AAW Champion of Agriculture awards go to Senators Susan Collins and John Thune

Senators Susan Collins and John Thune were honored with the American Agri-Women 2013 Champion of Agriculture Award, during the organization’s annual Fly-In to Washington D.C.

Senator Susan Collins of Maine has established a record of integrity, unsurpassed work ethic, and a steadfast commitment to the people of Maine. Her willingness to reach across the aisle and her centrist, moderate approach has earned her the title of “The Most Bipartisan Republican” by her Senate colleagues.

In addition to being a champion for women, she is a leader on agriculture issues. A native of Aroostook County, Maine, Senator Collins fully understands the importance of Maine’s potato industry to her state’s economy. As a senior member of the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator Collins led a successful effort to prevent USDA from limiting certain healthy vegetables, like the white potato, in the National School Lunch program and eliminating them altogether from the school breakfast program.

Her efforts to maintain funding for such critical areas as integrated pest management, research into new varieties, and cooperative extension have been instrumental in maintaining the industry’s leadership and reputation.

Most recently, Sen. Collins helped lead the effort to include a provision in the Farm Bill that would require an examination of dairy price structure in the U.S., an initiative strongly backed by Maine dairy farmers. Senator Collins has advocated for competitive research programs focused not only on improving crop management practices but also on exploring practices to minimize pesticide use, developing integrated pest management practices for invasive and native pests, and improving processed product quality and margins of food safety.

Senator John Thune of South Dakota

Senator John Thune has a record of integrity, a steadfast commitment to the people of South Dakota, and a steadfast commitment to the people of the U.S. His efforts to maintain funding for such critical areas as integrated pest management, research into new varieties, and cooperative extension have been instrumental in maintaining the industry’s leadership and reputation.

Most recently, Sen. Thune helped lead the effort to include a provision in the Farm Bill that would require an examination of dairy price structure in the U.S., an initiative strongly backed by South Dakota dairy farmers. Senator Thune has advocated for competitive research programs focused not only on improving crop management practices but also on exploring practices to minimize pesticide use, developing integrated pest management practices for invasive and native pests, and improving processed product quality and margins of food safety.

AAW’s Membership Campaign a Success

American Agri-Women’s membership campaign “Join us as We Stand up for Agriculture,” drew in new members from across the country, including new state affiliate chapters in West Virginia and Oklahoma. What’s more, the campaign helped raise awareness for how AAW members advocate for and educate about agriculture.

The campaign included a drawing for an iPad mini, which was won by Caitlyn Heimerl of Pataskala, Ohio, who is now also a member of Ohio Agri-Women. Heimerl is a 2013 graduate of Wilmington College, Wilmington Ohio, with a degree in agribusiness. She is district sales manager for Great Lakes Hybrids and is part of a large hog operation with her husband, Jeff. The couple was recently selected by the American Soybean Association as the state’s representatives for the 2013 DuPont Young Leaders program. Heimerl was raised on a family farm and was active in 4-H and FFA.

“I believe the biggest issue in agriculture today is consumers’ misunderstanding of what farmers and ranchers do each day. Our gates are open to anyone to come and visit and learn what ag is all about,” Heimerl says.

Continued on page 3.
Dear AAW Members,

The 2013 American Agri-Women Fly-In was a great success! It seems a difficult task to condense the many objectives important to AAW and to agriculture into a few short days and hours on Capitol Hill. Hopefully, we accomplished some of those objectives in our Hill visits, our conversations with Legislators and in our outreach to many who have a pulse on our industry. Please log on to the AAW Flickr account to see what you missed — or see yourself in some of the many great photos of the 2013 Fly-In! (http://www.flickr.com/photos/americanagriwomen/sets/) We could not have had the success we had without each of you who devoted your time, energy and money to attend, the hard work of our Fly-In committee, and the financial support of our sponsors. My heartfelt thank you to you all!

