America’s Farmers Mom of the Year joins ag experts at American Agri-Women’s Mid-Year Meeting

America’s Farm Mom of the Year, Debbie Lyons-Blythe, of White City, Kansas, joins other national agriculture experts at American Agri-Women’s annual mid-year meeting, set for April 4 – 6, at the Hilton Garden Inn, Louisville, Kentucky.

Lyons-Blythe says she is proud to accept the award in recognition of farm moms everywhere who work long hours for little recognition. “I’m humbled to be singled out, because there are so many farm moms who work each day to build a legacy for their children,” she says. “I am thankful for everyone who supports farm wives and moms in general.” She authors an online blog, “Life on a Kansas Cattle Ranch,” with which she strives to give consumers a glimpse of life on a family farm.

America’s Farmers Mom of the Year is an element of Monsanto’s America’s Farmers program, an advocacy effort promoting, recognizing and supporting U.S. farmers through communications, awards and special programs that highlight the importance of agriculture.

Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture James R. Comer will welcome the attendees. In his time as commissioner, he has gained national attention through some of his innovative initiatives to enhance rural economic development through agriculture. Other confirmed speakers include William Perry Pendley of the Mountain States Legal Foundation, the Equine Medical Director for the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission, and “Illinois Farm Families” Field Mom program will share how they connect with consumers.

“Since 1974, AAW has been promoting agriculture and educating consumers. One of the best ways we do that is by reaching consensus on political and legal challenges facing our members,” says Karen Yost, president of American Agri-Women.

This year, the group will address such issues as:

- Consumer Education
- Agriculture advocacy efforts
- Mining and Fracking

AAW’s strategic action response teams will also meet to discuss issues related to specific commodities and areas, such as ag business and economics, natural resources, education, and more. Agenda and speaker information is available here: http://www.americanagriwomen.org/2013-mid-year-meeting

Anyone interested in learning more about agriculture is invited to attend the meeting. Go here for registration details, http://www.americanagriwomen.org/2013-mid-year-meeting, or, contact Karen Yost, president@americanagriwomen.org, 406.860.8888.

Let’s make our trip to Churchill Downs memorable. There will be an OPTIONAL derby hat contest going on as we sip mint juleps. An award will be made for the “Best In Show.” Please come, participate and enjoy the fun showing off your derby hat at Churchill Downs!
In my travels around the country where I have met many wonderful women involved in agriculture, I have been encouraged to hear that AAW has been a positive influence for them and for agriculture. I am proud to be a part of an organization whose vision statement is “...a force for truth” and I cannot imagine a time when proclaiming the truth has been more vital to the survival of the world and where it is more important for those who search for and know the truth to speak out. I am privileged to serve with an executive committee and board of directors who share my passion with an unparalleled devotion to AAW with their time and resources. Together, we have been doing our best to represent your interests.

The women I meet are intrigued when I tell them more about AAW, and as we visit, I see them identifying with our purposes and desiring to reach out to become a part of us. I maintain that AAW is agriculture’s “best kept secret” and it is my wish that we annihilate that title; that we could be able to be in more places and tell our story to more people. To that end, the membership committee has been developing a membership drive: “Join Us as We Stand up for Agriculture!”

Mark your calendars and help spread the word about AAW and encourage others to join us. The dates for this promotion are from March 19th (National Agriculture Day) until May 31st. Details are in this issue and on the website.

At the invitation of AAW/ANCW members Kristy Lage and Andrea Hutchinson, my daughter Kellie Kittelmann and I made the trek to Tampa, Florida, for the joint NCBA and American National CattleWomen annual meetings in February. Congratulations to new ANCW president, Barbara Jackson! It was a great event made better by good people and the Florida sunshine! We were welcomed warmly to their meetings and had the opportunity to share the objectives of AAW. Good friends come in all organizations—and I for one appreciate all the work that these women do to promote their industry and encourage each other. The ANCW affiliation with AAW has been a valuable connection for both of our organizations.

