Borlaug biographer Noel Vietmeyer to speak at Fly-In in Washington, DC, June 2-5

American Agri-Women is pleased to host author Noel Vietmeyer, on June 3rd, at our Fly-In in Washington D.C. Dr. Vietmeyer is a prolific freelance writer who works toward the benefit of malnourished children everywhere. He will be speaking to us at The Fertilizer Institute on Monday afternoon about his book, “Our Daily Bread: The Essential Norman Borlaug,” and offering his books for sale. The book was featured by the AAW Book Club recently during their discussion on hunger.

Representatives from this all-volunteer coalition of more than 50,000 farm, ranch, and agribusiness women will also deliver positions drafted at our midyear meeting to elected officials, June 2-5, as well as visit agencies and industry organizations. The group’s positions, which are reviewed each spring, cover agriculture business and economics, commodities, and natural resources. Highlights include:

• support of immigration reform; • support of H.R. 75, the American Sovereignty Restoration Act that opposes Agenda 21; • support of the RIVER Act of 2013 which improves our locks and dams; • support of current legislation (H.R. 612) in which Gross Vehicle Weights increase, resulting in less fuel consumption, less pollution, reduced pavement wear, and greater safety on our highways.

Go to the AAW web site for the complete position papers on these issues.

West Virginia is AAW’s newest affiliate

Another great day for American Agri-Women! Karen Yost, president of American Agri-Women and Sue McCrum, First Vice President, traveled to Weston, West Virginia to facilitate a meeting with women interested in joining American Agri-Women.

Fifteen women gathered at the Jackson’s Mills State 4-H Camp, home of Stonewall Jackson. Following a discussion with the West Virginia attendees about their interests and concerns of agriculture, it was agreed to form an affiliate of American Agri-Women. The ladies decided to call their affiliate “WEST VIRGINIA AGRI-WOMEN.”

An election of officers named Shirley Leonhardt, president; Heather Clower, vice-president; Phyllis Hinterer, secretary; and Janet Wigal treasurer.

The women were happy to join American Agri-Women in their goal of serving as a communication forum among members and affiliates across the country. Our network of members reach industry issues, discusses them internally and engages in action to ensure long-term industry success.

Congratulations to West Virginia Agri-Women and welcome to American Agri-Women!

AAW is now a coalition of 57 state and commodity affiliates throughout the United States and we also have members in Canada and Europe.

Fifteen women from West Virginia are our newest AAW members as of April 11th. We’ll meet some of them in Washington, DC.
President’s Report

Dear AAW Members,

Congratulations to the newest AAW affiliate organization, West Virginia Agri-Women! First Vice President Sue McCrum and I had the honor of attending their organizational meeting in beautiful Weston, West Virginia, on April 11th. Farm, ranch and agribusiness leaders came together at the invitation of AAW members, Tracy Fitzsimmons and Jean Smith with a purpose to organize this multi-commodity group for West Virginia; and organize they did! Officers were elected, a bylaws committee was formed, and they moved to affiliate with AAW. They are ready for action and I believe several of them will be joining us at our Fly-In and Convention this year. In the meantime, AAW gained several new West Virginia members whom you will be delighted to meet!

The subject of new members reminds me of our current membership drive. New members paying dues until May 31st will be entered into a drawing for an iPad Mini. Please encourage all women to go to the website to join. A membership form can also be found online. Thanks to our membership committee who got the ball rolling on this project! I am looking forward to meeting many of our new members this year.

The 2013 AAW Fly-In will be held June 2-5, at the L’Enfant Hotel in Washington DC. The Fly-In committee is planning an excellent event! Please consider joining us as we converge onto our Capitol city to make known the needs of agriculture. We will be delivering key messages of national sovereignty, immigration reform needs, etc and we need YOU to help. If you have never been to an AAW Fly-In, this year would be a good year to begin. Visits to your Congressmen are vital to all of us, both in your state and in DC. A visit to the Norwegian Embassy promises to add intrigue, and Noel Vietmeyer, author of “Norman Borlaug, Our Daily Bread” (AAW book club book early this year) will be a keynote speaker for our event. You really can’t miss it! Register on line or send your check to: AAW, c/o Peggy Clark, AAW Treasurer.

Congratulations to the graduates of the 2013 class of Syngenta’s Leadership At It’s Best program in Greensboro, NC, in April. What a great week spent with outstanding leaders in AAW! Thank you Syngenta, Rex Martin, Steve Powell et.al. for another excellent program.

Montana AAW members Jody Lamp and Melody Dobson have been scheduling meetings with AAW affiliates and affiliate prospects throughout the country. We just completed a South Carolina meeting with several key contacts in April and have additional meetings scheduled in eastern Nebraska and Oklahoma within the next several weeks. Please, let me know if you have areas we can be of encouragement to for AAW. I will do my best to accommodate these membership needs.

My sincere thanks to Kansas Agri-Women for hosting me at their annual meeting in Abilene on April 27th! What a great group of women with a passion for agriculture, and the energy to make a difference! It was a great meeting and an opportunity for me to learn more about Kansas.

Finally, and most importantly, mark your calendars for the AAW Convention in Niagara Falls November 6-9th. The Past Presidents, Canadian Agri-Women members and New York Agri-Women have put together an awesome program for us. There are so many good reasons to attend! Don’t forget to apply for your passport if you haven’t done that; this meeting will have an international focus as we explore Canada. New York post-tours will really round out our experience.

The Voice is published in January, March, May, July and October by American Agri-Women as a service to members. Deadline is the 15th of the month before each issue is published. Articles and suggestions are always welcomed by:

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
Nominees needed for three key AAW positions

American Agri-Women is a stellar organization for two reasons. First, we have top notch members. Then from those members we get outstanding leadership. Each year we have the opportunity to elect officers and board members. This year is no exception. We have three AAW officers and three Resource Center board members who will be elected at our convention at Niagara Falls.

It is the job of the nominating committee to set a slate of officers. This year we 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 will also nominate four people for the nominating committee for next year.

We are seeking women who are interested in serving AAW in these positions.

Anyone seeking the nomination for the 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 Kettermann Rd., Eaton, Ohio 45320. If you have any questions, please call Jane at 937-336-1456 or email at citizenjane@me.com.

Thank you, Sponsors!

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AAW Annual Fly-In & Symposium
June 2-5, 2013
L’Enfant Plaza Hotel - 480 L’Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, DC 20024
202.484.1000

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Sunday, June 2
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Briefing at L’Enfant Hotel
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm Evening Events

Monday, June 3
9:00 am - 11:00 am AAW Symposium USDA, Jamie Whitten Building
11:00 am - 12:00 pm Agency Visit
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Constitution Class at Kirby Center, 227 Massachusetts Avenue NE
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm The Norwegian Embassy Residency 34th St NW
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm The Fertilizer Institute Reception, 820 1st Street

Tuesday, June 4
8:00 am - 11:30 am Senate Briefings and issues discussion, Senate Agriculture Room
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Lunch
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm Capitol Hill visits to Congressional Offices
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Congressional Reception, House Agriculture Committee Room
Champions of Ag Award presentations
Networking dinners, on your own

Wednesday, June 5 AM
9:00 am - 11:30 am Agency Visits
11:00 am - 12:00 pm Tour
12:00 pm - 4:00 pm Bus makes drops at Union Station, Reagan Int. Airport and hotel
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Possible additional contacts
Special Guest and Speaker, Noel Vietmeyer, Author of Our Daily Bread

Updated Information at: www.AmericanAgriWomen.org
American Agri-Women Fly-In
June 2-5, 2013
Registration Form
L’Enfant Plaza Hotel - 480 L’Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20024; 202. Main: 202.484.1000

Name______________________________
Address______________________________
City_________________State_____Zip _________________
Phone_________________Cell__________________________
E-mail_________________Fax __________________________

*Date of Birth _______________* Social Security Number

(*We must have this information for security clearance at various agencies, including USDA)

Affiliate_____________________________________

Special interests and issues (legislative or regulatory)_____________________________________

Senate and House Bills in which you are particularly interested_____________________________________

Arrival_________________Flight/Airport_________________

Do you want us to find you a roommate?_____________________________________

Any Special Needs_____________________________________

Comments and suggestions_____________________________________

Please use a separate form for each Registration

$175.00 AAW Members: Pre-Registration - cash or check
$182.00 AAW Members: Pre-Registration - PayPal
$200.00 Non Members and Guests
$200.00 On-Site Registration

Check No. Included with form: ____________ Total Amt Paid: ____________

(Registration form also available on the website: www.AmericanAgriWomen.org. No partial registrations available.)