Traveling to D.C. makes me realize the urgent and fast-paced atmosphere there. I begin to appreciate that there are many well-intentioned, hard-working Legislators working under a stress level that is really very high. We need to be diligent to encourage those who are making good decisions and swimming upstream for rural America and to make ourselves known to them both at home and in D.C. We also need to remain vigilant to those rules and regulations that are obtrusive upon our freedoms and to take time to weigh in on those measures. A quote I remember from Dr. Gary Sides at last year’s Mid-Year meeting: “We have a right to be heard, and we have a right to be LISTENED to!” Please watch your emails (if you are not getting them, please forward your email address to Carolyn Kleiber, carolyn@agpowerinc.net, to be included) for Voter Voice Eblasts for action — and take a moment to respond to them.

Issues AAW is currently working on are of course, the Immigration and Farm bills. Confirmation on those is forthcoming. I hope. There are many others: animal activism is a huge threat to the existence of the livestock industry; our own federal government is obsessive in its quest for more land; EPA regulations are much in excess, and more. An immediate response from each of you is required against Common Core in our education system. Please make your local school boards aware of the dangers of this Agenda 21 program. See the “Common Core” article in this issue for more information. What is going to be hardest for our schools to resist are the financial incentives for the schools—and the removal of funds if they do not accept it.

American Agri-Women completed its first annual Membership Drive on May 31st. The winner . . . CaItlyn Heimerl of Pataskala, Ohio! Welcome to AAW, CaItlyn, we look forward to your involvement! Thank you Membership Drive committee members and co-coordinators Lynn Woolf and Kris Zilliox for a job well done!

As an organization comprised of state and commodity organizations, it has been my focus to encourage our existing affiliates to action and to inspire new and fledgling affiliates into being. I have had the distinct privilege of attending a reformation meeting for Oklahoma Agri-Women (formerly Oklahoma Women for Agriculture) in Oklahoma City. Andy Hutchison and past AAW president and Oklahoma member, Joan Adams assisted AAW affiliate coordinators Jody Lamp and Melody Dobson to organize the meeting. A steering committee was assisted AAW affiliate coordinators Jody Lamp and Melody Dobson to organize the meeting. A steering committee was developed with Kristi Bishop (daughter of Montana Agri-Women co-founder and member, Vickie Bishop Kerns!) at the helm. It was an inspiring meeting of the minds, issues and relevant topics for Oklahoma agriculture. I so enjoyed meeting Joan Adams and

American Agri-Women Executive Committee

President: Karen Yost
2349 Shiloh Road
Billings, MT 59106
Phone: 406-794-0888
president@americanagriwomen.org

1st Vice President: Sue McCrum
PO Box 630
Mars Hill, ME 04758
Phone: 207-769-9317
firstvp@americanagriwomen.org

Vice President: Abby Amick
23217 Illinois Creek Road
Alma, KS 66401
Phone: 620-271-2953
communications@americanagriwomen.org

Vice President: Kris Zilliox
4347 N 142nd Ave
Omaha, NE 60164
651-260-9916
education@americanagriwomen.org

Secretary: Lisa Condon
5763 Prospect Road
Horicon, WI 53032
920-485-4329
secretary@americanagriwomen.org

Treasurer: Peggy Clark
2274 E. Lytle Five Pts. Road
Dayton, OH 45458
Phone: 937-885-5965
Fax: 937-885-5942
treasurer@americanagriwomen.org

AAW Web Site: www.americanagriwomen.org
AAW Email: info@americanagriwomen.org

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Arlene Kovash, Editor
503-838-3512
kovasha@gmail.com
—or—
Abby Amick, VP Communications
Information Above

Please send address changes to:
Carolyn Kleiber, Membership Database Chair
carolyn@agpowerinc.net

Continued on page 3.
Champions of Agriculture, continued from p. 1

was also honored with the “Champion of Agriculture” Award during the Fly-In. Senator Thune is a strong advocate for issues that are vital to American food security and for sustaining our farming communities. He has led actions for a sensible school lunch program, protection of property rights, a transparent spending policy, and the repeal of the Death Tax. Senator Thune has been a watchdog for the welfare of rural communities through active support and sponsorship of important bills to agriculture during his terms of office.

“Senator Thune has provided leadership and direction for agriculture in Washington D.C.”, says AAW President, Karen Yost. “Because there are so few in Washington who have a first-hand knowledge of the industry that they regulate, it is imperative that those who know and understand the rural community be active evangelists for our lifestyle. Senator Thune has made a courageous effort to lead positive conversations for families in agriculture.”

