
Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and Rep. Frank Lucas of Oklahoma are American Agri-Women’s 2014 Champions of Agriculture. The awards were presented as part of AAW’s Fly-In to Washington D.C.

The Champion of Agriculture award was initiated in 2010 by then AAW President Chris Wilson. It offers an opportunity for AAW to publically recognize particular members of Congress who have displayed exemplary courage in presenting and supporting legislation that promotes American agriculture, rural American lifestyles and the United States Constitution.

Sen. Klobuchar was recognized for her efforts to support America’s farmers and ranchers and to promote economic growth and fiscal responsibility and accountability in Washington. As Senate Chair of the Joint Economic Committee and a member of the President’s Export Council and the Senate Commerce Committee, Klobuchar has helped implement a competitive agenda to ensure businesses have the tools they need to grow and create good jobs. Klobuchar also chairs the Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights. She was the first woman elected to represent the state of Minnesota in the U.S. Senate.

Lucas was recognized for his leadership as chair of the House Committee on Agriculture, his efforts to guard against regulatory overreach, and his support of numerous agriculture programs. In addition to serving as chair of the House Agriculture Committee, Lucas serves on the House Committee on Financial Services and the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology. Lucas’ family has lived and farmed in Oklahoma for more than 100 years.

AAW Needs You: Deadline for Nominations is August 15

We need you! You can do it! I think I can! Just do it! You got this! These little sayings go through all our minds when we are doing things outside our comfort zones. Many in AAW say these things routinely, but look how much AAW gets accomplished because of our officers in all the positions. So we really do need you!

In November 2014, the AAW membership will elect the Secretary and Vice President of Education for AAW as well as three members of the Resource Center Board of Directors. We will also elect four members for the nominating committee for next year. Please consider your skills and gifts and apply for the position that fits you.

You can find job descriptions and the application that is used for all the positions at http://www.americanagri-women.org/nominating-committee. Please remember that the application must be signed by the nominee and endorsed by two members of American Agri-Women.

If you have any questions, please call or text Jane Marshall, Nominating Committee chair at 937-336-1456 or email her at citizenjane@me.com. Please submit completed application to Jane Marshall, via email by midnight August 15 or U.S. postal mail, 4655 Ketterman Rd., Eaton, Ohio 45320, postmarked by August 15.
President’s Report

I’m writing this on the first day of summer. I have just had a great weekend at our camp in the northern Maine woods. The sun has set, but I can still see the horizon. The haunting call of the loon is in the background. It is quiet here on the lake after family has all returned to their homes. I, too, will return to my routine. But for now, I am listening to the quiet. That doesn’t happen very often. Tomorrow brings us back to reality. Work to go to, chores to be done, emails to read, and deadlines to be met! But family makes it ALL worthwhile to me. Yes, it is time spent elsewhere, away from loved ones, stepping out of my comfort zone at times. Is it worth it? You betcha! This is why members of American Agri-Women put aside their daily routines, trade the everyday work clothes for our Sunday best and leave homes, businesses, farms, ranches and head to Washington, D.C.

American Agri-Women have been attending our annual Fly-In for 27 years! Members spend months in preparation for this event. This year was no exception. AAW members from Maine to California worked well together to make this year’s Fly-In memorable. Thank you to each of you who contributed to make this happen. Here is what you missed! Many of us toured the Sully plantation on Sunday with a picnic lunch. Our briefing started mid-afternoon with introduction of members. Once again, we welcomed our scholarship winners, Karen Barnes, Alisha Nord and Kristi Bishop and our Legacy Kid attendees, Sarah Whyte and Kendall and Alden Knodle. We listened to speakers, reviewed topics to discuss on our Hill visits and as we were near the end of our briefing, the fire alarm had us evacuating our meeting space. The next event was visiting with Beltway area ladies interested in forming an AAW affiliate in the D.C. area. That evening many of us met for dinner to celebrate a milestone birthday of one of our members from California.

Monday, Past President Karen Yost welcomed us to the National Press Club for the AAW Past Presidents’ symposium. The topic was: “American Agriculture and the Integrity of America’s Food Supply.” Former Secretary of Agriculture John Block was our keynote speaker along with several others. We met with the American Council of Life Insurers for lunch and a guest speaker. The EPA was our next stop and then we were hosted by Philippine Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia Jr. to a concert by the Santo Tomas University choir, who were touring the U.S. at the time. What a wonderful surprise that was. This was followed by refreshments and a chance to visit with the ambassador and singers by our AAW members. Our day closed with a reception hosted by Syngenta at the Metropolitan Club. Thank you, Jessica and Rex!

Tuesday found us at the USDA for another round of great speakers including Krysta Harden, USDA Deputy Secretary! The afternoon was filled with appointments with our representatives and senators on the Hill. I found myself being followed by cameras and interviewed by Pat Haggerty of This Week in Agri-Business and Janet Adkison from RFD-TV. As I mentioned earlier, we sometimes step out of our comfort zones! AAW hosted our annual Congressional Reception that evening attended by many of those on the Hill!