Sue McCrum, Chris Wilson, and I visited DC last month and made connections with AAW friends there as we began our preparations for Fly-In. What great meetings we had! I am so appreciative of the many good people in DC who care deeply about agriculture and invest their time and money in AAW. We also attended the USDA Outlook Forum where Secretary Vilsack defined “man-made” risks in agriculture today; those beyond the weather and markets; rather the risks caused to farmers and ranchers by not passing the Farm Bill: the risk of livestock producers facing economic disaster with no drought assistance, the risk of losing the ability to feed ourselves, the risk of trade issues that jeopardize our food safety and production, and the risk of not implementing a comprehensive plan that secures our borders and allows for labor. AAW has been working hard for a comprehensive Farm Bill on just those points!

In February, AAW submitted a nomination to the Council for Agriculture and Science Technology for Dr. Gary Sides to be considered for the Borlaug CAST award. Dr. Sides was a speaker at the 2012 Midyear Meeting at Lied Lodge, Nebraska and did a phenomenal job of presenting...
American Agri-Women launch membership campaign on National Ag Day

American Agri-Women (AAW) will kick off a membership campaign on March 19, National Agriculture Day. The theme: “Join us as We Stand up for Agriculture.”

American Agri-Women is the professional sorority to help women better manage their operations, network with others in agriculture and keep current on ever-changing regulations. This is more important than ever as women are assuming more management responsibilities. In fact, recent statistics show that nearly 30% of farm operators are women.

The AAW membership campaign runs until May 31, 2013. All new members will be entered into a drawing for an iPad mini.*

“Our organization is unique because we include all segments of agriculture and raise one voice together,” says President Karen Yost. “AAW membership expands past U.S. borders. We continue to receive inquiries from women in other countries, who are experiencing many of the same challenges as American farmers and ranchers.”

“There’s so much work to be done to connect agriculture with the consumer and to ensure policymakers have all the facts,” says Yost. “We encourage all women to learn more about what we do – and join us!”

To expand on the broadening geographical focus, AAW will celebrate an international conference at Niagara Falls, Nov. 6-10, 2013. This event will be co-hosted by AAW past presidents and AAW members from Canada, with tours exploring agriculture in Canada.

AAW also regularly hosts a Fly-In to Washington, D.C.; provides leadership opportunities to members; coordinates agricultural education in the classroom; and develops policy for commodities and natural resource committees on agriculture related issues, among other numerous activities. Members of all segments of agriculture, agri-business and consumers interested in food production are encouraged to take this opportunity to join.

OFFICIAL RULES

Join American Agri-Women and become eligible to win an iPad Mini™

ENTRY: New Memberships paid to American Agri-Women will automatically be entered into the drawing. iPad Mini™ Sweepstakes (“Sweepstakes”) starts on March 19, 2013 and ends on May 31, 2013 (“Promotion Period”). Must be 18 or older to enter.

TO ENTER: Visit or attend an AAW local or state affiliate meeting and pay membership dues as required or join online at www.AmericanAgriWomen.org/join-now. All online entries must be received by May 31, 2013. Limit one entry per person. All entries become the sole property of American Agri-Women and will not be returned.

PRIZE: One (1) iPad Mini™. Winner is responsible for all federal, state, local and other taxes and expenses not identified in these Official Rules as being awarded. (Approximate Retail Value $349.99). No cash or other value will be substituted. Odds of winning depend upon the number of eligible entries received. AAW will ship the prize to the winner.

DRAWING: A random drawing will be conducted on or about June 10, 2013 from among all eligible entries received and potential winner will be notified by mail.

ELIGIBILITY: Open to legal residents of the United States and Canada who are 18 or older as of March 1, 2013. Current members are not eligible. Former members of AAW who are not currently members may enter the contest. Void where prohibited by law.
Niagara Falls is the place to be in November
By Kathy Reavis, 2013 Convention Chair

Ever been to Niagara Falls? It was once known as one of the top honeymoon places to visit in the United States. Well, we won’t be going on a honeymoon trip but on November 6-9, 2013, American Agri-Women will be having our National Convention there.

We’ll be staying at the Sheraton-At-The-Falls Hotel AND we are working with the ladies from Ontario, Canada, for a day trip to their area!