The award recognizes Members of Congress who are leaders in supporting agriculture.

President’s Column, continued.

listening to her tell us some of her AAW experiences during her term as president. Congratulations, Oklahoma Agri-Women, and thank you for the warm welcome and the opportunity to visit you on your turf!

One of my biggest challenges as president of AAW has been to allocate my time most effectively for our members. Whew! Planning meetings and distributing vital information takes most of that time; reacting to emails, issues, pleas for involvement, etc. That limits what I can do for you as to make us into an organization that can be pro-active and thus, more effective. Since 1974 (we are going to celebrate 40 years in 2014!) AAW has prided itself on being a leader in agriculture issues, education and communication. I would suggest that we evaluate “doing business as usual” procedures. How can we best keep up with the ever increasing challenges in today's modern world—and be effective!

I thought I should leave you with one of my favorite emails:

Our teacher asked what my favorite animal was, and I said, “Fried chicken.” She said I wasn’t funny, but she couldn’t have been right, because everyone else laughed. My parents told me to always tell the truth. I did. Fried chicken is my favorite animal. I told my dad what happened, and he said my teacher was probably a member of PETA. He said they love animals . . . very much. I do, too, especially chicken, pork and beef. Anyway, my teacher sent me to the principal’s office. I told him what happened, and he laughed, too. Then he told me not to do it again. The next day in class my teacher asked me what my favorite live animal was. I told her it was chicken. She asked me why, so I told her it was because you could make them into fried chicken. She sent me back to the principal’s office. He laughed, and told me not to do it again. I don’t understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn’t like it when I am. Today, my teacher asked me to tell her what famous person I admired most. I told her, “Colonel & now...
Women involved in agriculture from throughout the U.S. met in Washington, D.C. recently for the 28th annual American Agri-Women (AAW) Fly-In & 20th Symposium, both of which were particularly interesting this year.

Thirty-four members, including two legacy kids, were present representing fourteen state affiliates. The group met with elected officials, toured government agencies and held an educational symposium titled: “Immigration Reform-Health Care Reform: Agriculture Connection.”

AAW members developed their positions on several issues of importance to agriculture at their mid-year meeting in Louisville, KY, in April to take to their congressional delegates, but focused in on five key issues to emphasize in DC, including support of H.R. 75 American Sovereignty Restoration Act 2013, Immigration Reform, Inland Waterways Transportation Capital Development Plan (R.I.V.E.R.S. 407), Reforming Gross Vehicle Weights (S.E.T.A. HR 612), and Sulfuryl Fluoride Amendment to Senate Farm Bill, S. 954 (Sulfuryl Fluoride Agricultural Coalition (SFAC).

**Symposium**

AAW’s 20th annual Symposium: “Immigration Reform/Health Care Reform: Agriculture Connection” was moderated by Ruth Jensen and held at the National Press Club on Monday morning, June 3.

Guest panelists included Lynn Jacquez of the CJ Lake Law Firm, Dr. Peter Feather, senior staff economist at the USDA Office of the Chief Economist, and Craig Regelbrugge, co-chair of the Agriculture Coalition for Immigration Reform. The agricultural provision of S.744, the “Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Reform Act” was explained in great detail for AAW members.

“Agriculture needs to be the engine for conservative Republicans and harness Republican energy in the Midwest Mountain region,” stated Regelbrugge.

Of special note is that the National Press Club records one of the meetings at the club for broadcast each month, and they chose us for June.

After lunch provided by the American Council of Life Insurers at their office with a commanding view of the capitol, AAW members met at Hillsdale College’s Kirby Center for Constitutional Studies where Dr. Paul Moreno, Director of Academic Studies and author of several books and articles, talked on the intent of the Constitution and how agriculture is actually not addressed in the Constitution.

Afterward, members enjoyed the opportunity to visit the Norwegian Embassy, hosted by His Excellency Wegger Chr. Strommen. Ambassador Strommen commented that he has slept in many barns in the United States of America with the Norwegian boy scouts. He and his family operate a
farm in Norway.