On Wednesday, we had another round of speakers and breakfast at the Senate-Dirksen Ag Committee room. We had speakers from Sen. Debbie Stabenow’s (Michigan) office, Marge Kilkelley of Sen. Angus King’s (Maine) office, Dr. Barbara Glenn of CropLife, and Andrew Brandt of Sen. Chuck Grassley’s (Iowa), office to name a few. Ladies, you missed an outstanding Fly-In if you were unable to attend. Highlight your calendars for this event next year. I heard so many times how our voices need to be heard and our stories need to be told to those in D.C. We and our families are the ones affected by the regulations that our elected officials vote on. We must be heard. It is our responsibility to make sure that AAW continues to be “A Force For Truth.” Thank you to each and every one of you who had a part in making this a successful and memorable Fly-In! And a HUGE thank you to our sponsors! Your partnership with AAW is so appreciated.

I need to remind all of our affiliate leaders and members to direct all your correspondence such as membership dues and questions to Andrea Ball of Agri-Washington. Her address is: 1701 K Street, NW, Ste. 650, Washington, D.C. 20006. Telephone #:202-785-6710, email: andrea@americanagriwomen.org. Keep in mind that the nominating committee would like to hear from you if you would like to fill some AAW positions. Jane Marshall is the chair. Her email: citizenjane@me.com

I know that some members are still suffering from drought, tornados, too much rain, and anything else Mother Nature wants to share. Just know AAW members are concerned about you and hope that you know we care.

Fair time is around the corner! Have fun and tell everyone what a great job American farmers are doing to produce their food. There is NO one else who can tell that story better!

Have a great summer!

Sue McCrum
Ohio Agri-Women have been very busy working on convention. We want to let you know some of the plans and logistics of this convention. We don’t want you to miss anything.

For logistic planning, we need to know your itinerary due to the location of the lodge, the complimentary shuttle from the Dayton Airport and the pre-tour.

We listened to you at Niagara Falls and we have one new, big addition. There will be an optional pre-convention tour to Ohio’s Amish area. The tour cost will be $100 to cover the cost of bus transportation and snacks on the bus. Everyone will take care of their own hotels and meals other than breakfast, which is part of the room rate. The tour will go from Monday, Nov. 3 through Wednesday, Nov. 5.

We will be leaving about 8:30 a.m. or 9 a.m. on Monday morning for the trip to Holmes County, Ohio. If you are flying in, you will probably need to arrive Sunday sometime. We have a block of rooms at the Best Western Plus Dayton for Sunday night, Nov. 2. The AAW room rate is $65.99. You need to call (330) 893-7400 to make reservations. You will need them for Monday, Nov. 3 and Tuesday, Nov. 4. We will check out the morning of Wednesday, Nov. 5. The hotel is a short walk from the main street in town. We will pick a place Monday evening for supper. Breakfast will be at the hotel each morning.

On Tuesday you can choose to either shop in town on your own or go tour the area on the bus. We are working on a couple tours to farms and agriculture businesses for the trip. We will all join back together for lunch at a pizza and salad buffet. Tuesday afternoon we will travel to Kidron by bus and shop at Lehman’s Hardware Store (https://www.lehmans.com). We will tour more Amish on the way to supper at Der Dutchman in Walnut Creek (http://www.dhgroup.com/en/wc/wc-restaurant.php).

On Wednesday we will start out the day early by checking out of the hotel and traveling to Mt. Hope Auction, a weekly livestock and produce auction and flea market (http://www.mthopeauction.com). There is also shopping in Mt. Hope. We will round out our time with lunch at Mrs. Yoder’s Kitchen, (http://www.mrsyoderskitchen.com/index.html). We will leave by 1:30 p.m., stop to pick up any cars left at the Best Western Plus and arrive back at Hueston Woods by 6:00 p.m. where we will be ready for our convention.

For any of those who are not going on the pre-tour, there will be a shuttle to pick you up at the Dayton Airport and take you to Hueston Woods. We must know your itinerary to schedule the shuttles most efficiently, so please fill out that part of the registration form on page 6. We have a logistics committee working on organizing all these details.

On Sunday, there will be an optional post tour to the National Museum of the United States Air Force (http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil). The cost will be $25 for bus transportation. Entry to the museum is free. Lunch will be on our own at the museum. The National Museum of the United States Air Force collects, researches, conserves, interprets and presents the Air Force's history, heritage and traditions. As well as today’s mission to “fly, fight and win... in air, space and cyberspace” to a global audience through engaging exhibits, educational outreach, special programs and the stewardship of the national historic collection. We will return to Hueston Woods in the early evening.

