used in dog food and cooking oil, the trimmings are now sprayed with ammonia so they are safe to eat and added to most ground beef as a cheaper filler.”

However, beef experts are working hard to keep the rumor mill from scaring consumers from enjoying a great-tasting burger. Recently, beef supplier Beef Products Inc. (BPI), and the American Meat Institute (AMI) shared the facts about beef. BPI has launched an educational consumer-friendly website called, “Pink Slime Is A Myth,” which aims to debunk the myths spread by the sensational coverage.

Meanwhile, AMI explains the science behind it all, stressing the safety and wholesomeness of ground beef and its production. Here is part of a statement.

“Boneless lean beef trimmings (BLBT) is a safe, wholesome and nutritious form of beef that is made by separating lean beef from fat. To make the product, beef companies use beef trimmings, the small cuts of beef that remain when larger cuts are trimmed down.

“These trimmings are USDA-inspected, wholesome cuts of beef that contain both fat and lean and are nearly impossible to separate using a knife. When these trimmings are processed, the process separates the fat away and the end result is nutritious, lean beef. It’s a process similar to separating cream from milk.

“One process uses food grade ammonium hydroxide gas, something commonly used in the production of many foods, to destroy bacteria. Whatever process is used, it is all done under the watchful eye of USDA inspectors and according to strict federal rules. Lean finely textured beef is blended into foods like ground beef. Producing BLBT ensures that lean, nutritious, safe beef is not wasted in a world where red meat protein supplies are decreasing while global demand is increasing as population and income increases.

“Some recent media reports created a troubling and inaccurate picture, particularly in their use of the colloquial term ‘pink slime.’ The fact is, BLBT is beef. The beef trimmings that are used to make BLBT are absolutely edible. In fact, no process can somehow make an inedible meat edible; it’s impossible. In reality, the BLBT production process simply removes fat and makes the remaining beef more lean and suited to a variety of beef products that satisfy consumers’ desire for leaner foods.”

Please, help spread the word about the safety and wholesomeness of ground beef. Consumers should be able to enjoy America’s favorite protein without feeling scared, worried or guilty about it.
Willing Seller – Really?

From American Land Rights Association - Land Rights Network

This article is reprinted from a Voice of several years ago, but the phrase “willing seller” keeps coming up as if most sellers are willing, so we’re running it again to remind all that it is not always the case.

John Jones is a willing seller. He didn’t want to sell and held out as long as he could. First the Park Service came in and purchased the homes, farms and timberlands of his neighbors who did want to sell. There will always be some. Then the agency began to search out those families who were in some kind of financial distress such as from a death, divorce, loss of job and other reason.

Jones watched as his community was checkerboarded by the Park Service. He remembered being told when the park was created that he would not be forced out. But now the agency was targeting local businesses and the county itself. Many small businesses were purchased and put out of business. The Park Service purchased the holdings of several large timberland companies. Smaller timber owners began to sell as they saw that the logging infrastructure might eventually not be there. The mill eventually had to close because it could not get enough wood. Like a natural ecosystem, the economic ecosystem of a community is very fragile.

As more timberland was purchased, more homes and farms began to disappear. Many residents wanted to hold out but with fewer jobs in the county, the value of their homes and property began to go down. As the Park Service purchased them, they lay empty for months or even years because the agency said they did not have the funds to clear them out. They became havens for vandals and drug houses.

The Nature Conservancy and other land trusts began to circle like buzzards. They would buy from financially distressed landowners, then turn the land over to the Federal government. Time after time this happened, quietly, secretly and silently they helped undercut the community.

As properties were taken off the tax rolls, the schools and county services began to suffer. Several closed, making longer trips to school necessary for families. The school district didn’t have the money for the busses they needed. Roads began to close. As large areas were purchased by the Park Service, the agency put up chains across the roads. Some of these roads had been used for years by neighbors as access points to the river or to go camping, swimming, woodcutting or berry picking.

Churches, clubs and other community services began to close. The Rotary Club couldn’t keep enough members. The library was in trouble. The hours were cut for it and other county services. There had been several markets in town and three gas stations. There is only one of each now and it looks like the store will close. That means a 80 mile drive to Millersville for groceries. Over time, other essential services and stores began to disappear.

When the park was created they promised tourism. I don’t know where it is. We gave up a lot of good jobs for this park and the tourists don’t come. Several motels and restaurants were built in anticipation of the visitors. All but one restaurant are closed, and it cut its hours back. Our two motels are still open but are struggling.