Then on to the Fertilizer Institute, where Noel Vietmeyer, the author of AAW’s first book club book, *Our Daily Bread: The Essential Norman Borlaug*, spoke to us. It was interesting to hear from him as he was so passionate about Nobel Peace Prize winner Borlaug, wanting everyone in the U.S. to know about him and his work to feed the world.

Vietmeyer announced that Borlaug’s statue will be placed in Statuary Hall in the Capitol building next year, one of only 100 statues there, representing the state of Iowa, where he was born and raised.

What a treat to hear Vietmeyer and talk to this man who knew Borlaug personally and wants us to know him, too. The Fertilizer Institute also provided a salmon dinner. We did not lack for food that day!

A special briefing was held on Tuesday with Representative Frank Lucas (OK), Chair of the House Agriculture Committee. Representative Lucas said the challenge of the Farm Bill is that his colleagues are far removed from the farm and nutritious, safe food has always been available.

American Agri-Women members wrapped up their trip by visiting their respective state representatives on Capitol Hill and hosting the AAW congressional reception in the House Agriculture Committee Room.

The AAW Fly In is a great opportunity for the AAW membership to get an insider’s look at agencies in Washington DC. Members meet with congressional delegates who discuss the relevant issues being addressed by Congress and encouraged to meet with their own legislatures face to face.

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**Thank you, Sponsors!**

Our Fly-In is a big success in no small part because of our sponsors. Look their addresses up on the Internet and send them a thank you note:

- American Council of Life Insurers
- American Sugar Alliance
- American Petroleum Institute
- AT&T
- Bayer CropScience
- BIO
- CropLife America
- Dow Agro Sciences
- Farm Credit
- Monsanto
- Northern Family Farms
- TriEst
- United Ag

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Nevada member Jacquie Compston and 1st VP Sue McCrum

AAW members at the Americans Life Insurers Association office for lunch.
**2013 American Agri-Women Convention Registration Form**

**November 6 – 10, 2013 * Niagara Falls, NY**

Name:____________________________________________

Affiliate: ___________________________

Address: _______________________________________

City/State/Zip_______________________

Phone: ____________________________

Email: ________________________________________________

Voting Member of AAW? _____Yes _____No

Are you a first time attendee? _____Yes _____No

Spouse/Guest: _______________________________________

Phone: _______________________________

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___ Day Registration Only. Indicate day: ___Thurs. ____Fri. ____Sat. $125.00

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**THURSDAY:** Canadian Tour @ $30/person (see descriptions on page 3)


OR Vineland Research & Innovation Centre

OR Inniskillin Winery

___ $__________

___ $__________

___ $__________

**FRIDAY:** Spouse/Guest Tour

___ No Cost

**SUNDAY:** Post-Convention Tour @ $60/person

___ $__________

TOTAL $__________

Make checks payable to AAW 2013 Convention, & mail registration form to Jean Pettibone, 2013 Convention Treasurer, 6835 Road 2, Kanorado, KS 67741-9400.

**HOTEL INFORMATION:** Sheraton at the Falls, 300 Third Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14303. Registration cutoff date for hotel rooms is October 16. Rooms are $99/night and reserved under American Agri-Women. Call 1-866-961-3780 or visit our personalized website: [https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1211301443&key=9F60A](https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=1211301443&key=9F60A)

**SHUTTLE INFORMATION:** Reservations are required for the Buffalo Airport Shuttle, phone 1-716-685-2550 or toll free 1-877-750-2550; website is BuffaloAirportShuttle.com. Credit card required to hold the reservation. Have your travel information available. Rate is one way, per person and includes all fees and baggage handling: 1 passenger, $45 per person; 2 passengers, $25 per person; 3+ passengers, $18 per person. Price does not include driver gratuity. Questions? Go to Lauren Roehner at the above-mentioned numbers or [lauren@buffaloairportshuttle.com](mailto:lauren@buffaloairportshuttle.com)

**CAR RENTALS:** BUDGET is offering AAW a discount for rentals. Call them at 716-632-4662 or online at [www.budgetbuffalo.com](http://www.budgetbuffalo.com). Be sure to give them the Rate Code of A18. If you need personal assistance with your reservation, call the local representative Martha Ward at 716-566-3508 or email [martha.ward@budgetbuffalo.com](mailto:martha.ward@budgetbuffalo.com).