We are looking forward to hosting the 2014 convention and showcasing our agriculture. If you have any questions please call Jane Marshall at (937) 336-1456 or Rachael Vonderhaar at (937) 603-1984.
HOTEL INFORMATION: Hueston Woods State Park Lodge, College Corner, Ohio $105 Room Rate- To make Reservations, please call 513-664-3500 Registration cutoff date for hotel rooms is September 1, 2014. Rooms are reserved under American Agri-Women.

SHUTTLE INFORMATION: Complementary Shuttle provided by the Hueston Woods Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. Please fill out requested travel information on the registration fully so we can schedule the shuttles in an effective manner.

CANCELLATIONS OF CONVENTION REGISTRATIONS need to be made in writing and sent postmarked by October 1, 2014, for a full refund.

Tour Descriptions:


Please Contact the Best Western Plus in Dayton, Ohio for November 2nd accommodations at 937-832-2222. The AAW rate is $65.99. This Best Western has a complementary Shuttle from the Dayton Airport. Please contact the Comfort Suites in Berlin, Ohio at (330) 893-7400 to make your hotel reservations for November 3rd & 4th. Room charges are $79.99 per night. Please let hotel personnel know that you are with the AAW group. Those attending will be given the itinerary but we will leave by 8:30am Monday, November 3.

Spouse and Guest Tour on Thursday, November 6: We will start off the day at Green Prairie Sod Farms. They are a multi-generation family farm near Hueston Woods. They have supplied more than 10 million square feet of sod to golf courses, landscapers, builders and developers. We will then tour Hall Farms a supplier of erosion control products. They are a premium manufacturer of straw blankets and straw wattles. Lunch will be provided.

Tour One on Friday, November 7: We will tour Morning Sun Farm owned and operated by Dale and Evelyn Filbrun. They are an organic farm that direct markets to consumer at the farm and at seven Farmer’s Markets. We will also go to Stocklager’s Greenhouse and Garden Center, the area’s largest grower of top quality bedding plants, fall mums and poinsettias. We will conclude our tour by going to the Andersons Ethanol plant. This, the largest ethanol facility in Ohio opened in 2008. They need 40 million bushels of corn to produce 350,000 tons of DDGs and 110 million gallons of ethanol each year.

Cont’d on page 5.
Tour Two on Friday, November 7: We will tour Miller Coors Brewery that opened in 1991. It is a 1,100-acre facility that provides jobs for 560 employees and brews 11 million barrels of beer a year. From there we will travel to the Hamilton Municipal Water department. This is the water system that is used at Miller Coors. After this we will tour Rumpke Landfill. Rumpke is a family owned and operated business that purchased this site in 1950. Rumpke owns more than 800 acres at the site much of which is used as a buffer area.

Tour Three on Friday, November 7: We will tour Jungle Jim’s International Market. It is more than a grocery store; it’s a destination. With more than 200,000 square feet of shopping space in each of their stores, there are over 150,000 products from which to choose. From there we are going to go to Vonderhaar’s Catering. Don Vonderhaar Sr. bought the small market in which he worked in 1969. Their business started with approximately 1100 square feet and today has grown to over 14,000 square feet and a catering business.

Post Convention Air Force Museum Tour, on Sunday, November 9: The National Museum of the US Air Force is the destination of our 2014 post-convention tour. The National Museum of the United States Air Force collects, researches, conserves, interprets and presents the Air Force’s history, heritage and traditions, as well as today’s mission to fly, fight and win ... in Air, Space and Cyberspace to a global audience through engaging exhibits, educational outreach, special programs, and the stewardship of the national historic collection. More information can be found at: http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/main/aboutus.asp

Please Share Your Thoughts About Celebrating AAW’s 40th Anniversary
Please take our short survey to help us gather memories and ideas about celebrating our 40th anniversary. We’ll kick off the year-long celebration at the 2014 convention in Ohio.

AAW’s strength comes from its membership, so we want to hear your ideas. Please follow this link to take the short online survey. www.surveymonkey.com/s/V2JK-BZ3

Will We Visit Your State in 2016?
Are you interested in hosting the 2016 convention? Think about it and talk with your fellow affiliate members. Then, contact President Sue McCrum for information about the application process, president@americanagriwomen.org.

Register online for AAW Convention by visiting the AAW website and click on the meetings button!

AmericanAgriWomen.org
AAW Convention Registration  
November 6-8, 2014  
Hueston Woods State Park Lodge  
College Corner, Ohio  
$105 Room Rate is available until September 1*.  
To make reservations, please call 513-664-3500.