Make checks payable to American Agri-Women; check memo: 2013 Fly-In
Mail form with payment to: Peggy Clark, AAW Treasurer, 2274 E Lytle Five Points Road, Dayton, OH 4545; call 937.885.5965 • Fax form to 937.885.5942 • Email: treasurer@americanagriwomen.org

FYI: Sunday: Briefing begins at 2 p.m. at the L’Enfant Hotel; Monday: AAW Past Presidents’ Symposium, Norwegian Embassy visit; Tuesday afternoon Hill visits and evening Congressional Reception. Rooms must be booked BEFORE May 14, 2013. Special Guest, Noel Vietmeyer, author of “Our Daily Bread”.

Dress Code: International Standard Business Attire for meetings and reception: Tailored dresses; skirts with a blouse and jacket; comfortable shoes; business casual for evening tours.

Hotel: L’Enfant Plaza Hotel; Phone: 202-484-1000 Ask for the American Agri-Women Block (*We ask that you please use the AAW room block in order that we are able meet our minimum reservations.) For additional information please call: Karen Yost 406.794.0888 or go to: www.americanagriwomen.org

Next AAW Book Club meeting on Facebook to be June 7

The AAW Book Club will be meeting on Facebook on June 7, 6 pm PST, to discuss The Last Hunger Season by Roger Thurow.

The book documents what can be done when an organization works with a profoundly poor group of subsistence farmers in Kenya, to educate them on new farming methods and help them get started, with small loans to buy seed and fertilizer.

From Amazon’s description:
“Africa’s smallholder farmers, most of whom are women, know misery. They toil in a time warp, living and working essentially as their forebears did a century ago.

“With tired seeds, meager soil nutrition, primitive storage facilities, wretched roads, and no capital or credit, they harvest less than one-quarter the yields of Western farmers. The romantic ideal of African farmers—rural villagers in touch with nature, tending bucolic fields—is in reality a horror scene of malnourished children, backbreaking manual work, and profound hopelessness. Growing food is their driving preoccupation, and still they don’t have enough to feed their families throughout the year.

“In The Last Hunger Season, Thurow illuminates the profound challenges these farmers and their families face, and follows them through the seasons to see whether, with a little bit of help from a new social enterprise organization called One Acre Fund, they might transcend lives of dire poverty and hunger.”

This book is available on Kindle and through Amazon.com.

We’d love to hear what you think about Thurow’s work on June 7, and are also asking suggestions of other good books.
2013 American Agri-Women
Position Statements

AGRICULTURE BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

AGRICULTURAL LABOR
AAW believes labor-intensive agriculture in the U.S. faces a dire labor crisis. The costly and only legal temporary guest worker program (H-2A and H-2B) provides less than 2% of the workforce and is so badly broken as to be virtually unusable. Food is a strategic resource for the U.S., and the stability of our domestically produced food supply and other agricultural industries is at risk.
1. AAW supports a guest labor program that is market-based and incorporates flexibility in caps on visas and wage rates.
2. AAW supports a guest worker program with a realistic admissions level that will be a legal channel for workers to enter the country.
3. AAW supports strong border security.
4. AAW supports a secret ballot as the way for workers to vote for union representation.
5. AAW supports youth working and learning in production agriculture without government agency intervention. Benefits derived include a work ethic, entrepreneurship, innovation, responsibility, and money management.
6. AAW supports including agriculture workforce in any immigration reform.
7. AAW supports a more flexible guest worker program because of the labor-intensive nature of agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
8. AAW supports continued research and development of tools and techniques that would support the advancement of agricultural production and processes in the United States for the industry and the consumer.
9. AAW supports the management and utilization of baseline data supplied by producers through the certified farm business management educational program.

BIOTECHNOLOGY
10. AAW supports increased research and development of agricultural biotechnology providing producers a greater range of integrated pest management tools to promote sustainable production reducing energy consumption and associated environmental effects. Biotechnology offers environmental benefits by increasing production yields, using herbicide tolerant crops, enhancing soil moisture content, reducing erosion and limiting carbon dioxide emissions.
11. AAW supports the coordinated framework and extensive testing procedures of biotechnological products by the U.S. regulatory agencies (EPA, FIFRA, and USDA).
12. AAW supports the position that it is unnecessary, confusing and costly to the consumer to label biotechnological products or processes.
13. AAW supports the position that any Biosafety Protocol that is implemented should be based on risk assessments and research-based science.
14. AAW condemns the theft or destruction of agricultural research and intellectual property. Research has tremendous benefits to the farmer and the consumer. Genetically-enhanced products have the capability of improving human health, and solving world environmental and nutritional problems.
15. AAW stands behind long-standing APHIS regulatory noxious weed authority that evaluates genetically-engineered plants that are no different than any other plant using the defined criteria that a plant must cause direct harm or physical injury to a protected interest to be considered a noxious plant. Risk assessment should not be made based entirely on economic factors associated with the plant.

CROP PROTECTION
Pesticide Application and Runoff
16. AAW supports an amendment to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), to replace the authority granted by the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals to regulate pesticide use on or near waterways under the Clean Water Act. AAW urges Congress to clarify federal law that governs the use of resource management tools and resource protection.
17. AAW supports the continuation and the increase of the allowable exemptions to the methyl bromide phase-out under the Montreal Protocol and the U.S. Clean Air Act. This fumigant is a vital tool for U.S. producers for the viability of their crops and export fumigation uses for the stability of global agricultural markets.
18. AAW supports the re-registration of current fumigants and continued development of new fumigants for crop production and export opportunities.

Chemical Registration
19. AAW urges Congress to continue oversight of EPA in its review of Section 18, Section 24C and Crisis Exemption requests by the states, manufacturers and third parties.
20. AAW supports the development of a revised process by which biological opinions are derived under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). Under the current process, the reviewing federal departments do not give stakeholders adequate time to provide comments; do not provide all required information on which to comment; fail to address best available scientific data; do not provide basis for omitting available and highly relevant data and information; and, therefore, make incomplete or inaccurate assessments of a product and flawed evaluations of its effect on a listed species. Under ESA these departments consult with EPA which uses the biological opinion of a specific chemical as a basis for new labeled use restrictions having economic impact on the food supply and the producer while providing no additional protection for listed species.
21. AAW supports a USEPA review and determination of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for atrazine that meets the drinking water levels of comparison. AAW supports a federal policy for the use of the best available scientific data/information in the decision-making process for regulating crop production tools.
22. AAW opposes a zero risk standard for spray drift. With today's technology – and the ability to test parts per trillion – it is impossible to get to zero. The requirement should be that products be applied according to the label law.
23. AAW supports the policies that provide for producers to keep records onsite for chemical usage.
24. AAW supports dedicated IR-4 (Interregional Research Project No. 4) funding, a program to support the registration of crop management tools for minor crops. IR-4 coordinates financial and scientific resources of federal government, land grant universities, and the private sector to manage destructive pests that threaten food security, consumer prices and the public health.
EDUCATION

25. AAW believes in an educated public. Furthermore, agricultural education and education about our nation’s food and fiber system must be based on factual information and research-based science. We encourage agriculturalists to work cooperatively on common issues through education.

26. AAW supports the intent of the Carl D. Perkins Act with increased funding for vocational (career and technical) agriculture education.

27. AAW supports a national Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) program with continued funding and support for a national director and the national conference.

28. AAW opposes any authority given to the United Nations or foreign governments regarding the education of America’s children.

29. AAW opposes using public education as a tool to indoctrinate America’s children (pre-school through university) to support any political agenda.

GLOBAL ISSUES

AAW recognized that 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). 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. 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.

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

30. AAW recognizes the need for an international forum for countries to discuss their differences and cooperate on problems of common concern.

31. AAW opposes the U.S. government granting any authority to the United Nations regarding the use or management of any federal, state, or private properties of the United States.