We have a very nice ski area but a Park Service trail runs through it. The agency has harassed the owners so often that they’re close to giving up. They can’t get any kind of commitment from the Park Service as to a final trail location so they can’t invest in modernizing and expanding the ski area. There are a lot of people in town who would benefit if the ski area were allowed to meet its potential.

We thought the Park Service supported recreation. Now it seems the opposite is true. We heard from people out West that the Park Service and the environmental groups were becoming anti-recreation. It couldn’t be true we said. It looks like we were wrong. They seem to be against skiing and snowmobiling. Snowmobiles are being kicked out of all parks. It doesn’t make sense.

The county had no choice but to raise our taxes. The tax base for the county was shrinking almost daily. We had one local bank and several bank branches. Now there is only one branch open as part of the market, but it may go away too. The banks have not made loans in our town for several years now because the future is unstable. They won’t make loans to loggers, equipment suppliers, or small businessmen because of threat from the Feds. No new houses have been built in some time. The theater closed and the cable television company is considering shutting down. It feels like a ghost town.

We always thought we could fall back on our farmers and ranchers. But as farmland was purchased, more and more farmers began to leave. Their kids didn’t see any reason to stay. There aren’t enough farmers now to support the supply store and the farming infrastructure and other needs. The farmers have to drive so far to get services that it just doesn’t make sense. More and more are selling.

It’s ironic. When the park was proposed there was a big land acquisition fund before Congress at about the same time that included some funding for recreation. Many county commissioners supported it because they wanted money for soccer fields and swimming pools. Now they see they’ve lost their tax base and have trouble finding the resources to maintain those assets. The population has changed so much they may not even need them soon.

Surprisingly, even home builders and realtors supported the land acquisition funding originally as well as the park. They really thought the tourism would come and provide an economic boom. Now they see they don’t have a market anymore and most people have been driven to the city. The land acquisition has sucked the vitality right out of the community. But it’s too late to go back.

The Government even wants a buffer zone around the park now and is trying to close down the roads and access to the National Forests. What a difference between now and when I was growing up. So many places we used to enjoy are either owned by the government or regulated so tightly you can’t go there or use them.

The hunters and sportsmen really got a surprise. They supported the land acquisition only to find that they lost access to many places. And frankly, game was more plentiful on the land when it was private. I’ve never been convinced these hot shot fancy education government officials knew much about protecting wildlife. I know we had better hunting around here before all the private lands were taken by the government, especially when tree harvesting was taking place.

Some of my neighbors are determined to stay and suffer the consequences and severe hardships of living within a now nearly all Federal enclave. I love my town. I was born and raised here, went away to college and came back. It looks like that even though I stood up to those Federal land acquisition agents, there will soon be nothing left to stand up for. I never thought I’d be a willing seller. But I am now.”

This is a composite of experiences from landowners who have been forced to sell their property against their will.
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See inside for all you want to know about the convention in Denver this November

This issue of the Voice includes the AAW convention agenda, tour and hotel information so you can make plans early.

Heidi Kathrens and Danell Kalcevic are coordinators for the convention and have lots of exciting activities planned, but please note that the agenda is subject to change, with changes being posted on the AAW website.

Online registration will be open July 15th on the website and all info regarding the convention will be up there by then, too.

The hotel room rate is $109 per night, plus taxes, until our block of rooms is full, so make your reservations early. Book your rooms for the hotel before August 15th to receive free in-room internet and free parking. Book before September 15th to receive free hotel parking.

If you have any questions, contact coloradoagriwomen@yahoo.com. They’re busy harvesting wheat but are still available for questions.

Scan this QR Code on your smart phone to go directly to the American Agri-Women web site. QR is short for Quick Response and the code can be accessed using a QR Code scanning app.

American Agri-Women

Calendar of Events

- **August 1, 2012**
  - LEAVEN Award Deadline

- **August 15, 2012**
  - Helen Whitmore Scholarship Applications Due

- **September 7, 2012**
  - Resolutions Due

- **October 1, 2012**
  - Annual Reports Due

- **November 8-10**
  - AAW 2012 Convention, Marriott Renaissance Hotel Denver, Colorado

AAW Web Site

www.americanagriwomen.org

American Agri-Women is a national coalition of farm and ranch women's organizations and individuals, formed in 1974.