Name: ____________________________________________  Affiliate: ___________________________
Address: ____________________________________________  City/State/Zip_____________________________
Cell Phone: _____________________________________________  Email: ________________________________
Voting Member of AAW? ____Yes ____ No  Are you a first time attendee? _____Yes ____ No
Spouse/Guest: ________________________________________  Phone: _______________________________

REGISTRATION:  

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(See Descriptions on page 4-5)  
Monday, 11/3- Wednesday 11/5: Amish Country bus Tour  
@ $100/person (hotel and meals on own)  
Thursday 11/6: Spouse/Guest Tour –  
Green Prairie Sod Farm, Hall Farms Straw Blanket Manufacturer  
Friday Tours 11/7: Choose a first, second and third choice tour:  
Tour 1: Morning Sun Farm, Stockslager’s Greenhouse & Andersons Ethanol Plant  
OR Tour 2: Rumpke Landfill, Hamilton City Water and Miller Coors Brewery  
*Date of Birth___________  *Social Security #: ________________  
(*We must have this information for security clearance at the water plant)  
OR Tour 3: Jungle Jims International Market, Vonderhaar’s Market and Catering  
SUNDAY: Post-Convention Tour  
National Museum of the United States Air Force -Meals on your own  
TOTAL $ _____________  

How will you be traveling to the 2014 AAW Convention? ** Check one:  
___ Car  That is all we need to know. If this changes please let us know ASAP by calling or texting Beth Fornshell at 937-533-7009  
___ Plane (must fly into Dayton International Airport to use the complementary shuttle)  
Arrival Airline__________________  Flight # into Dayton________  Arrival time________ Date_________
Departure Airline________________ Flight # out of Dayton_______Departure Time_______ Date_________
(**We must have this information for complementary shuttle to and from the Dayton Airport)

Do you want us to find you a roommate? Yes   No   (circle one)

Special Needs or Requests ________________________________________________________________

Make checks payable to OAW and mail registration form to Amanda Ashworth, 2013 Convention Treasurer, 8741 Jones Rd. College Corner Ohio 45003
The votes to determine the national winner of the 2014 Monsanto America’s Farmers Mom of the Year contest are in, and the South has spoken. Heather Dineen, a first-generation dryland farmer, who farms just outside of Dallas, secured the most votes to add “2014 National Farm Mom of the Year” to her long list of titles.

In April, Dineen was selected by the American Agri-Women and Monsanto to be one of five regional winners in the contest. These women were recognized for their commitment to their families, farms, communities and the agriculture industry, and will each receive a $5,000 cash award.

From this amazing pool of regional winners, America then had the opportunity to vote to determine who would be given the additional title of national “farm mom of the year.” Dineen will receive an additional $5,000 for the honor.

Dineen was nominated by her husband, John Paul, who combined his kids’ nominations into one succinct essay. Although she may be relatively new to farming, it was clear throughout her nomination that agriculture has become her passion.

“There have been lots of struggles establishing and maintaining our farm, but Heather always helps us keep going whether she's earning grocery money with a paper route, sewing old clothes into new ones or just helping me fix equipment,” says John Paul. “We love farming, and no matter how hard things get, she always makes time to visit schools and share our ag story.”

Dineen manages the local Livestock 4-H club, is chairman of the commercial heifer committee, and takes time to educate people about farming. She hosts farm tours, takes students to the state capital, and designs a t-shirt line called, “Heart on My Sleeve,” which features trendy designs and ag facts/sayings that are intended to inspire conversations about where food comes from. After Dineen’s young son was killed in a farming accident, she also started a “Farm Safety 4Kids” chapter, teaching safety on the farm as well as ways drivers can keep farmers safe on the roads.

“We are proud to recognize Heather and the rest of our amazing 2014 regional farm mom winners for their significant efforts and dedication to their families, communities and the industry,” says Kris Zilliox of American Agri-Women. “As you can see, they truly represent what being a farm mom is all about, and we’re looking forward to hearing more from them throughout the year.”

To learn more about Dineen, her fellow 2014 regional Mom of the Year winners or winners from years past, visit www.AmericasFarmers.com. To request a list of winners by mail, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to America’s Farmers Mom of the Year, Attn: Sue Dillon, 349 Marshall Ave. Ste. 200, St. Louis, MO 63119.

American Agri-Women and Past President Marcie Williams of Croton, Ohio are featured in the new publication, Barns of Michigan.

“I’m proud to highlight AAW’s contribution to our nation’s food supply, and the tremendous work they do for family farmers,” says Brenda Ervin, author.

The Midwest-based publisher, Barn Door Publishing, is in addition issuing for the first time, The Williams’s landmark Licking County farm is one of hundreds secured by Ervin, an active Michigan Agri-Women and American Agri-Women member. She documented the farm as part of her goal to preserve family farms and barn heritage stories, traveling 60,000 miles visiting scores of family farms and barn sites. Former Governor of Michigan Jennifer Granholm, The National Trust for Historic Preservation BARN AGAIN!, and Michigan Barn Preservation Network, are among key leaders recognizing Ervin’s contributions to America’s rural preservation.

Michigan Agri-Women President Kim Schmuhl says, “Barns of Michigan is an absolutely great read from start to finish, truly unique, and the sections on our organizations made me very proud.”

Barns of Michigan marks Ervin’s more than thirty years as multi-award winning family farm and barn documentarian featured in Country Living Magazine and numerous periodicals.
Borlaug Connection to Oregon

By Arwen McGilvra, Ohio Women for Agriculture

National Ag Day March 25, 2014 coincided with the celebration of Dr. Norman Borlaug's (1914-2009) 100th Birthday. Online this celebration was known as #Borlaug100. Offline this included the Borlaug Summit on Wheat for Food Security in Obregon Mexico.