**CANCELLATIONS** need to be made in writing and sent postmarked by October 1, 2013 for a full refund.
American Agri-Women

Brazilian Trip

American Agri-Women has had some wholehearted interest from members for us to set up an agriculture tour in Brazil.

The tour is set up for American Agri-Women members to meet with other women in agriculture groups and have the opportunity to tour farms and ranches owned and managed by women. There are many women who are integral partners and/or owners in the farms and ranches in Brazil so we have taken extra steps to include them during this stay. You will see sheep and cattle ranches and many types of crops. The types of crops we will see will include the same types of crops grown from California to the Midwest and the East Coast in the USA.

We will be offering this as two packages to help accommodate your schedule:

A. Basic Package dates of tour March 16th-25th, 2014, includes round trip airfare from Miami, USA and to Brazil. A travel allowance of $1000 may be deducted from the total cost of this trip if you choose to use your own airline.

B. Add-on Package to Iguassu Falls, March 24th-27th. This will include a tour of Itaipu Dam, one of largest hydroelectric dams in the world.

The Main Tour (A)
The main tour is $4,275 per person, based on double occupancy (add $463 to guarantee a single room). In addition to airfare, it includes:

• 9 days/7 nights in superior tourist class accommodations
• 21 meals: 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 dinners
• Transportation in luxury air-conditioned motorcoach
• Sightseeing and technical visits
• Services of full-time tour manager with ag background
• All taxes and fees

Tour to Iguassu Falls (B)
This tour is an additional $775 per person, based on double occupancy ($300 additional for single room).

Reservations are limited to first come first serve. Karolyn Zurn, 218-850-9219 (Colzurn@yahoo.com), will be handling the details and confirming reservations. It is necessary that you contact her as soon as possible. The first installment of $1000 is due September 1st.

If you have questions please feel free to contact her. Check the website for more information as it becomes available.

Second call for nominees for three AAW positions

This year American Agri-Women will be nominating the First Vice President, Vice President of Communications and the Treasurer for AAW, as well as three members of the Resource Center Board of Directors. We are seeking women who are interested in serving AAW in these positions.

Nominees for First Vice-President must have served on the board of Directors for at least one year prior to nomination and must have attended a national convention in the last three years prior to nomination.

The Vice President of Communications is in charge of coordinating the work of written and online communications.

The treasurer keeps the financial records, drafts the budget, and pays all bills for the organization and is eligible to serve (2) two-year terms.

Complete job descriptions and an application can be found on our website www.americanagriwomen.org under the Member and Affiliates tab under the Nominating Committee section.

Please submit completed application to nominating committee chair Jane Marshall, 4655 Ketterman Rd., Eaton, Ohio 45320. If you have any questions, please call Jane at 937-336-1456 or email at citizenjane@me.com.

Newsletter editor bid due.
Bids for editor of the VOICE are open until October 31st. The editor will be hired at the executive meeting following convention, and will start with the November/December issue.

The editor prepares six 8-12 page newsletters for publication each year under the direction of the president and VP communications. She has a two-year contract which may be renewed.
A message from Sharon Steffens, AAW’s first president

When Voice editor Arlene Kovash asked first AAW president, Sharon Steffens what she was up to this spring, this is what she emailed:

In the fall when our farm market is open, I do presentations on the life cycle of pumpkins and apples for preschool – third grade and also help at the market. I belong to Comstock Park Rotary and have been President twice. We have a very active and fun club.

I’ve retired from politics after 24 years as Clerk, then Supervisor and then as a Trustee on the Board. In 1963, I founded an alumnae chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota – a music fraternity. We have continued all these years and now have a local college chapter. I was a music teacher before I was married and taught piano for 10 years while the kids were young. So now I’m teaching two granddaughters and enjoying it.

Coordinating the AAW Voice many years ago and getting the first directories published are enjoyable memories. We were fortunate to have a good publisher to work with. Today, it is all different with computers and other technology available. However, it is still the attention to detail in getting it right that makes the difference. What a help all this technology would have been in getting AAW organized! But we did it with everyone helping. Many farm women and children helped by typing, stuffing envelopes as we prepared a mailing of 5,000 to members, Extension Directors, Farm Broadcasters and other media for our 1st national convention.