32. AAW opposes the U.S. government granting any taxing authority to the United Nations.

33. AAW supports the concept that the U.S., not the U.N., establish the criteria to be met by developing nations prior to receiving U.S. food aid.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>We support giving “food” in food aid rather than dollars. We recognize that the U.S. needs to provide a steady level of food aid, every year, on which the international humanitarian community can rely.</th>
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<tr>
<td>34. AAW opposes the reauthorization of any designated biosphere reserves within the U.S. or its holdings and any new designation of reserves in the future. *This position opposes Agenda 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>35. AAW opposes the use of U.S. land holdings for barter of U.S. debts to foreign nations. *This position opposes Agenda 21</td>
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U.S. lands are owned by people of the United States of America and were never intended to use for barter. Every effort should be made to re-instate those holdings that have been transferred.

36. AAW recognizes the need for international self-reliant farm programs for developing and/or war-torn countries.

37. AAW opposes any legislation, such as Cap and Trade and clean energy bills, putting U.S. agriculture at a competitive disadvantage with other countries.

38. AAW asserts that any new U.S. climate change policy must deliver environmental progress without harming the economy or U.S. food production.

HOMELAND SECURITY

39. AAW condemns all forms of terrorism. As providers of this nation’s food and fiber supply, we recognize the need to increase our vigilance to protect the production of agriculture products (food, feed, fuel, fiber and flora and the inputs required for production).

40. AAW supports the Bioterrorism Act and efforts to educate producers about ways to safeguard our nation’s food and fiber supply and agricultural inputs from acts of terror.

41. AAW supports rural crime task forces in collaboration with local law enforcement for the prevention of rural and farm crime.

42. AAW urges states to identify homeland security funding to support activities to protect food production and its distribution.

INSURANCE

Health Insurance, Prescription Drugs & Medicare

43. AAW supports that citizens of the United States should have access to the best medical service available that will continue to be delivered by private enterprise.

44. AAW respects and supports continued medical research.

45. AAW supports health insurance and Medicare coverage with the right of Americans to legally purchase medications from the most economical source.

46. AAW supports Medicare payments to rural health professionals and facilities at the same level as their urban counterparts.

47. AAW supports Medicare to include paying for nutrition counseling for those over age 65 and the disabled population who suffer from chronic conditions (i.e. high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes).

48. AAW supports a health care system:

- that increases competition in the form of voluntary purchasing alliances and associations to help smaller employers and individuals buy insurance at a reasonable rate
- that employers with temporary or part-time employees will be exempt from legislation that would require them to pay for health care coverage
- within which decisions for specific testing and hospital stays should be determined by medical professionals.
- that continues to develop and use paraprofessional programs in rural communities as well as programs to encourage doctors and nurses to locate in rural areas. *This position opposes Agenda 21

49. AAW supports legislation that allows associations to offer group health insurance plans to individual members and small businesses.

Crop Insurance

50. AAW supports crop insurance that:

- provides coverage based on current crop history and is administered by the private sector,
- provides affordably priced, adequate coverage, which is actuarially sound and voluntary, in all regions of the country
- requires participation for eligibility in government crop disaster programs.

51. AAW supports crop insurance as a viable alternative within the Farm Program as a necessary SAFETY NET at an affordable cost to producers.

52. AAW supports the reinvestment of any savings from additional cuts to traditional agricultural practices.
LEGAL CONCERNS

53. AAW supports requiring crop insurance for only crop disaster programs and not for other federal agriculture programs.

54. AAW supports the strict enforcement of crop insurance regulations with regard to abuse of the program. Producers should be held to the highest standards. Those who commit crop insurance fraud should be held accountable and fined at the maximum level.

Long-Term Care Security

55. AAW supports continued support in caring for the elderly who are truly without resources.

56. AAW supports an optional national regulator or Optional Federal Charter (OFC) for insurers that would create a uniform, consistent system that would remove barriers to consumer choice and offer consumers the same protections nationwide.

For more than 100 years, insurance has been regulated by the states, with each state having its own unique regulatory system. It is a cumbersome patchwork of laws and regulations characterized by delays and expenses that ultimately disadvantage consumers. Further, consumer safeguards vary and products available in one state may not be available in another.

LEGAL CONCERNS

57. AAW supports legislation which would create criminal and civil penalties for anyone secretly filming or participating in undercover investigations at agricultural facilities without the express permission of the owner of the property. *This position opposes Agenda 21

58. AAW supports the legislative process and due process for determining major agricultural policy.

59. AAW strongly opposes any federal agency mandating regulatory authority without going through the legislative process and due process. *This position opposes Agenda 21

60. AAW supports due consideration to agriculture viability and no net loss to rural lifestyle, local customs, cultures, and human capital that supplies sustainable agriculture. *This position opposes Agenda 21

61. AAW opposes any effort to amend and/or abolish the existing rules of the Electoral College. We oppose any compact or entity circumventing the Electoral College as it currently exists. *This position opposes Agenda 21

62. AAW supports the Open Equal Access to Justice Act (EJA) for all.

The EJA was established by Congress to ensure that individuals, small businesses or public interest groups with limited financial capacity could seek judicial redress from unreasonable government actions. The Open Equal Access to Justice Act is intended to force transparency and accountability on the large bureaucracies of the federal government.

Human Capital: AAW defines human capital as education, knowledge, ability, experience, and personal competencies of individuals affecting economic value.

Sustainable Agriculture: AAW defines sustainable agriculture, including forestry, as using farm practices and resources that produce safe, high quality food and other products for America and the world; resulting in profitable operations that improve the land and environment for future generations.

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AAW recognizes the potential of agri-tourism, value added and alternative crops whether for profit or education.

Telecommunications

63. AAW supports a full range of ownership of telecommunications infrastructure including entrepreneurs, corporations, municipalities, and other units of local government.

64. AAW supports federal resources to build out fiber-based and wireless telecommunications for support of telehealth, electronic medical records and advancements in remote health care. Education and training are especially important in information technology and science-related fields.

65. AAW urges that broadband be made both available and non-discriminatory/affordable (that is, comparably priced to broadband in urban and suburban markets) for all rural Americans.

66. AAW supports the Federal Communication Commission fully compensating low-power television stations and translator owners for costs associated with broadcast spectrum changes or relocations.

67. AAW encourages the Federal Communication Commission to begin and to maintain an inventory of all spectrum usage.

Innovation

68. AAW supports policies and funding for the development of an innovative culture in rural America through transmission of land grant universities’ research discoveries into commercial ventures.

69. AAW supports efforts by non-profits and educational institutions to develop entrepreneurship in youth and adult populations.

Cooperatives

70. AAW supports the ability of farmers and ranchers to join together in cooperatively-structured enterprises, recognizing the importance of protecting and strengthening the ability of farmers and ranchers to join together in a cooperative effort. This effort includes cooperatively marketing their products, and acts as a bargaining agent which ensures access to competitive markets worldwide.

71. AAW supports initiatives that will ensure that the Farm Credit System remains a reliable and competitive source of credit for farmers, ranchers, agri-businesses, and agricultural cooperatives.

72. AAW supports the Agriculture Committees’ continued jurisdiction over the Farm Credit Systems and regulatory oversight by the Farm Credit Administration.

Access to Capital

73. AAW supports lending policies that recognize the unique lending environment of rural areas.

Rural Hospitals

74. AAW supports continued appropriation of federal funds to keep rural hospitals operational and modern.

75. AAW supports Medicare funding for rural health services if Medicare funding or provisions for Medicare funding declines.

Rural Post Offices

76. AAW opposes the closure of rural post offices and facilities that provide rural mail distribution.

TAXATION

Capital Gains Tax on the Sale of Farmland

77. AAW supports broadening of the $250,000/$500,000 exemption available on the sale of a personal residence to apply to the sale of farmland. Farmers and ranchers can easily exceed the threshold in a year when their income spikes and when they liquidate their operations.

Health Insurance for Self-Employed Individuals

78. AAW supports continuing the deduction for health insurance for the self-employed at 100%. However, AAW supports moving the deduction from page one of Form 1040 where it is deductible for federal income tax only, to schedules F or C,
where it is deductible for self-employment tax as well.

**Estate & Gift Tax**

79. AAW supports an individual exemption of $5 million to $10 million, indexed for inflation.

AAW is concerned that the popular move to eliminate the estate tax carries with it a return to carry over basis. This would mean that farm heirs (as well as other heirs) would not get a stepped up basis for property they inherit, making property acquired via inheritance and later sold subject to very large capital gains taxes. While we do not object to the elimination of estate tax, we call for transparency in the ultimate product and a fair analysis of all related provisions.