"Through applied breeding work with Mexican farmers and scientists, Dr. Borlaug, who passed away in September 2009, developed wheat varieties and farming practices that were adopted throughout the developing world last century, saving hundreds of millions from starvation and contributing to decades of historically low food prices. Borlaug received the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize for those achievements, and is one of only six people to have won the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Gold Medal, and the Nobel Peace Prize." via borlaug100.org.

Oregon Women for Agriculture (OWA) has a history with Dr. Borlaug. Oregon Women for Agriculture helped bring Dr. Borlaug to Oregon in 1977, "Belonging to organizations interested in better public relations between agriculture and the general public- Oregon Women for Agriculture, Oregon Farm Bureau and American Agri-Women- the small group was granted an opportunity to personally meet with Dr. Borlaug and Dr. Anderson, as well as the OSU CIMMYT team." The Brownsville Times July 14, 1977.

The article goes on to say what was as true in 1977 as it is today, "As a pioneer in the race to feed a hungry world, Dr. Borlaug expressed some of his concerns over attacks from environmentalists, who lack the knowledge and background, to be placing restrictions on agriculture. Education is necessary he said, and called for better scientific education of teachers."

Previously in April 1974 OWA and Oregon State University (OSU) faculty Dr. Warren Kronstad helped organize a trip of members, legislators, extension personal and wheat commission representatives (more than 50 people total from Oregon and Washington) to the CIMMYT station in Obregon Mexico for a tour during their annual field days. The transcript of a radio news broadcast of the visit reports "One of the most impressive things to me was the absolute spirit of dedication and team work unconsciously displayed by these highly educated plant breeders; and the meticulous, methodical, tedious record keeping system that is essential to such a large scale experimental program to develop high yielding, more protein content and greater disease resistance in these grains." Liz VanLeeuwen on the KWIL Mid-Valley Farm Report May 3, 1974.

"Without a political and technological commitment to agriculture, the world will go hungry." Corvallis Gazette Times March 25, 1980 (Dr. Borlaug's 66th birthday.) This is the message that National Agriculture Day is still working to tell people.

Authors Note: This bit of our history might have been forgotten if it were not for those like my Grandmother who kept the letters, photos, articles, and other pieces of interest. I rescued them from the file in her basement and am working on making sure they are digitally saved. Our history is important, save it because you never know when it will come around again.

Again in 1980 OWA was there when Dr. Borlaug was the speaker for the OSU Ag Honors Dinner. Notes taken that night on the back of the program talk about how the total yield in 1970 would have taken double the land if we had still been using 1940's technology.

The Corvallis Gazette Times quoted Dr. Borlaug, "We have lost contact with the masses in the last 40 years,' he said,'There is nothing that compares with the importance of agriculture and food production."

Arwen McGilvra (age 2) and her grandmother, Liz VanLeeuwen, meet Dr. Borlaug in 1980.
Imagine the Village People’s YMCA tune put to these words:

“Hey, Dad!
I just want you to see!
I say, hey, Dad!
You’re important to me!
So Dad, just come with me —
Down to the ROPS Dealer.
(clap clap clap clap clap)
Where they put on the ROPS
They protect you from Eternal rest.
Don’t you risk your own health.
Or our farm’s wealth! (pause)
Just put on those ROPS!”

Okay, so it has a few wrinkles, but that was one of my contributions for how to spread the message to farm families that Roll Over Protective Structures (ROPS) could have prevented the estimated 200 rollover fatalities in the U.S. last year.

This creative outburst was encouraged as part of a two-day facilitated planning session cosponsored by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and CHS foundation near Chicago’s O’Hare airport. Participants ranged from Extension researchers, engineers who set safety standards for private companies, and the U.S. Society of Agricultural Engineers to non-profit safety groups, insurance companies, medical professionals, and membership groups such as American Agri-Women, American Farm Bureau Federation and National Farmers Union.

Each participant was asked to make a personal commitment to further the goal of reducing tractor rollover injuries and fatalities. There was also a commitment by the group to form the National Tractor Safety Coalition. Some of the roles of the Coalition will be to track data on specific tractors, availability of ROPS for specific makes of tractors, data on the number and type of rollover-related accidents, and provide a coordinated approach to disseminating information to at-risk tractor users.

Here are some ideas that American Agri-Women can pursue to make a difference:

- View and share the U.S. Agricultural Safety and Health centers safety videos on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/user/USagCenters.
- Host a “Father’s Day in August” (or a month in your region that is not heavy with field work) in conjunction with local equipment dealers. Have family-oriented activities and safety demonstrations and involve local emergency responders, FFA and 4-H and other partners.
- View and share Monsanto’s Growing Safely videos at www.youtube.com/user/OffTheJobSafety.