The mid-year meeting we had at Silver Lake College with all the Board, Sister Thomas More Bertels and some of the affiliate presidents is a fond memory. We developed bylaws, strategies, ideas, goals, etc. It was inspiring, exciting and exhausting. Many farm women have inspired me and others over the years and continue to do so. It was exhilarating to talk on the phone with other women in other states who were seeking AAW’s help or interested in what we were doing. I finally had to install another phone line in those early days and it had three way calling which was wonderful.

With Pat Cohill’s death recently, I’ve thought about those days quite a bit. I was recently nominated by someone from the area Women’s History Council as a MAKER – a woman who inspires women and girls. This was a national effort with MAKERS across the nation in communities. Also, last year, four women, including myself and Jo Ann Thome, were honored at the Gerald R. Ford Museum for our contributions to agriculture. This was during Woman’s History Month.

We can all be proud of the accomplishments of the many farm and ranch women who have contributed to AAW over the years in a multitude of ways.

God Bless You All. Please continue the fight to educate our consumers and legislative leaders.

Sharon Steffens  
1st National Coordinator

Karolyn Zurn is new Minnesota president

This month brought some changes to Minnesota Agri-Women officers. Sue Krueger was unable to fill our her term, which we are sad to hear, so Karolyn Zurn became our president. Margene Newton is the first vice-president. Karolyn and her husband Bill reside in the western part of the state. They raise soybeans, corn and sugar beets with two sons. The have five children and 10 grandchildren. Karolyn is also a Minnesota Soybean Director, chair of the Northern Crops Council, Vice-Chair Minnesota Ag in the Classroom and coordinator for CommonGround North Dakota Soybean.

The National Ag in the Classroom Conference held in Minneapolis and had almost 500 attendees, an excellent turnout for the Land of 10,000 Ag Opportunities. Thanks to Minnesota Agri-Woman Sarah Dornick for her work on this event.

October brings the Harvest of Knowledge sponsored by the Northern Minnesota and North Dakota Agri-Women. This event always brings about 150 attendees. There is always something new and energizing about the event.

MAW had a wonderful event at Past President, Yvonne Erickson’s farm. She hosted a celebration of her 100-year-old round barn, which is so beautifully kept up. There was dancing on the top level and tours in the milk parlor below.
Horse processing in the United States has been legal since November 18, 2011, when the riders defunding USDA horse meat inspections were lifted from the 2012 Agriculture Appropriations Bill. Since that time, several horse processing facilities have prepared to open with much support from the U.S. horse industry. The anticipation of the horse processing facilities were bringing with them the hope of much needed relief to the welfare of horses across the United States, and the revitalization of the devastated horse markets.

Despite the law, USDA has remained silent, not giving the grants for inspection to the horse processing facilities, which have been poised and ready for operation.

On Friday, June 28, 2013, all that changed without warning or fanfare. Hand in hand with the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), the announcement arrived that the horse processing facilities are being granted inspection. FSIS publicized their official response to the Humane Society of the United States’ (HSUS) petition for rulemaking that sought to once again ban horse processing. In their response, FSIS denied every single petition request from the radical animal rights groups, including HSUS.

And while this is wonderful news, we must remain vigilant. We must make sure that members of Congress understand the importance of domestic horse processing to maintain a healthy horse industry. Senator Landrieu’s bill the Safeguard American Food Exports Act (SAFE Act) is still lurking on Capitol Hill, though, which if passed, will ban horse slaughter and make the USDA FSIS rulings a moot point.

The week of June 17, 2013 was a legislative roller coaster ride for the horse industry on Capitol Hill. While we were successful in preventing an amendment to the Farm Bill banning horse slaughter one day, the Senate Appropriations Committee voted for Senator Mary Landrieu’s (D-LA) slaughter ban as an amendment to the Agriculture Appropriations Bill (FY14) the very next day.

This means that there are amendments banning horse slaughter on both the House and Senate Appropriations Bills. The vote in the Senate Appropriations Committee did not go as we had planned or hoped.