**Long-Term Security and Retirement**

80. AAW supports legislation to encourage individuals to provide themselves with a guaranteed stream of income for life. Specifically, AAW supports a proposal that would create a tax incentive for lifetime payouts from individual annuities. It would allow individuals to exclude from taxation 50% of income received from an individual lifetime annuity, up to $20,000 annually.

**Depreciation Recapture on Retirement**

81. AAW supports a change in the depreciation recapture rules when farm and other business depreciable assets are sold on retirement or cessation of business. Currently the amount of depreciation taken on most assets is recaptured as ordinary income, thereby eliminating the benefit of a more favorable capital gains tax rate for most businesspersons who sell their business assets on retirement.

**Special Exemptions for Depreciation**

82. AAW supports special exemptions for purchases of machinery and equipment, land improvements, livestock, and buildings.

**TRADE ISSUES, DOMESTIC**

**Transportation**

83. AAW believes that all commercial vehicles operating within U.S. borders must meet uniform safety standards.

84. AAW supports Congress’ passage of a national increase of truck weight limits.

Two federally approved pilot programs in Maine and Wisconsin were successful in reducing fuel costs and labor costs for agriculture and natural resource industries.

**Labeling**

85. AAW supports Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) on all imported agriculture and aquaculture products at the final point of sale to consumers.

86. AAW recognizes food safety and traceability mechanisms; however, the added cost of implementation must not be borne solely by the producers.

87. AAW opposes mandatory labeling of biotechnological products or processes.

**Market Consolidation**

88. AAW supports strong congressional oversight of market consolidation. AAW believes that market consolidation restricts trade and decreases market access for small farmers.

**TRADE ISSUES, INTERNATIONAL**

**International Trade Negotiation and Policy**

89. AAW supports the strict implementation of all international trading rules to prevent unfair practices by competing nations and to assure unrestricted access to domestic and world markets. Furthermore, we believe that all trade agreements should be continually evaluated.

90. AAW believes that imported foods should meet the same grading and safety standards as domestic products.

91. AAW supports equivalent sanitary and phytosanitary regulations as part of any free trade agreement.

92. AAW opposes the use of false trade barriers and punitive tariffs in trade negotiations and policy development.

93. AAW supports payment of the technology fee on biotech seed by all who use the seed—not just those in the United States. The requirement that this additional fee be paid on all biotech seed planted in the U.S. is a distinct trade disadvantage to U.S. farmers by increasing their cost of production.

94. AAW supports cooperative efforts for international market development and promotion programs.

**Border & Port Inspections**

95. AAW supports Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service having the responsibility for border and port inspections with the appropriate increase in funding. We believe that inspection of our food supply at the ports of entry should be increased.

**Sanction Reform**

96. AAW believes that unilateral sanctions have not proven to be an effective means to further foreign policy goals and are disruptive to international food trade. *This position opposes Agenda 21

**International Organizations and Trade Agreements**

97. AAW recognizes the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the primary international forum for world trade. *This position opposes Agenda 21

98. AAW encourages the U.S. Trade Representative and/or the WTO to review the developing nation status definition. *This position opposes Agenda 21

99. AAW supports further liberalization of trade in agricultural products, which can be achieved through the WTO. *This position opposes Agenda 21

100. AAW supports balanced, fair international trade agreements that open international markets to U.S. agricultural products. *This position opposes Agenda 21

**COMMODITIES**

_A domestic food, fuel, and fiber supply must be the basis of our national security._

AAW recognizes that U.S. farmers and ranchers continue to provide a safe and abundant food supply in a healthy environment. The future well being of the world depends upon modern, progressive production capabilities and practices of U.S. agriculture.

101. AAW supports the use and protection of existing and new seed technology for food, feed and fiber to advance a higher economic benefit and to assure an abundant and secure domestic and global food supply.

102. AAW demands the retention and continued development of the US Department of Agriculture. AAW believes the USDA is imperative for the continued global success of our national food, fuel and fiber product security.

103. AAW supports legislation that will enhance domestic and international market growth and also supports legislation that exempts food from trade embargoes.

104. In the event of a natural disaster, AAW supports timely government assistance to affected agricultural producers.

105. AAW supports an efficient and modern transportation infrastructure, which enables U.S. farmers and ranchers access to domestic and world markets. The general lack of transportation infrastructure maintenance, including locks and dams, and railroad monopolies, put all U.S. agriculture and the world food supply in jeopardy.

*See explanation of Agenda 21 on pg. 15.*
106. AAW supports funding for agricultural research and development through Land Grant universities and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to ensure the necessary increases in productivity and safety of food, fuel, and fiber.

107. AAW supports peer-reviewed scientific data, as opposed to emotional rhetoric, be used when educating the public regarding agricultural production methods.

**ANIMAL WELL-BEING**

108. AAW supports the responsible treatment of animals and livestock industry participation in the development of any new policy to regulate treatment practices. *This position opposes Agenda 21*

109. AAW opposes any legislation or regulations that would allow Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), or any other anti-animal industry activists access to slaughterhouses and private animal handling facilities for any reason at any time. Only highly qualified and uniformly trained state's department of agriculture employees should have access to properties for inspections at slaughterhouses or any other animal handling facility; that the animal processing industry by its very nature is vulnerable to attacks by animal rights groups. *This position opposes Agenda 21*

110. AAW respectfully asks legislators, when they are approached by animal rights representatives to carry bills pertaining to animal health, to talk with actual livestock producers about the legislation in order to learn why producers use these practices for the well being of their animals. *This position opposes Agenda 21*

111. AAW supports the responsible use of animals in research. *Opposes Agenda 21*

112. AAW supports legislation establishing strong federal criminal penalties and civil remedies for violent, threatening, obstructive, and destructive conduct that is intended to injure, intimidate, or interfere with animal enterprises and research. *This position opposes Agenda 21*

113. AAW supports legislation that establishes assistance for security programs at research facilities.

114. AAW supports the right of farmers to protect their records from public scrutiny. *This position opposes Agenda 21*

115. AAW supports the legalization of horse slaughter plants to guarantee the humane and environmentally sensitive disposition of aged and infirm horses in the US without onerous excessive regulations. *This position opposes Agenda 21*

116. AAW supports the sale, possession and humane transportation of horses for processing across state and international borders without onerous excessive regulations. *This position opposes Agenda 21*

117. AAW supports the use of standardized best management practices in livestock carcass disposal. *This position opposes Agenda 21*

**COMMODITY MARKETING**

118. AAW objects to all nutrient credit trading.

**DAIRY AND LIVESTOCK**

119. AAW supports programs financed by producer and processor investment that increase demand for US Dairy and livestock products both in the United States and around the world.

120. AAW supports creating a new and/or revised Dairy Production Program to protect against both severe and unsustainable loss of margin.

121. AAW supports limited government involvement to protect dairy price volatility or fluctuation.

122. AAW supports the use of the latest technological tools to meet increased global demand for meat, milk and eggs. *This position opposes Agenda 21*

123. AAW supports availability of new products to safeguard the health of animals. *This position opposes Agenda 21*

124. AAW supports the responsible use of antibiotics and other industry approved treatments to safeguard animal health.

125. AAW supports an enhanced infectious disease monitoring and testing program of imported and domestic animals and meat in order to maintain consumer confidence and market stability.

126. AAW opposes announcements of suspect cases of infectious zoonotic diseases.

127. AAW supports timely announcements of confirmed cases of infectious and zoonotic diseases.

128. AAW supports interstate shipment of meat from state-inspected processing plants where state regulations are equal to or exceed federal regulations.

129. AAW urges the USDA to work with state and federal animal health officials to identify all animals imported into the United States.

130. AAW recommends that any federally mandated surveillance and food safety programs be accompanied with adequate federal funding.

131. AAW supports research and education into standards of care that ensure animal well-being and profitable ways to raise livestock set by marketing demands. This should require the use of peer-reviewed research-based science. *This position opposes Agenda 21*

132. AAW supports mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) to promote consumption of U.S. products.

133. AAW urges Congress to promote policy and regulations that encourage flexibility by the livestock industry to make responsible management decisions on breeding, disease surveillance, marketing, environmental conditions, and other issues that affect the livestock industry and the welfare of animals. *This position opposes Agenda 21*

134. AAW supports an effective track and trace system that is cost effective to producers and enhances public confidence in the U.S. food supply.

135. AAW supports legislation to clarify that Congress did not intend to regulate manure under the Comprehensive Environmental Recovery Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) or the Environmental Protection and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), known as Superfund laws.