Individuals interested in purchasing ROPS, creating a ROPS Rebate Program or learning more about the National Tractor Safety Coalition may call Pam Tinc of NEC at 607-547-6023.

**Minnesota & North Dakota Agri-Women Receive Small Grains Institute Grant**

Minnesota and North Dakota Agri-Women have received a grant from the Small Grains Institute for their Harvest of Knowledge Agri-Women’s Conference to be held October 24, 2014, at the Ramada Inn, Grand Forks, N.D. The Small Grains Institute has been helping educate and provide information to small grain growers in the region since 1990. Through the success of the International Crop Expo, which has provided funds for the Small Grains Institute, they have established a fund that provides financial support for programs and conferences that meet their mission of education.

The mission of the Agri-Women Conference is to encourage women to become better communicators for agriculture and to open more lines of communication between the agricultural and non-agricultural communities, to help women find and build their personal and professional strengths, and strengthen the lives of families in the Red River Valley. This year the keynote speakers are Stacy & Troy Hadrick, Advocates of Agriculture, from Faulkton, S.D.

Lorri Ann Hartel of the Small Grains Institute presents Deb Whalen, Program Coordinator of the Minnesota and North Dakota Agri-Women’s Harvest of Knowledge Conference, with a $1,000.00 grant for the October 24, 2014 conference.
I am an American Agri-Woman: Arlene Frelk

Arlene Frelk is a member of Wisconsin Women for Agriculture, whose motto is “Information, Deliberation and Action.” She’s been a member for more than 10 years and first became introduced to the group by Ruth Jensen. Jensen had been living in Wisconsin and now is a member of California Women for Agriculture. The two became acquainted through political events they attended. At that time, Arlene and her husband, Calvin, operated a 500-acre Christmas tree farm in Merillan, Wis., which they started in 1955.

“We were often fighting for farm issues that affected us and all of our Christmas tree association and we would travel to Madison and even Washington. Here’s what I found about the advantage of AAW. When we would visit with elected officials, the first thing they would say is, ‘You’re not from my district.’ When I said I was with American Agri-Women, they listened because our organization represents the whole country.”

Arlene’s family operation is now known as Northern Family Farms and has expanded to include nursery plants. The operation now has more than 7,400 acres in corn soybeans, Christmas trees, nursery and timber. It is Wisconsin’s largest Christmas tree business, with more than 6,600 acres, as well as one of the largest “pot-in-pot” operations in the Midwest. One of their accounts includes growing plants for the HGTV Home Plant Collection.

Arlene credits her daughter, Ginger Ahl, and her husband, John, for the incredible growth of their business. Their children, Ashley and Derek, are now part of the business.

She says that she has had to miss many events due to conflicts with their operation. However, she’s now retired and enjoys attending as many events as possible.

“You meet wonderful, wonderful people in our organization. I can’t speak highly enough of them and how devoted they are. We have very smart women running our organization,” Arlene says.

American Agri Women Appreciates the Support of these Generous Fly-In Sponsors!

American Council of Life Insurers
American Farm Bureau
Chain Land & Cattle Co.
Bayer Crop Science
BIO
CropLife America
Dow AgroSciences
Monsanto
Nutra-Lix
Northern Family Farms
Penobscot/McCrum
Syngenta
TriEst Group, Inc.
The Fertilizer Institute
Western Skies Strategies
American Agri-Women Member Travels to Uganda to Share Skills with Local Farmers

Lisa Campion, an attorney with Martin & Associates in Barre, Vt., a resident of Montpelier, Vt., graduate of Vermont Law School and Michigan State University, and member of American Agri-Women and past President of Sigma Alpha Sorority, has recently returned from Uganda for two weeks to share her technical skills and expertise with local farmers. Campion’s assignment is part of Catholic Relief Services’ Farmer-to-Farmer (FTF) program that promotes economic growth, food security, and agricultural development in East Africa. This is her first time travelling to Africa and being part of the Farmer-to-Farmer Program.

“It is an honor to be the first new volunteer in Uganda with the Farmer-to-Farmer Program. When I heard about this program through American Agri-Women, I knew I wanted help make a difference in the lives of the farmers and the agriculture industry in Uganda. I am looking forward to providing technical expertise to the farmers that need support in the leadership and management of their farming cooperative. The Farmer-to-Farmer Program will allow me to share my experience and expertise and give back to others.” Campion said.

Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the five-year program matches the technical assistance of U.S. farmers, agribusinesses, cooperatives, and universities to help farmers in developing countries improve agricultural productivity, access new markets, and increase their incomes.

In Uganda, Campion will assist a local farmer cooperation, Bar Orphans, Widows, and Widowers (BOWW) Cooperative Society, with building the management capacity of farmer group leaders, cooperative management and board members to improve the effectiveness of their cooperative, to steer and participate in their cooperative society, and to better serve its members.