So the campaign to inform Congress about the viability and importance of horse slaughter for the welfare of horses is a campaign we ALL need to continue. We will always be out-numbered by the activists and outgunned by their money, but truth is on our side.

One other bill that poses a serious threat to the horse industry is HR 1518, also known as Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act, an amendment to the Horse Protection Act. HR 1518 does nothing to address the problem of unethical participants who are already in violation of existing laws, while removing all pads, weighted shoes, and action devices from show horses of three specified breeds – Tennessee Walking Horse, Racking Horse, and Spotted Saddle Horse. HR 1518 was authored by HSUS and sponsored by Congressman Ed Whitfield (R-KY) whose wife, Connie Harriman-Whitfield works for HSUS as their Senior Advisor for Presidential Initiatives. Need I say more?

Our campaign to inform Congress about the viability of horse processing is going to be a marathon, not a sprint. We must continue to be vigilant and let our voices be heard. Thomas Paine said it best, “Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it.”
**News About Agriculture**

**Immigration Bill passes Senate — now for the House**

*By Ruth Jensen, AAW Media Relations/Promotions*

Last week the U.S. Senate passed a comprehensive immigration reform package that will help family farmers and ranchers address problems in hiring an adequate, legal immigrant workforce.

Agriculture faces a critical shortage of legally-authorized and experienced workers, which negatively impacts our economic competitiveness, local economies, and jobs. Every farmworker engaged in high-value labor-intensive crop and livestock production sustains two to three off-farm but farm-dependent jobs. We cannot continue allowing foreign producers to take advantage of our labor crisis.

Legislation must preserve agriculture’s experienced workforce by allowing unauthorized farmworkers to earn adjustment to a legal status. For future needs, a new market-based agricultural worker visa program provides access to a legal and reliable workforce moving forward. This visa has the flexibility to meet the needs of producers, including those with year-round labor needs, such as dairy and ranching.

The agricultural program within the Senate immigration bill includes provisions that allow:

- Those entering the U.S. to obtain documentation to work on farms.
- Those already in the U.S. a chance to earn legal status while continuing their farm jobs.

The bill also includes a background check and a visa program that is more flexible than the current system. This bipartisan compromise must now be addressed by our House of Representatives in order to support our industry’s future workforce needs. Without this immigration reform we will continue to see labor shortages throughout our country, jobs will be lost and our local economies will suffer.

Now it is up to the U.S. House of Representatives to pass a bill. Surely most of you heard Speaker Boehner’s remarks that the House will not take up the Senate bill, and that members will go home for July 4 recess, hear from constituents, then come back to consider how to proceed.

This means there’s no time to rest. We need to turn our grassroots capacities from their Senate focus, to the House and especially House Republicans. We know opponents will make themselves heard. If our folks don’t, the hole will only grow deeper.

**Take Action today** and urge your U.S. House of Representatives to support Immigration Reform! Go to the AAW website and look under Legislation>Grassroots Advocacy Center, and click on the Immigration issue at the top, which will take you to VoterVoice where you can very quickly write your Representative.

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**Forest roads legislation needs your help**

*By Anna Morrison, Timber Chair*

By a unanimous voice vote on the House floor the Herrera-Beutler/Schrader Amendment was added to the Farm Bill—essentially endorsing existing state authority to regulate forest road runoff through Best Management Practices programs. Then, only a few hours later, the House voted to reject the Farm Bill itself, chiefly due to strong differences between factions over funding for the food stamp program.

Moving forward, we are still committed to our other allies to obtain passage of the Silviculture Regulatory Consistency Act (S971, HR2026), codifying the relevant “forest road” provisions, through other venues. Please continue to help us build co-sponsorship for this legislation, by sending email messages to your House and Senate members by means of the Voter Voice Alert that AAW has set up on our website, under Legislation>Grass Roots Advocacy. Also, when your Congressional delegation is home for the 4th of July Recess, contact them about this legislation in person.

The bill has several influential new co-sponsors, and the record of House floor support will be important in future advocacy efforts.