136. AAW requests a complete audit of the Beef Checkoff as well as complete transparency in the future.

137. AAW opposes feedlot ownership by beef packers, creating a monopoly without competition, in violation of the original 1929 Packers and Stockyards Act.

138. AAW opposes the Safeguard American Food Exports Act (SAFE), which would amend the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, and if passed, would impose fines and/or prison time for anyone who sells, transports, imports or exports horses going to a humane and regulated horse processing facility. This measure sets a dangerous precedent to halt the transport of all other livestock animals used for food, thus creating a major attack on the agriculture industry.

**FOOD SAFETY**

139. AAW supports federal, state, and local activities to improve nutritional intake and establish healthy eating habits. Balancing information for consumer and schools recommending a daily diet of meats, dairy, fruits, whole grains and vegetables to support healthy living.

*See explanation of Agenda 21 on pg. 15.
**AAW, to address the obesity epidemic in the United States with a special emphasis on children, supports a call to action to improve nutrient intakes and establish healthy eating habits overall. There should be an emphasis in school programs to consume more nutrient-dense foods such as low-fat or fat-free milk and milk products, in addition to lean meats, fruits, vegetables and whole grains, while limiting intakes of sodium, solid fat, added sugars and refined grains.**

140. AAW supports the value of the safe and affordable food supply for our nation and the world. AAW supports a federal standard to maintain the US food supply while maintaining consumer food confidence in the safety of US agricultural products. *This position opposes Agenda 21*

141. To insure the safety of our food supply, AAW supports:

* the implementation of animal health emergency management and eradication programs,
* traceability of all food products,
* Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP),
* continued worldwide surveillance activities,
* monitoring of the status of foreign and domestic animal diseases,
* inspections at the border to maintain a safe and abundant food supply for the American people and the world population.

**FRUITS & VEGETABLES**

142. AAW supports the U.S. Department of Agriculture for increasing fruits and vegetable consumption in federal food programs.

143. AAW supports the continued education for the consumption of U.S. grown produce which provides tremendous health and economic benefits to both consumers and growers.

**GRAINS**

144. AAW supports and promotes alternative uses of all grain and related by-products produced in the United States. We support a national energy policy that includes a renewable fuels standard (RFS) for all transportation fuels and less dependence upon foreign oil. *This position opposes Agenda 21*

145. AAW encourages a coalition of feed, grain, and livestock organizations to assure a unified voice for agriculture.

146. AAW supports a farm bill that better enables producers to manage risk which is effective and efficient.

147. AAW supports enforcement of limitations on foreign material in grains exported to foreign countries, including all levels of handling from the farms to the country of destination.

**LANDSCAPING, NURSERIES, GREENHOUSES**

148. AAW supports the development of industry-driven, science-based, voluntary, Best-Management Practices (BMPs), including but not limited to, cost-share programs and other incentives that assist nurseries in meeting water quality standards and other environmental goals.

149. AAW supports continued research and development of biological, physical, cultural and chemical tools necessary for nursery growers and landscape maintenance professionals to incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPMs) strategies into their overall management regimens. *This position opposes Agenda 21*

150. AAW insists that the scientific foundation and biological integrity of Quarantine-37 must never be compromised. It is a scientifically sound, biologically based barrier designed to minimize the introduction of new, damaging, exotic pests and diseases into the U.S. *This position opposes Agenda 21*

**NEW CROPS/NEW USES**

151. 151. AAW supports research efforts into the utilization of alternate/new crops for commercial food, fiber, and energy uses. *This position opposes Agenda 21*

152. 152. AAW supports funding of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to support research on plant-based feeds necessary to develop the regulatory structure for an offshore aquaculture industry in the U.S.

**POLLINATORS**

153. AAW supports rebuilding viable and vibrant pollinator communities, through continued research across all lands to improve resiliency and functional redundancy in pollinator populations, and to improve long-term profitability of agriculture. Pollinators are vital to production agriculture.

Most fruit, vegetable, forage and seed crops, plus crops that provide fiber, drugs and fuel require the pollination services provided by managed and native or “wild” pollinators.

*See explanation of Agenda 21 on pg. 15.*

154. AAW supports promoting pollinators through further revisions to USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) field office technical guides and conservation practices. *This position opposes Agenda 21*

**SPECIALTY CROPS**

155. AAW recognizes and supports a diverse specialty crop industry, which includes edible and non-edible crops.

156. AAW supports the U.S. Trade Representative establishing a position for specialty crop trade matters in the agricultural office.

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

**AAW defines “sustainable agriculture,” including silviculture, forestry and aquaculture, as using farm practices and resources that produce safe, high quality food and other products for America and the world, resulting in profitable operations that improve the land and environment for future generations.**

157. AAW supports the multiple use of natural resources.

158. AAW recommends policies that promote the abundant renewable natural resources in a healthy, productive environment.

159. AAW supports the use of natural resources to produce food, clothing, shelter, and fuel as a priority for America’s economy and national security.

160. AAW believes that government agencies that are using decision-making powers to affect natural resource communities and industries need to be held accountable for their decisions. There should be:

* specific timetables,
* timely efficiency reports,
* analysis of public and private costs of implementation,
* balancing of harms and benefits

161. AAW supports a clean air standard providing an agricultural exemption for dust particulate matter generated as a result of agricultural activities. Any definition including dust as a contaminant must exempt production agriculture and silviculture. Any increase in dust regulation must show proof of validated scientific justification for the increased regulation. *This position opposes Agenda 21*

162. AAW supports research efforts to identify agriculture’s role in carbon sequestration. Carbon sequestration, the process by
which carbon gases are captured and stored, presents potential technological solutions to the build-up of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. *This position opposes Agenda 21

It is important that regulation of greenhouse gases (GHG) not adversely affect our ability to provide a safe and abundant food supply. AAW contends that while it is possible some producers might gain some benefits, it is far more certain that all producers would face higher costs. If U.S. trading partners do not adopt similar emission reduction strategies, it will severely erode the international competitive position of the U.S.

LAND USE

163. AAW supports the preservation of our nation’s sovereignty and our Constitution as the supreme law of the land. *This position opposes Agenda 21

164. AAW believes that good stewardship of our natural resources is best assured by those who have made both financial and labor investments to become owners and caretakers of their land. *This position opposes Agenda 21

Even though local, state and federal governments own more than 40% of the land in the United States, some groups seek additional purchases of private property by, or through, the government. The continued purchase and taking of private property by the government or government-funded organizations, using government funds, erode the very foundation on which this country, its principles, freedoms, economy, health and productivity of its natural resources are based.

165. AAW recognizes that a family farm, ranch, or private timber concern is a form of business enterprise in which the entrepreneurial decisions are made by individuals engaged in the production of food, feed, fiber, fuel, forest products and/or flora for profit, which provides a major source of income and capital for investment. *This position opposes Agenda 21

166. AAW opposes the elimination of productive agriculture lands to constructed artificial wetland. *This position opposes Agenda 21

167. AAW opposes any authority given to non-governmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations or foreign governments regarding the use or management of any federal, state or private properties within the boundaries of the U.S. and its holdings. *This position opposes Agenda 21

168. AAW opposes the designation of scenic byways, byways, waterways or any other designations and the resulting restrictions on private lands in the U.S. *This position opposes Agenda 21

PUBLIC LANDS

169. AAW supports access to federal lands for multiple uses including but not limited to: agriculture, grazing, mining, drilling, forestry, habitat and recreation. *This position opposes Agenda 21

170. AAW supports a policy of no net loss of taxable private property.

171. AAW opposes preferential treatment to sellers or buyers of private land through tax incentives or other measures to nonprofit entities. *This position opposes Agenda 21

172. AAW supports efforts to prevent entities from setting up “shell” companies in order to obtain funds on conservation payments. *This position opposes Agenda 21

A classic tax avoidance operation is based on the buying and selling through tax haven shell companies to disguise true profits.

173. AAW supports restricting and monitoring the conditions by which private non-profit groups and non-governmental organization (NGO) groups can purchase land with the intent to sell or transfer ownership of that land to the government. *This position opposes Agenda 21

174. AAW strongly opposes the designation of additional wilderness areas. *This position opposes Agenda 21

Wilderness areas are wild lands with special “legal” protections granted by the U.S. Congress that cannot be changed. They cannot be managed to save species, habitat or old growth forests, or to suppress fire. Natural forces prevail. In 1964, when the Wilderness Act was passed, there were 9.1 million acres set aside in 13 states (54 areas). – Numbers from Wilderness.net. UPDATE – As of January, 2013 The National Wilderness Preservation system currently contains 758 wilderness areas comprising 109,510,858. This is an approximately 1,203% increase in lands set aside since 1964. There is approximately 75 additional areas being considered this session of Congress. How much is too much?