The BOWW Cooperative Society was formally registered in 2013 and is still in its infancy as are the leadership and management capacities of its members. BOWW Cooperative Society is composed of twenty farmer groups which are the Cooperative’s constituent members. The major crops cultivated are sunflower, soybeans, maize and groundnuts.

With Campion’s help, the cooperative will gain a better understanding of their rights, roles and responsibilities which will enable them to meaningfully participate in the society’s activities and contribute to the growth of the Cooperative. Campion’s assignment includes the training of 60 farmers.

In Uganda, maize is a staple crop and small-scale farmers have traditionally cultivated maize for food and income generation. Although the country’s maize yields are low, ranging generally between 1.0 and 1.8 metric tons per hectare, there is great potential to increase the profitability and productivity of the crop by improving farmers’ capacity to conduct farming as a business.

“Lex pro urbe et orbe (meaning law for the community and the world) is Vermont Law School’s motto. I’ve never thought as a small town Vermont attorney that I would be able to be part of something that truly impacts those around the world. Farmer-to-Farmer made this possible,” Campion said.

Campion’s volunteer assignment is one of nearly 500 assignments that focus on agriculture, food security and nutrition in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. This is the first time CRS has been involved in the 28-year-old Farmer-to-Farmer Program funded by the U.S. government.

CRS is partnering with five U.S. institutions to tap into the rich diversity of the U.S. agriculture community: the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Foods Resource Bank, National Association of Agricultural Educators, American Agri-Women, and the University of Illinois’ College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

Campion is American Agri-Women’s Farmer-to-Farmer Program Volunteer Coordinator and will be working with American Agri-Women to promote this program to its members and affiliates over the course of the program.

The U.S. volunteers will travel to East Africa for anywhere from one to six weeks, their expenses covered by USAID.

“One thing we are certain of is that this program will be beneficial not just to the farmers in East Africa, but also to the volunteers from America,” said Bruce White, CRS’ director for the program. “It’s going to make the world a little bit smaller for everyone involved.”

For more information about the Farmer-to-Farmer program, please contact Lisa Campion, lcampion86@gmail.com.
My guess is that most folks involved in American agriculture know that women have always played an important role on the farm. Whether we run the house, run the books, or, in my case, do both while overseeing practically every other aspect of my family’s row-crop and cattle operation, we stand at the heart of American agriculture right alongside our men.

But when you look at who runs our checkoff programs, you won’t see a representative number of the 288,264 female “principle operators” counted in the most recent U.S. Census of Agriculture. For some reason, these volunteer boards of farmers who are charged with investing millions of dollars in research and promotion to support U.S. commodity industries count just a few women directors.

In my case, I am in my third year serving as one of 70 soybean farmers on the United Soybean Board (USB), which oversees the investments of the national soy checkoff. Last year, my fellow farmer-directors and I allocated about $100 million in programs designed to maximize the profit opportunities for all American soybean farmers, from consumer outreach, to research into new varieties that fight disease and pests, to customer programs in China that help poultry and livestock producers use more U.S. soy, and a lot more. I am one of three women on the board. I hope more women farmers across the country – whether they raise livestock, soybeans or any other crop – step up and become leaders in the checkoff programs they pay into. Women with a passion for agriculture make wonderful leaders. We also tend to connect with people really well, as in CommonGround, a program USB started with the National Corn Growers Association that links women farmers with their counterparts in cities. As a matter of fact, CommonGround is one of the ways women who haven’t previously served in ag organizations can first get involved.

In the case of the soy checkoff, farmers typically get involved with their state soy checkoff boards (called Qualified State Soybean Boards, or QSSBs for short) and then, if they’re interested, raise their hand to be considered for a spot on USB. Each of the 31 QSSBs across the American Soybean Belt has different procedures, but any soybean farmer interested in serving his or her industry is encouraged to call the organization and get involved.

Speak up, tell your story, and keep telling it. People want to hear from you. U.S. agriculture needs all the passionate, smart farmers it can get, and women make up a big share of that group.

Women soybean farmers who are interested in getting involved in the soy checkoff should call Ginger Merritt of USB at 314-236-6906, or send her an email at Ginger.Merritt@osbornbarr.com. They can also visit www.UnitedSoybean.org/GetInvolved.


There is something in the air…we have some new affiliates that are in the works! There is tremendous interest in starting a Washington, D.C., or Beltway Affiliate of American Agri-Women.

During Fly-In, President Sue McCrum and I met with an enthusiastic core group of women who are interested in starting an affiliate. Following that meeting we also announced the potential affiliate to people gathered at the Syngenta Reception and found many more women interested in joining the prospective affiliate. Watch for announcements of a fall organizational meeting for this potential affiliate.

We have also been contacted by other members who are interested in starting other affiliates and collegiate chapters and those discussions are currently in various stages.

Watch for more exciting news on new affiliates. If you are interested in starting a new affiliate please contact me at firstvp@americanagriwomen.org.
2014 Fly-In: AAW Made a Difference in D.C.