Come in on Wednesday for a few meetings in the afternoon with a welcome reception that evening, then go to Canada on Thursday, where we will meet with our Canadian friends in Ontario. There, we will have the opportunity to hear dynamic speakers on trade issues and politics to food and Canadian cuisine, AND you can choose from one of three options on tours.

Tour One will be Prins Growers, a floral greenhouse, and Upper Canada Cheese.

Tour Two will be the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre.

Tour Three will be the Inniskillin Winery (more information on these tours in later issues of The Voice).

Then there will be shopping and dinner on your own before heading back to our hotel. Sign up for this tour on your registration form when it comes out in The Voice.

Be sure to bring your spouses because on Friday, New York Agri-Women is organizing the now infamous spouse tours for them! We, however, will be staying for the concurrent track sessions and enjoying lunch with speaker, Past President Mitzi Perdue.

There’s something a little different in the afternoon with our Town Hall meeting. Be there if you want to hear what’s happening in agriculture in the different states, and hear about the issues that will be discussed.

Have you heard about the “Sweet W(h)iners Session” on Saturday? It’s something new that you don’t want to miss!

Can you imagine a more beautiful spot to enjoy our convention? Not to mention there’s a casino practically across the street! So come – try bringing someone new who might enjoy learning about AAW – and we will have a great time! Hope to see YOU there!!

Mold receives plaque for USDA committee work

Minnesota Agri-Women member Doris Mold recently received a plaque to honor her for her six years of service on the USDA’s Advisory Committee for Agricultural Statistics, with three years serving as chair.

Doris just completed her third and final two year term on the committee in December. She learned a tremendous amount about how the agricultural statistics system in the U.S. works and she and her colleagues on the committee were able to provide a significant amount of advice on how to improve the process and the system for agricultural statistics.

Among the issues that they addressed were reducing respondent farmer and rancher burdens; ensuring continued confidentiality in all reporting; increasing the number of farmers and ranchers reached by the agricultural census; prioritizing follow-on surveys in light of tight budgets; improving web based reporting; increasing the efficiency of NASS through consolidation of activities; and increased use of data in beneficial research for agriculture.

There are opportunities for Agri-Women to have a voice and play an important role on a multitude of USDA Advisory Committees. It is important that women actively involved in agriculture serve on these committees to ensure that a variety of perspectives are heard.

If you are interested in learning more about the myriad USDA Advisory Committees, you may find a listing of them with links at the following address: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentidonly=true&contentid=advisory_committees.xml

Doris is pictured receiving her plaque from Douglas Hartwig, Director of the USDA National Statistics Service Minnesota Field Office.

WHEREAS, the United Nations Agenda 21 is a comprehensive plan of extreme environmentalism, social engineering, and global political control that was initiated at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992; and,

WHEREAS, the United Nations Agenda 21 is being covertly pushed into local communities throughout the United States of America, through the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), through local “sustainable development” policies such as Smart Growth, Wild Lands Project, Resilient Cities, Regional Visioning Projects, and other “Green” or “Alternative” projects; and,

WHEREAS, this United Nations Agenda 21 plan of radical so-called “sustainable development” views the American way, which includes private property ownership, single family homes, private car ownership and individual travel choices, and privately owned farms as destructive to the environment; and,

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations Agenda 21 policy, social justice is described as the right and opportunity of all people to benefit equally from the resources afforded us by society and the environment which would be accomplished by socialist/communist redistribution of wealth; and,

WHEREAS, according to the United Nations Agenda 21 policy, national sovereignty is deemed a social injustice; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the U.S. government and no state or local government can be legally bound by the United Nations Agenda 21 treaty in that it has never been endorsed by the (U.S.) Senate, and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that the federal and state and local governments across the country be well informed of the underlying harmful implications of implementation of United Nations Agenda 21 destructive strategies for “sustainable development;” and we hereby endorse rejection of its radical policies and rejection of any grant monies attached to it, and therefore be it further

RESOLVED, that American Agri-Women strongly oppose the Agenda 21 plan.
# 2013 AAW Mid-Year Meeting Registration