175. AAW supports legislation that reinforces our citizens’ constitutional private property rights that requires just and complete compensation at highest and best use for the taking of private property. *This position opposes Agenda 21

176. AAW opposes Agenda 21 and “takeings” legislation that devalues land by:

- regulatory action,
- activities that negatively impact adjacent land by creating buffer zones, scenic byways, scenic viewsheds, and scenic viewscapes, or
- activities that impact landowner’s rights in any way, or by endorsing conservation easements.

AAW contends that water is property [the Hague vs. United States Takings case, January 26, 2004]. Any reallocation of the water permitted for private use by government is a taking. Government is obligated to compensate the owners of privately held water at the highest and best use of the property when the public deems a necessary beneficial use of that water.

177. AAW strongly supports private property owners and the sovereignty of states above the federal government regarding allocations of water within their borders. *This position opposes Agenda 21

178. AAW urges Congress to take no action outside those enumerated powers found in Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution that would infringe upon the rights left to the states and to the people. Article 1, Section 8, enumerates these rights, which are limited. *This position opposes Agenda 21

179. AAW opposes the right to trespass onto private property by land or water access. *This position opposes Agenda 21

EMINENT DOMAIN

180. AAW opposes the use of Eminent Domain for the purchase of private property from an owner to transfer or lease to another private or commercial owner. *This position opposes Agenda 21

181. AAW supports compensation at highest and best use when property is taken.

182. AAW opposes the use of Eminent Domain for economic development and additional tax revenue accruing from such development

183. When Eminent Domain is used for public welfare or safety, AAW opposes the government acquiring more land than necessary for the project.

*See explanation of Agenda 21 on pg. 15.
alternative fuels are environmentally abundant. alternative fuels are an abundant energy supply and must therefore take precedence over the regulations of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

AAW supports the value of human life, safety, and welfare above any other species whether endangered, threatened or not listed.*This position opposes Agenda 21

AAW supports the repeal of the existing Endangered Species Act. Funding for the Endangered Species Act (ESA) needs to be discontinued until such time as the Act is re-authorized and the means for funding re-evaluated. *This position opposes Agenda 21

AAW supports a requirement that the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Critical Habitat designations be completed before restrictive regulatory action is taken. Concurrent social, economic and environmental cost/benefit analyses and compensatory adjustments for takings deemed necessary for species protection is required. *This position opposes Agenda 21

AAW supports an ESA consultation process requiring the use of sound, verifiable, research-based science that is transparent, quantifiable, and assesses the economic impact to agriculture and natural resource production, giving equal weight to historical data of the land before a listing is approved. *This position opposes Agenda 21

AAW supports eliminating subjective biological units (sub-species, populations, stocks) from ESA action and pursue recovery of only significant species. *This position opposes Agenda 21

AAW supports the protection of property owners from regulatory takings by local, state and national agencies. If property is taken, owner must be compensated at highest and best use and for loss of income and expenses. *This position opposes Agenda 21

AAW supports allowing a state or private property owner who is accused of an ESA violation to continue with existing farming, logging, fishing or mining practices until the suit is resolved. This would be accepted unless a violation is proven. *This position opposes Agenda 21

AAW supports requiring feasible recovery plans and selection of recovery measures that are most cost effective and have the least negative social and economic impact. AAW strongly supports accountability by reviewing and evaluating recovery plans every five years.

AAW supports active involvement of all parties before federal agencies make qualified, major decisions in order to have appeal rights. This will then allow the ability to appeal.

AAW supports excluding a specie from consideration as endangered or threatened, or de-list it, if it is abundant in any location. *This position opposes Agenda 21

AAW urges that the EPA acknowledges “extinction” as a natural process of evolution.

AAW believes only native species should be considered for endangered species status. *This position opposes Agenda 21

AAW opposes expansion of habitat area designations for endangered species without peer-reviewed scientific data showing the additional acres are necessary. *This position opposes Agenda 21

AAW opposes the U.S. listing of endangered species in foreign countries. *This position opposes Agenda 21

Once listed, the ESA authorizes the U.S. Treasury to spend American taxpayer money acquiring foreign land, water, and other property interests to “protect” these species. As one way for America to spend money on foreign property, Congress and the federal bureaucracy have authorized several “Debt for Nature” swaps which allow the U.S. Treasury to forgive (“trade”) foreign debt or loans made by the American taxpayers to foreign countries with the hope that the country will stop property use and development to protect these species on the American endangered species list. Some of these “Debt for Nature” swaps include nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) like the Nature Conservancy or World Wildlife Fund buying the foreign debt to the U.S. for pennies on the dollar.

ENERGY

A well-developed diverse domestic energy supply is critical to national security.

AAW supports the 25 X ‘25 Initiative of having 25% of the U.S. renewable energy sources being produced by farms, ranches, and forests by the year 2025.

AAW supports the use of alternative fuels, such as ethanol, biodiesel, wind energy, solar, compressed natural gas, and biomass fuels, because:

• alternative fuels are an abundant renewable resource;
• alternative fuels are important to our nation’s energy security; and,
• alternative fuels are environmentally friendly.

AAW supports development of domestic oil, natural gas, coal, and wind on public lands and offshore as long as international and domestic shipping lanes are not disrupted.

AAW supports development of domestic oil, natural gas, coal, wind, and solar energy on private land with complete compensation and notification.

AAW supports the creation of new refineries and the continuous updating of existing refineries. Agriculture production and distribution is dependent on the oil industry.

AAW supports continued research of nuclear energy and development of new plants.

In setting tax policy on hydraulic fracturing, AAW believes the majority of revenue from oil and gas industry taxes should stay at the local level.

Biofuels

AAW supports biofuels programs to offer consumers alternative transportation as well as heating fuels and offer farmers additional markets.

FORESTRY & TIMBER

Our nation has more forested acres and trees today than a hundred years ago. Natural and renewable trees offer many jobs and economic benefits to our communities, nation, and world. Trees can provide goods, recreation, and wildlife habitats. They clean and cool the air we breathe and protect our water and fisheries. We have a moral obligation to make wise use of these resources and make sure these forests are standing tall for future generations to utilize and enjoy.

*See explanation of Agenda 21 on pg. 15.
Actively managed forests are healthy forests and could play an important role in our climate's change. A healthy tree can absorb 10 pounds of carbon in a year from the atmosphere. The best sequesters of carbon are healthy growing trees. Old and decaying trees release carbon back into the atmosphere and become part of the carbon problem. Timber owners are able to market carbon credits. The removal of woody bio-mass and sawlogs would make materials available to be used for generating electricity, bio-diesel, bio-ethanol, or other heavy fuel oils and aid in carbon sequestration. It is not economically feasible to remove woody bio-mass without the removal of the traditional sawlog. Re-forestation Forestry is the most effective tool to accomplish forest health restoration and reduce wildfires. This includes harvesting trees, storing carbon in wood products and actively replanting trees.

Wildfire activity for 2012 - Wildfires burned over 9 million acres in 2012 with a suppression price tag of almost $2 billion dollars. Catastrophic wildfires take their toll in property and lives as well as air and water quality degradation and environmental devastation. Fire-fighting costs account for nearly 50% of the Forest Service's annual budget. A study entitled “Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Four California Wildfires; Opportunities to Prevent and Reverse Environmental and Climate Impacts” authored by Dr. Thomas Bonnicksen, Professor Emeritus of Forest Science at Texas A & M University focused on four separate wildfires in California: the Angora Fire (2007), Fountain Fire (1992), Star Fire (2001), and Moonlight Fire (2007). These fires burned 144,825 acres. The initial combustion had a carbon footprint equal to 1,864,624 passenger cars for one year. The long term effect of decay had a carbon footprint equal to an additional 5,098,009 passenger cars for one year.

212. AAW supports creating a separate fund to allow extraordinary wildfires to be treated the same as other natural disasters.