AAW members from across the country spent 4 days in Washington, D.C. as part of our annual Fly-In. Our goal: Share the legislative positions that were updated at our Mid-Year meeting and educate Beltway policymakers about what happens on our farms and ranches and in our agribusinesses. We discussed such important issues as the Clean Water Act, GMOs, food safety, horse harvesting, tax issues and more. Here’s a glimpse into our visit. View more images at https://www.flickr.com/photos/americanagriwomen/sets/.

And, please check out the resources from the panel of experts who presented at the 21st Annual Symposium, “American Agriculture & The Integrity of America’s Food Supply.”

- Will Coggin, Center for Consumer Freedom, www.consumerfreedom.com
- Janet Riley, American Meat Institute, www.meatami.com
- Mischa Popoff, Author and speaker about organic agriculture, http://heartland.org/mischa-popoff

Former USDA Secretary John Block answers Ruth Jensen’s (California) question at the Agricultural Issues Symposium.

Lesley Schmidt (Kansas), Rachael Vonderhaar (Ohio), Ardath DeWall (Illinois), Kristi Bishop (Oklahoma) and Carolyn Kleiber (Kansas) celebrate at the Congressional Reception.
Legacy Kids Fly-In Scholarship winners were Alden Knodle (son of Heather Hampton+Knodle, Illinois) and Sarah Whyte (daughter of Doris Mola, Minnesota Agri-Women).

Past President Karen Yost introduces the speakers at the 21st annual Agricultural Issues Symposium, “American Agriculture & The Integrity of America’s Food Supply.” Presenters included Janet Riley, American Meat Institute, Will Coggin, Center for Consumer Freedom, and Mischa Popoff, author of Is It Organic?

Members were treated to special presentation at the Philippine Embassy, which included an overview of Philippine agriculture, delicious food and a concert by the University of Santos Tomas choir. From left, Karolyn Zurn, Minnesota, chair of the Government Affairs & Vital Issues committee, Ambassador Jose Cuisia, Jr., and Sue McCrum, president (Maine).

Sue McCrum, president, is shown here with Rex Martin, head of external relations. Thank you to Rex and Jessica Adelman, senior VP and head of corporate affairs for North America for their support — and thanks to all our sponsors.
The Gail McPherson Fly-In Scholarship winners were Karen Barnes, Texas Agri-Women, Alisha Nord, North Dakota Agri-Women and Kristi Bishop, Oklahoma Agri-Women.

American Agri-Women Leadership Academy Webinars

**AUGUST 8th**
**ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION OF AGRICULTURAL LEADERS**
SARAH DORNINK, EXEC DIR - MINNESOTA AGRICULTURE EDUCATION LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
Join us to discuss our next generation of agricultural leaders. We will cover topics for both students at the secondary and post-secondary level, including discussion on mentor programs and offering effective internship opportunities.

**OCTOBER 10th**
**MANAGING THE SOCIAL CLUSTER**
MARIE (BOWERS) STAGG, FARMER AND VICE PRES. OF AGCHAT FOUNDATION
We will discuss tools, tips and tricks on managing different social media platforms while maintaining authenticity. We will also focus on the meanies in the social media world and how to handle them.

**DECEMBER 12th**
**TAILS FROM THE FIELD – HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE AG ADVOCATE**
DORIS MOLD, PRESIDENT – SUNRISE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATES, LLC
Gain insight on the views of consumers and some positive ways to advocate for agriculture. Discover some inside information on those working against agriculture and some effective ways to neutralize their work.

**REGISTER TODAY!**
http://www.americanagriwomen.org/leadership-development-2

AAW members met with Allison Wiedeman, acting ag counselor to the EPA, to discuss the Clean Water Act and other issues.
Thanks for Joining the ‘Call to Power’ Membership Campaign

Thanks for being part of our “Call to Power” membership campaign. Your efforts to recruit new members have made our organization even stronger. And, welcome to our new members from across the country. Your unique perspectives and talents will add much to our advocacy and education initiatives.

Congratulations to the three lucky winners of the free second-year memberships: Emily Golding, Colorado Agri-Women, Lisa Frost, Kansas Agri-Women and Jaclyn Dingels, Minnesota Agri-Women. Congratulations also to Minnesota Agri-Women for recruiting the most new members. They will receive a $200 award to go toward their own affiliate initiatives and another $200 scholarship to be awarded as a 2014 convention scholarship.

Thanks also to the Resource Center for donating the awards. And, remember, there’s still time to win the $200 “challenge award” for recruiting a new affiliate of five or more members. The deadline to be considered for that award is Dec. 31.

AAW New Membership Procedures

Please send memberships to the AAW office using the Affiliate Membership Form. Download the forms from the AAW website or contact the office.

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AAW DATES TO REMEMBER!

- Aug. 15 - Deadline for officer nominations
- Aug. 15 - Deadline for resolutions
- Sept. 1 - Early bird deadline for convention registration