**April 4-7, 2013, Hilton Garden Inn, Louisville, KY**

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<th>Registration Type</th>
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<td>Non-Member Full Registration</td>
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<td>Partial Registration (Fri. or Sat. only)</td>
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<td><strong>OPTIONAL TOUR – RESERVATION REQUIRED</strong></td>
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<td>Fri Dinner Tour – Belle of Louisville Dinner Boat Cruise</td>
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**Affiliate**: __________________________________________________________________

**Address**: ___________________________________________________________________

**City** _____________________________ **State** ______ **Zip** ______________

**Phone** ___________________________ **Fax** ___________________________

**E-Mail**: ____________________________________________________________________

**Date of Arrival** _____________________________________________________________

Mail to Peggy Clark, American Agri-Women Treasurer, 2274 E. Lytle Five Points Rd, Dayton, OH 45458, e-mail treasurer@americanagriwomen.org, phone 937-885-5965 or dedicated fax is 937-885-5942 for credit card registration information. Register online at [http://www.americanagriwomen.org](http://www.americanagriwomen.org).

**Hotel Information**

We will be meeting at Hilton Garden Inn, 2735 Crittenden Drive, Louisville, KY 40209. Call 502-637-2424 or 877-STAY-HGI and ask for AAWGROUP, or go online: www.louisvilleairport.stayhgi.com. Please make your hotel reservations as soon as possible so we know if we will need to request a larger room block. Final reservation deadline is March 15. Room Rates: *Double queen rooms are completely booked for this meeting. The hotel is offering King rooms at the same contracted price of $109 plus tax and has added King suites at a discounted rate of $119 plus tax. A limited number of roll-away beds are available on a first ask reservation. Please ask for the AAW room rate.*

**Silent Auction Information**

Each year, at Mid-Year, AAW has a silent auction to benefit the AAW Resource Center’s education projects. Individuals and affiliates alike are encouraged to bring an item to include in the auction. Keep in mind that winners will have to carry or ship their items home, so don’t make the item too big or bulky. Thank you!
Monsanto’s search for America’s Farmers Mom of the Year is back for a fourth year to acknowledge the contributions of more than a million female farm operators in the U.S.

Anyone can nominate their favorite farm mom by visiting AmericasFarmers.com before April 23 and submitting a brief essay explaining how she contributes to her family, farm, community and agriculture. One regional winner will be selected by a panel of judges from American Agri-Women and Monsanto for each of the contest’s five regions.

Profiles of the regional winners will be posted to AmericasFarmers.com, where online voting will determine the national winner, to be announced on Mother’s Day. Each regional winner will receive a $5,000 cash prize from Monsanto; the national winner will receive an additional $5,000 cash prize.

“The number of female farm operators has grown exponentially over the past decade, and farm moms play a significant role not only on their farms and communities, but also to the American food supply and economy,” says Lisa Safarian, U.S. Row Crops Lead, Monsanto. “The America’s Farmers Mom of the Year contest is one small tribute to the amazing women who balance the responsibilities of family, home and farm, often while volunteering or working in their community and promoting agriculture as well.”

Last year the America’s Farmers Mom of the Year contest received more than 900 nominations from 45 states. From this vast pool of worthy candidates, the judges selected five regional winners as diverse as their farming operations. Online voting on AmericasFarmers.com selected Debbie Lyons-Blythe, a rancher from White City, Kansas, as the national 2012 America’s Farmers Mom of the Year winner. Gov. Sam Brownback hosted a ceremony at Kansas’ Department of Agriculture to honor Lyons-Blythe in front of her family and friends as she was presented with her grand-prize check from Monsanto.

“It’s inspiring to read so many nominations, each cast for a unique and special farm mom,” says Kris Zilliox of American Agri-Women. “We’re looking forward to 2013 nominations, and will work diligently to select winners who represent American agriculture and the amazing women who support it.”

Complete eligibility requirements and official rules can be obtained online at www.AmericasFarmers.com or by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to America’s Farmers Mom of the Year, Attn: Nancy Hallahan, 914 Spruce Street, St. Louis, MO 63102.