Our public national forests are sick and dying. Today's public forests are growing 10 to 100 times more acres per acre than the forested lands at the time Native Americans managed them by fire. The overcrowded forests result in insect damage, disease, and the loss of groundwater. These unhealthy conditions make the forests vulnerable to catastrophic wildfires. Forest fires are more frequent, bigger in size, and catastrophic in nature. Forest fire costs do not reflect the cost of the burned trees, watershed damages, homes, ranches, wildlife, or livestock that are lost. Fire costs now account for nearly 50% of the annual Forest Service budget. The most devastating wildfires, only 1% of all wildfires, consume 95% of all the burned acres and 85% of all the suppression costs.

214. AAW opposes the sale of national forest lands to fund the purchase of more federal lands. *This position opposes Agenda 21

Fifty-one percent of our nation's forests are privately owned and more than 1/3 of these acres are part of a farm, an important part of the rural landscape.

215. AAW urges legislation to offer cost sharing towards environmental quality incentives and tax incentives for developing renewable energy sources (including woody biomass), habitats, and/or water improvements.

216. AAW urges the expansion of the domestic forest products market.

217. AAW urges Congress to amend the Equal Access to Justice Act, requiring a significant bond based on losses incurred by delays, limiting amounts awarded, and requiring plaintiffs to pay government's attorneys' fees if they lose would deter frivolous lawsuits.

**INVASIVE SPECIES**

AAW does not view all non-native species as invasive, nuisance, noxious, or harmful. It is well known that migratory flyways can and do change. Weather, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes can and do cause variations to migration. Oceanic currents can and do cause variations to historic ranges of species. These and other acts of nature cause relocation of species.

218. AAW believes the phrase, “invasive species” needs to be defined as a specific set of scientific criteria and this distinction needs to be made clear in open debate. *This position opposes Agenda 21

*“Invasive species” means an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. “Native species” means, with respect to a particular ecosystem, a species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in that ecosystem.*

**PUBLIC LAND & ANIMAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

219. AAW expects government to comply with the same standards imposed on citizens and businesses regarding the management of natural resources and wildlife. *This position opposes Agenda 21

220. AAW supports active, responsible management of wildlife.

Wildlife overpopulation, overgrazing, polluted streams, passing of disease from infected animals and extensive crop damages are but a few intolerable consequences of wildlife misinformation.

**WATER QUALITY**

Livestock

221. AAW opposes efforts to regulate livestock manure as hazardous waste under Comprehensive Environment Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) or other environmental laws. We support legislation to clarify that manure was never intended to be regulated as hazardous waste. *This position opposes Agenda 21

Non-Point Source

222. AAW supports a national water quality policy on non-point source pollution that gives states the control to develop and manage water quality programs specific to the states’ own watershed issues. *This position opposes Agenda 21

*See explanation of Agenda 21 on pg. 15.*
Programs under the Clean Water Act should promote the use of voluntary Best Management Practices (BMPs) by rural landowners, agricultural producers and urban natural resource users. Given flexibility within state programs, local watershed stakeholder committees can develop and implement Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) designed to incorporate BMPs and monitoring as key components to the protection of water resources and the prevention of future impairments.

223. AAW supports revising water quality standards based on real risk to human health as determined by sound research-based scientific methods.

224. AAW urges Congress to clarify that access roads on federal lands are not a point source pollution. **This position opposes Agenda 21**

**Data and Monitoring**

225. AAW strongly promotes funding the monitoring of targeted waterways and the collection of data for accurate decision-making in the allocation of state resources for water protection programs.

226. AAW expects federal and state elected officials and agency staff decision-makers to use credible, current records on historical data to establish reasonable and attainable year-round water temperature standards for rivers and streams.

227. AAW objects to non-peer reviewed data, including citizen scientists and other collections processes that rely on volunteers as being the basis upon which government agencies develop their regulations.

**WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

**Civil Works**

228. AAW supports the maintenance and continued investment for development of dams, levees, canals and other engineered facilities that provide multiple benefits to people and nature.

229. AAW urges Congress to immediately reaffirm the initial, established purpose of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. The purposes of flood control, navigation and irrigation projects have served both the government and the economic development efforts of this country.

230. AAW supports the funding and construction of new 1200-foot locks and maintenance of the existing 600-foot locks for the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.

231. AAW supports the implementation of a plan for systemic flood protection for the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, and the Red River of the North.

232. AAW opposes the use of Inland Waterways and Harbor Maintenance trust funds for operations and maintenance.

**Trust funds should fund only new construction as intended when authorized. Flood control, irrigation, energy production and transportation should remain as primary purposes for public water storage and management investments. Fish and wildlife “protections” and other environmental concerns should be added using research to ensure that social-economic costs are justifiable with devaluation and/or harm to individuals, communities, or states being fully compensated.**

233. AAW urges Congress to disallow immense public investments, such as dams, to be arbitrarily and capriciously destroyed. Prior to any purposeful alteration or destruction of these public investments or their uses, the government should show research-based scientific and economic proof that this action is vital to national security and necessary for benefit to humans as well as to the environment, as required under the original intent of the authority of the Corps of Engineers. **This position opposes Agenda 21**

234. AAW supports allowing voluntary private funds for modernization of locks and dams.

**Navigable Waters**

236. AAW demands retention of the word “navigable” in the Clean Water Act.

237. AAW opposes proposed changes to Clean Water Act that expand federal government’s jurisdiction over all intrastate waters including groundwater, storm water, ditches, culverts, pipe, tile, desert washes, sheet flow, erosion features, farm and stock ponds and prior converted cropland. **This position opposes Agenda 21**

**Water Contracts, Water Rights and Ownership**

A dedicated and secure water supply is critical to national and food security.

238. AAW urges Congress to honor its contractual obligations to agricultural water users throughout the West who rely on federally constructed water projects for irrigation supplies. Full contract supplies are essential to maintain the West’s productive farmland. **This position opposes Agenda 21**

239. AAW does not support land retirement as a means of relieving the U.S. government’s contractual obligations to provide water and/or drainage service to the West. **This position opposes Agenda 21**

240. AAW opposes foreign ownership of water and water treatment and distribution utilities. **This position opposes Agenda 21**

241. AAW opposes federal purchase of privately held water rights in cases where the federal government would then hold the water right. **This position opposes Agenda 21**

242. AAW supports a prominent role for agriculture in determining water allocation due to the economic and social necessity of producing enough food, fiber, and fuel to accommodate the domestic population and to build the economy by marketing value added and surplus commodity products.

243. AAW opposes the diversion of water from natural water sources to metropolitan areas at agriculture’s expense.

**Wetlands**

244. AAW objects to a national policy of avoiding impacts to wetlands, versus previous policy of minimizing impacts to wetlands.

245. AAW objects to public funds supporting easements or buyouts to non-profit groups for large-scale wetland restoration that removes agricultural land from local tax rolls and other local economic activity. **This position opposes Agenda 21**

246. AAW supports the Supreme Court ruling that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does not have jurisdiction over wetlands that are not adjacent to navigable waters.

*See explanation of Agenda 21 on pg. 15.*
Support H.R. 75 American Sovereignty Restoration Act 2013

POSITION: American Agri-Women strongly urges Congress to support, promote, enact, H.R. 75 the American Sovereignty Restoration Act 2013, an Act for the United States to withdraw membership and participation in the United Nations in order to protect the sovereignty of the United States against global governance and the anti-private property implementations of Agenda 21.

BACKGROUND: The term Sustainable Development was first introduced to the world in a 1987 report (Our Common Future) produced by the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development, authored by Gro Harlem Brundtland, VP of the World Socialist Party. The term was first offered as official UN policy in 1992, in a document called UN Sustainable Development Agenda 21 issued at the UN’s Earth Summit and today simply referred to as Agenda 21. According to its authors, Agenda 21’s goal is to integrate economic, social and environmental policies in order to achieve reduced consumption, social equity, and the preservation and restoration of biodiversity.

Sustainable development proponents insist that every societal decision must be based on environmental impact, focusing on global land use, global education, and global population control and reduction which conflict with the United States Constitution and our foundation of private property rights.

RATIONALE: Agenda 21 is being implemented at the local level through ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (formally, International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives). ICLEI provides a framework for “local” community plans to implement international plans such as Smart Growth, Wildlands Projects, Resilient Cities, Regional Visioning Projects, STAR Sustainable Communities, Green Jobs, Green Building Codes, Alternative Energy, regional planning, conservation easements, reduced development rights, sustainable farming, comprehensive planning, growth management, consensus – all of which are governed by UN International Law via Agenda 21, and directly affect the use and value of Americans private property.