We expect to be able to attach a similar amendment to the Interior Appropriations bill, anticipated for House floor action in late July. Alternatively, if there is another campaign to pass a substantial Farm Bill this year, we may try to obtain passage of this important limitation on federal authority.
One of AAW’s grave concerns for America is the infusion of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 21 into all areas of our lives. Broadly speaking, Agenda 21 (a comprehensive plan to be implemented globally, nationally and locally) outlines a world society of sustainability that eliminates everything the United States Constitution guarantees to us.

During the writing of the AAW 2013 Positions our committees identified the areas in agriculture and in rural living practices where Agenda 21 was evident. Common Core, the education philosophy of Agenda 21 is entering into schools all across the nation.

I have tried to summarize it below, but please take some time to research it more fully and influence your local education boards to reject this program.

According to Citizens United for Responsible Education (CURE), “Common Core is a Nationalized Federal government takeover of our Education system which of course is against the law, as the Federal Government is not allowed to set any educational curriculum standards—a right reserved to the States. Least of all do they have the power to create a one size fits all complete takeover of education on all levels. This is a States rights issue.

“But now[,] the Federal Government standardized the education curriculum that will apply to all public schools, charter schools, private schools, Christian schools and homeschooling . . . Common Core Standards are being mandated and implemented by the Federal Government via organizations such as National Governors Association, Achieve, and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). “10,000 Master Teachers will train Teachers on Common Core and who will keep data files on students and teachers. Students will help evaluate teachers. Common Core curriculum is being rewritten to provide a global approved curriculum. According

affiliations, health records, whether or not families own guns etc. are just a few of the data points they want to collect from the children. Children will be encouraged to spy and report on what their families do at home.

None of the technology being used has been tested to see what effects, if any, it will have on the children. And, if that is not enough, the Master Teachers will be instructing the Teachers to not teach our nation’s framework or any form of nationalism. Instead they will be trained to be “good global, sustainable citizens” prepared for a global world.”

Holly Swanson, founder of Operation Green Out, a friend of AAW and frequent speaker at our meetings has long touted the dangers of using Education for Sustainability and other programs such as Agenda 21 and Common Core to politically indoctrinate school children. Swanson wrote the book Training for Treason to document the problem and provide the evidence that will support the removal of these programs from our schools.

She formed the national coalition ‘We Choose Freedom’ to provide a platform and action plan to stop the political indoctrination of America’s children. To learn more, email Holly at wechoosefreedom@earthlink.net.
Fly-In Scholarship Winners

From left to right: Legacy Kids Scholarship winner Heide Wolfe (Marcie Williams granddaughter), Gail McPherson Fly-In Scholarship winners Shirley Leonhardt, West Virginia; Lesley Schmidt, Kansas; Amy Robinette, North Carolina; front, Legacy Kids Scholarship winner, Samantha McCrum (Sue McCrum’s granddaughter). Congratulations to these gals!

American Agri-Women
Calendar of Events

August 1
AAW LEAVEN Award Nominations Due

August 15
AAW Officer Nominations Due. (See inside for details)

August 15
Helen Whitmore $500 Convention Scholarship Applications Due.

November 6-10
AAW 2013 Convention, Niagara Falls, NY & Ontario, Canada.

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.

Bonus info for electronic readers:

New York Agri-Women is excited to be coordinating a day of tours that will highlight some of WNY’s finest agri-businesses. Tour destinations will include a visit to Becker Farms and Vizcarra Vineyards and Lamb Farms Inc. Becker Farms and Vizcarra Vineyards are a unique Agri-tainment farm as well as vineyard and brewery. Becker Farms sells local products from their farm store as well as give tours, hayrides, wine tastings and sell baked goods from their bakery. After a tour of the farm we will be enjoying lunch featuring their 100 mile radius menu that incorporates products from within 100 miles of the farm. We will also be touring Lamb Farms Inc. in Oakfield, NY. Lamb Farms is one of WNY’s finest and largest dairies as well as NY’s largest Kosher dairy. We will be visiting the main farm of their 3 dairy locations. The main farm milks approximately 2,400+ cows and has a rotary style parlor. The farm grows all of their own crops and has a strong working relationship with vegetable crop producers in the area. Lamb Farms is also very well known for marketing their dairy cattle genetics and hosting an annual sale in the spring.