AAW Book Club discusses Our Daily Bread: The Essential Norman Borlaug

The AAW Book Club, moderated by Social Media Chair Arwen McGilvra, met for the second time on Facebook on March 1st, this time to discuss Our Daily Bread: The Essential Norman Borlaug by Noel Vietmeyer. This book is fascinating, not only for the insight into Norman Borlaug, but also for the panoramic view of farming from its almost primitive state in 1914 (can you imagine picking and husking 40 acres of corn by hand?) to modern farming—an interesting book for both men and women.

Here is what Amazon has to say:
“Having received the Nobel Prize for Peace, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Congressional Gold Medal, Norman Borlaug ranks beside Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela and Mother Teresa. But few people know his name.
“Our Daily Bread shows why Borlaug should also be a household name. It is the story of how one man saved billions from certain hunger. And it shows how we too got our daily bread.

“In these pages you’ll find a gripping journey complete with chance, change and endless challenge. Norman Borlaug followed his own course in his own fashion. Frequently he put himself at odds with authority. Having found how to lift food production, he stuck to his mission, regardless of all those who declared him wrong.

“That is the thrill ride to be found herein as the Borlaug saga unfolds, teetering forever on the verge of failure only to be saved by some saintly stranger or improbable coincidence. It’s been called the greatest story never told. It’s also been called the world’s first cereal thriller.”

Our next book will be The Last Hunger Season: A Year In An African Farm Community. It’s on Amazon as a hardcover or paperback or as a Kindle book.
American Agri-Women scholarships available
Ardath DeWall, AAWRC Scholarship Chairman

The Gail McPherson Scholarship for AAW Fly-In is available for any AAW member to attend the annual AAW Fly-In, June 2-5 in Washington, D.C. The applicant may be any age, but may not have attended a past Fly-In. This year the scholarship is for $500, and we will award up to three scholarships at the discretion of the committee.

Applications are due April 15th.

The Trenna Grabowski Legacy Kids Fly-In Scholarship is an award for two kids 8-18 years of age, which will pay for the registration fee for the AAW June 2-5 Washington D.C. Fly-In. Eligibility requirement is to be a Legacy Kid Member of AAW. Legacy Kids memberships are available for American Agri-Women members to purchase as gifts to children/young people from birth through age eighteen.

It was Trenna’s idea through the AAW Resource Center to launch a program to provide a vehicle for AAW members to share their enthusiasm and support agriculture and AAW with young people, while encouraging the ultimate entry of two- and three-generation individuals into American Agri-Women. We are asking applicants to write a story including: 1. What you hope to learn from the Fly-In to Washington D.C., 2. What you would like to see in Washington D.C., and 3. What is your current background relating to agriculture. Submit your story by April 15th.

Daughters of American Agriculture Scholarships for further education provides two $1,000 scholarships to a farm, ranch and agribusiness woman or her daughter in two categories: the Jean Ibendahl Scholarship to high school graduates age 18 – 23 and the Sister Thomas More Bertels Scholarship to women age 24 years old or older.

These two scholarships are available to women pursuing a degree or credits in ag leadership, communications, rural sociology, medicine or any other courses directly related to agriculture. Applications for each are due June 1st.

The Helen Whitmore Memorial Scholarship is for any AAW member to attend the annual AAW convention, held this year from November 6-10, 2013. The applicants may be any age, but cannot have attended a previous convention. This year the scholarship is for $500, and we will award up to three scholarships at the discretion of the committee. Applications are due by August 15th.

Applications, questions, and further information may be obtained from:
Ardath DeWall
11841 N. Mt Vernon Rd.,
Shannon, IL 61078
Tel. 815-864-2561
Email: shannondoah@frontiernet.net

Every year at Christmas Ty Nunes of Tulare, California, passes out AAW’s activity coloring books to his daughter’s classroom. We are glad to see how excited they are to have them.

These 44-page booklets are available to anyone who requests them by paying for the postage to ship the books. They can request copies through Vice President of Education Kris Zilliox at education@americanagriwomen.org.