Sustainable Development, using formats such as ICLEI, is quietly emerging as government policy in every town, county, and state in the nation masquerading as progressive policy while in reality implementing international law and restrictions on our sovereign nation.

Agenda 21 policies also seek to eliminate property uses that from the international view are considered unsustainable such as industry, single family homes, paved road systems, production agriculture including grazing of livestock, plowing of soil, and confined feeding operations (CAFO’s), building fences, logging activities, dams and reservoirs, power line construction, and economic systems that fail to set proper value on the environment according to the international standards set forth by Agenda 21.

The effect of Agenda 21 on American agriculture is of significant concern due to the onerous regulatory reform that is being imposed on farmers and ranchers across the nation, making it more and more difficult to comply and stay in operation. Accordingly, they give up and sell their farms and land, at the expense of fewer farms, fewer farmers, higher food prices, and a growing concern of a domestic food shortage, not to mention the loss of land ownership. Operating under these regulatory conditions imposed by Agenda 21 puts the security of our nation’s food supply at risk, as well as our right to private property and the sovereignty of our nation.

CONCLUSION: American Agri-Women strongly urges Congress to protect the sovereignty of the United States of America and our foundational concept of private property. We ask Congress to support and pass H.R. 75 American Sovereignty Restoration Act 2013.
**POSITION:** American Agri-Women strongly urges Congress to support, promote, enact, and fund comprehensive immigration reform legislation. We specifically support the agricultural provisions of S.744, the “Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Reform Act.”

**BACKGROUND:** The last significant comprehensive immigration reform (Immigration Reform and Control Act – IRCA) law was adopted in 1986. It provided amnesty for many undocumented inhabitants in the country by granting legal status to nearly 3 million individuals. The law made it illegal for employers to knowingly hire or recruit unauthorized immigrants. It also created the H2A program, the current agricultural seasonal visa program.

Many of the rules and regulations of the H2A program have caused unnecessary complications in the flow of the foreign born workforce, exacerbated by costly administrative and regulatory fees and overly complex regulations. Despite employers best efforts to hire a legal workforce the demand for skilled agricultural workers, especially in rural areas, far outmatches the supply of legal, able-bodied, experienced laborers.

Today, Congress estimates there are over 11 million undocumented individuals present in the United States, many of whom are employed in various professions, including agriculture. The H2A visa program in the US only provides a small fraction of workers in agriculture. America’s legal immigration system is broken and must be overhauled and modernized.

**RATIONALE:** Today’s immigration system is sorely outdated and requires reform. Only 50,000 H2A visas were issued last year, while an estimated 1.2 million unauthorized workers comprise a significant majority of the US agricultural workforce. Just in California there are an estimated 385,000 farm workers! The US Census population numbers stand at over 315 million, of which an estimated 11 million are undocumented.

A stable and consistent agricultural labor force is in great jeopardy if action is not taken to address the inefficiencies, costliness and lack of fairness in the system. Labor shortages in agriculture have forced farmers to consider a decrease of production of high-value specialty crops that are labor intensive in favor of lower-value mechanized crops such as corn or soybeans or even not planting at all. If left unresolved, we are risking food security by importing more produce, dairy products, and other food from foreign countries.

We are long overdue for reform. S.744, the “Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Reform Act” would require border security, create a legal workforce from a current workforce that is already working in the US, manage visas and track immigrants coming in and leaving the country and provide the nation with food security to help get our economy back on the right track.

**CONCLUSION:** American Agri-Women strongly urges Congress to support and pass Comprehensive Immigration Reform legislation. We specifically support the agricultural provisions of S. 744 “Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Reform Act”.
American Agri-Women

Inland Waterways Transportation Capital Development Plan (RIVER Act S.407)

POSITION: American Agri-Women has joined National, State, Regional, and Local Organizations in supporting the Inland Waterways Capital Development Plan which is included as elements in the RIVER Act: Reinvesting in Vital Economic Rivers and Waterways Act of 2013 (S. 407). We urge Congress to pass this legislation to reinvest in vital economic rivers and waterways in the United States for the purpose of inland waterways transportation and support the reforms of the funding process.

BACKGROUND: The inland waterway system includes 12,000 miles of commercially navigable channels and some 240 lock sites. This system was essentially built by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s and 1940s and moves commerce to and from 38 states, servicing industrial and agricultural centers and facilitates imports and exports at the gateway ports.

Over the years there has been little modernization if any. The current procedure is to fix failures as they happen. In 2007, Congress authorized major improvements for the system that would double its capacity. However, since its passage, that improvement measure has never been funded and has fallen under the “pork barrel” rules of Congress. When Lock 27 closed for 5 days due to emergency repairs the estimated cost was $2.8 million per day.

RATIONALE: The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) has released its economic impact study titled, “Failure to Act: The Economic Impact of Current Investment Trends in Airports, Inland Waterways, and Marine Ports Infrastructure.” Their conclusion was: The greatest threats to the efficiency and performance of the inland waterway system are the scheduled and unscheduled delays caused by insufficient funding for operation and maintenance of the locks and dams. A recent study funded by the United Soybean Board’s Global Opportunities program in coordination with the Soy Transportation Coalition has concluded that an ideal situation would include providing regular routine maintenance and major rehabilitation.

The Congressionally-authorized Inland Waterways User Board has worked to develop a comprehensive package of recommendations to ensure the vitality of this critical transportation system.

The recommendations are as follows:

• Measures to improve the efficiency of Corps design and construction process;
• The uses of weighted criteria to prioritize which projects get funding;
• An emphasis on finishing projects in their order on commencement;
• A cost-share model that includes continuation of the 50%/50% split between industry and government for the lock construction and major lock rehabilitation projects that cost more than $100 million, and 100% federal funding for dams and lock rehabilitation projects under $100 million;
• A cost-share cap on industry contributions for new lock construction to prevent against escalating costs; and
• An increase in the Inland Waterways Fuel Tax of six to nine cents per gallon.

CONCLUSION: Adoption of this comprehensive solution will allow stakeholders of the inland waterways to enjoy the benefits of infrastructure improvements for the next generation. It will also benefit the public at large by ensuring and enhancing the environmental and economic advantages of waterborne commerce. Support the RIVER Act (S.407) as endorsed by the American Waterways Operators and the Board of Directors of Waterways Council, Inc.
American Agri-Women

Immigration Reform

POSITION: American Agri-Women strongly urges Congress to support, promote, enact, and fund comprehensive immigration reform legislation. We specifically support the agricultural provisions of S.744, the “Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Reform Act.”

BACKGROUND: The last significant comprehensive immigration reform (Immigration Reform and Control Act – IRCA) law was adopted in 1986. It provided amnesty for many undocumented inhabitants in the country by granting legal status to nearly 3 million individuals. The law made it illegal for employers to knowingly hire or recruit unauthorized immigrants. It also created the H2A program, the current agricultural seasonal visa program.

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RATIONALE: Today’s immigration system is sorely outdated and requires reform. Only 50,000 H2A visas were issued last year, while an estimated 1.2 million unauthorized workers comprise a significant majority of the US agricultural workforce. Just in California there are an estimated 385,000 farm workers! The US Census population numbers stand at over 315 million, of which an estimated 11 million are undocumented. A stable and consistent agricultural labor force is in great jeopardy if action is not taken to address the inefficiencies, costliness and lack of fairness in the system.

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We will take this opportunity to recognize two members of the U.S. Congress with the prestigious AAW “Champion of Agriculture” awards for their steadfast courage in holding up the ideals of American agriculture to their peers.

Sincerely,
Karen Yost, President
American Agri-Women

RSVP AAWrsvps@yahoo.com

~We appreciate support from these friends of AAW~
American Council of Life Insurers
American Sugar Alliance
American Petroleum Institute
AT&T
BIO
CropLife America
DowAgro Sciences
Farm Credit
Monsanto
TriEst

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In Louisville, Kentucky, Hats were in!

This year AAW members who attended Mid-Year played as well as worked. Here, Churchill Downs bugler, Steve Buttleman, is surrounded by all the women who showed off their Derby hats during a break in work sessions. “Best of Show” hat was worn by Anna Morrison, Timber Committee chair.

The result of our work is the 2013 Positions we hammered out, which are on pages 5-14, ready to study and take to our congressional delegates during the Fly-In June 4-7. We did get a chance to tour Churchill Downs and enjoy mint juleps at their cafe.

Any more dates? Next years convention?