They are also available online at http://americanagriwomen.org/files/Activity%20book2007optimized.pdf (Or under our “for students and educators” tab).

This great resource is printed for us by New Holland, Inc. and we thank them.
Her words were the voice of Americana that kept readers coming back to The Chronicle-Telegram for more than 38 years and gave city slickers an up close and personal look at life on a thriving farm.

But Pat Leimbach was no country bumpkin.

The wife and mother was also a published author, accomplished public speaker and agriculture advocate who lived to bridge the educational gap between the food people eat and the field in which it is grown.

Leimbach, who penned “The Country Wife” columns from 1965 to 2003, died in January, following a brief illness. She was 85.

Followers of her column, which were mainly centered on her family, their farm and the agriculture industry, already know much about Leimbach’s life. Part of what made Leimbach’s columns so intimate was her willingness to write about her private life.

“There was very little she wouldn’t speak on or write about,” said her son, Orrin Leimbach. “To a certain extent, I think that’s what made her popular. She was very open about herself and the rest of us in her writing. She would bring out things that many of her readers could relate to.”

Leimbach’s column was also popular because they were funny. Humor carried Leimbach through life, she said during an interview in 2007.

“It’s one of those professions you have to learn to laugh a lot or you will cry a lot,” she said back in 2007. “I never looked at anything without looking at the funny side, and that for me was a lifesaver.”

Still, she touched on more serious topics from time to time. In one such column, she wrote about politics in Iran after reading about it for her book club. It was one of her last columns.

Gunver Lodge, Leimbach’s sister-in-law, said Leimbach was always one of the most interesting people she ever met. She met the small woman with a big heart as an exchange student who came to stay with Leimbach’s family. She eventually married Leimbach’s brother, William Penton.

“Ever since I met her back in 1975, she was very special to me,” Lodge said. “She taught me a lot. In her, I saw a woman who was always anxious to experience new things and go to any length to do so.”

Lodge said Leimbach taught her how to bake a pie but even had her own mishaps with baking that she took in stride.

“Oh, I remember for my 50th birthday, my family threw me a surprise party and Pat was to bake the cake,” Lodge said. “Well, she started late and the frosting was fairly runny as she drove to my house. She had to put her hand on the cake to push it up because the cake was sliding a bit. It became the joke of the night about how Pat had her hand in the frosting.”

Leimbach’s life was a mix of contradictions that her son said she enjoyed sharing with the world.

“It surprised people that this rural woman could raise to higher levels,” Orrin said. “It was her viewpoint that a lot of people were not educated on farming and farm life and that they viewed farmers as a bunch of hicks. But she knew they were missing valuable education about their food source and rural life,” added Orrin’s wife, Cathie Leimbach.

While some saw just a farm wife from the Midwest, Leimbach was a graduate of Case Western Reserve University and did graduate study at McGill University in Montreal. For a number of years she was a language teacher, before having her first child shortly after marrying her husband, Paul.

She published three books of her columns — “A Thread of Blue Denim,” “All My Meadows” and “A Harvest of Bittersweet” — and was invited to speak before groups in 48 states and five Canadian provinces and appeared on TV programs like “The Today Show” and “Larry King Live.”

Leimbach’s farm in Brownhelm Township has survived five generations and still is going strong as a grain farm with 260 farmable acres.

Since retiring from her column, Leimbach was active — enjoying a social life with friends and family in the area that included book clubs to live theater to non-mainstream movies shown at Lorain County Community College. She continued to attend a number of agriculture-related conferences.

In 2007, she was awarded the LEAVEN award by the American Agri-Women. LEAVEN is an acronym for Loyalty, Enthusiasm, Anticipatory, Valiant, Effectiveness and Nurturing.

Cathie Leimbach said it would probably surprise people, but her mother-in-law loved to share her opinions with young college students, especially those from Oberlin College.

“When they met her they were really shocked to learn a small woman on a farm in the Midwest had written books, traveled to Europe and had a writing and speaking career that spans years,” Cathie Leimbach said. “Her job was to get first year Oberlin students to open their minds, and meeting Pat did just that.”

Biology Professor Mary Garvin arranged the visits to the Leimbach farm.

“It gave students an opportunity to experience the farmer’s point of view,” she said. “Pat was such a giving and intellectually engaged person that she was the perfect conduit to help students understand the farmer’s point of view. She very elegantly showed them the connection between agriculture, economy, religion and literature. It was just wonderful to watch. She was a master teacher and she commanded their respect very easily.”
Agriculture thanks Chrysler for Super Bowl ad

All of agriculture was excited to see Dodge Ram Super Bowl ad, “So God Made a Farmer,” and want them to know how much it was appreciated, so a group of agricultural organizations sent this letter to their chairman. Visit americanagriwomen.org to see the complete list, of the numerous signatories.

February 7, 2013
Mr. Sergio Marchionne
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Chrysler Group LLC
800 Chrysler Drive Auburn Hills, MI 48321-8004

Dear Mr. Marchionne:

The XLVII Super Bowl was as exciting as a championship football game can get, but as you know, the Super Bowl for many is as much about the commercials as the game. This year’s game was even more thrilling for the groups signed to this letter because of your truly inspiring Ram trucks “So God Made a Farmer” commercial – the third most popular aired during the game, according to USA Today – and your partnership with Farms.com, Stihl, Bosch and Mossy Oak declaring 2013 “The Year of The Farmer.”

We wanted you to know your commercial is very much appreciated, and provides a vital message to the millions who watched the game. The ad reminded viewers that farmers and ranchers – those who feed and clothe this country and much of the world – must not be taken for granted, but instead must be recognized and appreciated for what they do and how well they do it.

The national, regional and state groups that have signed this letter represent America’s farmers and ranchers and the industries which serve and rely upon them. Collectively, our memberships total well over one million producers and company employees. Over time we’ve wrestled with how best to remind America that farming and ranching isn’t a 9-to-5 job, and although tough, it’s our life’s work and a life we eagerly and proudly embrace.

We’re aware of the Chrysler Group’s cooperative agreement with the National FFA Foundation and National FFA Organization to draw viewers to the http://www.ramtrucks.com/en/keepplowing/ site to maximize Ram’s support for the FFA Foundation’s “Feeding the World – Starting at Home” program. Many of us also strongly support the National FFA, so your contribution to this organization is also greatly appreciated.

America’s farmers and ranchers are the most professional and productive in the world. Being the best at what we do benefits us all. No other nation can compete with our ability to produce the highest quality, safest, most abundant and affordable meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, crops, fruits, tree nuts and vegetables in the world.

We sincerely thank you for recognizing us; we thank you even more for reminding the rest of the country -- and a big part of the world – how vital our daily contribution is to their quality of life.

Sincerely,

PLC and NCBA ask Supreme Court to settle water rights case

The Public Lands Council (PLC) and the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA) have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear and settle a decades-long property rights case, Hage v. United States. The high court would determine whether the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) violated the “Takings Clause” of the U.S. Constitution when it interfered with Nevada ranchers Wayne and Jean Hage’s water rights.

PLC and NCBA were joined by Nevada Cattlemen’s Association, Oregon Cattlemen’s Association and Washington Cattlemen’s Association in their brief of amicus curiae, filed by Western Resources Legal Center (WRLC).

“We believe that the case’s precedent-setting nature and importance to livestock producers’ property rights merits the Supreme Court’s consideration,” said PLC President and Colorado rancher Brice Lee. “They deserve compensation for what USFS took from them. Ranchers cannot operate without access to the water that is legally theirs.”

USFS had denied the Hage family access to ditches supplying their stock and several meadows with water. The agency demanded that the family file for a permit in order to maintain and use the water. Although a federal claims court decided the Hage family was owed compensation by the agency for the water taking, the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals reversed this determination.

According to NCBA President and Wyoming rancher Scott George, if the agency is allowed to demand a permit for the Hage’s ditch right-of-way, county road rights-of-way established under the Mining Act – known as “R.S. 2477 roads” – would also be in jeopardy. This would further threaten ranchers’ ability to stay in business, George said, since they often depend on those roads to access their grazing allotments.
U.N. Agenda for the 21ST Century: AGENDA 21

The United Nations Agenda 21 program sounds wonderful on face value: sustainability, social justice, equity for the masses. However, the truth contained within this U.N. program depicts something sinister and dark.

The plan calls for government to take control of all the land use and not leave any of the decision-making in the hands of private property owners. It is assumed by the backers of AGENDA 21 that the people are not good stewards of their land and the government will do a better job. Individual rights are to be given to the Global Community, as determined by a Global governing body, not by local elected representatives like our City Councils, Boards of Supervisors, and even State Legislators.

Furthermore, the contents of this U.N. program reveal that people should be rounded up off their own land and relocated to human settlements close to employment centers and transportation hubs. Your land will now go into what they call the “Wildlands Project.” Your land is to be set aside for non-humans. Meaning that you cannot even enjoy setting a foot on it, but it will be left to the wilds of nature and the animals.

Also, the agenda calls for lowering the standards of living of Americans, so people in poorer countries will have more and we will have less, which will become the new norm, and the “Redistribution of Wealth,” will be the vehicle by which equality will be achieved. Are you ready to give up your private property? This is just a part of the plans for a “One World Government.” We have already given up the governing of the U.S. waterways.

This Agenda has been in the works since 1976 and hadn’t amounted to much until we now have a President who believes in it whole-heartedly and is determined to see it through.

To confirm this, go to this website for the original U.N. document: sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/733FutureWeWant.pdf

EPA’s secret and costly ‘Sue And Settle’ collusion with environmental organizations

From an article by Larry Bell in Forbes Magazine. Go to Forbes.com for full article.

“Sue and Settle “ practices, sometimes referred to as “friendly lawsuits,” are cozy deals through which far-left radical environmental groups file lawsuits against federal agencies wherein court-ordered “consent decrees” are issued based upon a prearranged settlement agreement they collaboratively craft together in advance behind closed doors. Then, rather than allowing the entire process to play out, the agency being sued settles the lawsuit by agreeing to move forward with the requested action they and the litigants both want.

In other words, the agency throws the case, somewhat like Bre’r Rabbit agreeing to be thrown into a favorite brier-patch. A big difference however, is that in this case, Farmer McGregor and Mr. Rabbit were partners in the scam from the beginning. It’s the unwary American public that actually does get caught in the thorns.

While the environmental group is given a seat at the table, outsiders who are most impacted are excluded, with no opportunity to object to the

settlements. Accordingly, both the litigants and the defendant agency, operating in coffee bars and friendly courtroom shadows, avoid the harsh outside glare of oversight. No public notice about the settlement is released until the agreement is filed in court . . . after the damage has been done.

On top of all that, we taxpayers, including those impacted regulatory victims, are put on the hook for legal fees of both colluding parties. According to a 2011 GAO report, this amounted to millions of dollars awarded to environmental organizations for EPA litigations between 1995 and 2010. Three “Big Green” groups received 41% of this payback: Earthjustice, $4,655,425 (30%); the Sierra Club, $966,687; and the Natural Resources Defense Council, $252,004. Most of this was paid to environmental attorneys in connection to lawsuits filed under the Clean Air Act, followed next by the Clean Water Act.

News About Agriculture
We’re crossing the border!

Join American Agri-Women as we meet with our Canadian friends in Ontario, Canada on Thursday, November 7, 2013, of the convention!

There are two ways of crossing into Canada:

1. A regular U.S. passport; or
2. A U.S. passport card. The card can be used to enter the U.S. from Canada at land border crossings or sea ports-of-entry and is more convenient and less expensive than a regular passport. However, the passport card cannot be used for international travel by air.

A passport for adults costs $135; a renewal costs $110. The passport card for first-time applicants costs $55; previous card holders, $30.

All information is available at: http://travel.state.gov/passport. Please check it out as it has information for applying in person, or by mail, and what you need to do for renewals.

If you want to come to Canada, please get that passport. We don’t want you to miss out!

See page 6 for more information about the convention.