Advocating Nationwide on the Drive Across America

By Lesley Schmidt, Kansas Agri-Women and Drive committee member

The Drive Across America kicked off in Maine on June 3 and has now made its way to the West Coast. AAW President Sue McCrum, Vice President Doris Mold, and others are trekking across our beautiful nation.

With the Drive, we have been able to recognize many of the women in agriculture and help develop a stronger connection between American agriculturalists and consumers, all while highlighting the exceptional agriculture, food and fiber system in the United States. As our motto for this year’s celebration has it, we will continue to plant the future of agriculture by bringing people together to support and promote agriculture as well as rise to our “Planting Our Future” Challenge.

So far, the Drive Across America has covered more than 9,000 miles with an assortment of agriculture and stories shared with the younger generation and the wiser generation.

It has been great to catch up with our affiliate organizations along the Drive. We have been able to network at farmer markets, agri-tourism sites, agribusinesses and many other venues.

Our “pilots” have been able to see a variety of agriculture history along their journey and see firsthand some of the

Get Ready to Tour Maine at the 2015 Convention

Maine will provide a scenic, educational and inspiring location for our 2015 convention, which runs Nov. 5–8. Check out the information below regarding meeting logistics as well as details about the outstanding tour possibilities. See you in Maine!

Hotel Information: The DoubleTree by Hilton Portland Hotel is located at 363 Maine Mall Road in South Portland, Maine. The room rate is $105 with a “cut-off date” of October 26, 2015. To make reservations, please call 1-207-775-6161. Rooms are reserved under AAW booking code.

Shuttle Information: Complimentary 24-hour shuttle service is available by DoubleTree from Portland International Jetport. Their shuttle phone is available at the airport terminal.

Cancellations of Convention Registrations need to be made in writing and sent postmarked by October 15, 2015, for a full refund.

Tour Descriptions

Thursday, Nov. 5: Pineland Farms

Pineland Farms is a privately owned working farm in New Gloucester, Maine, open to the public for exploration, recreation, and education. We will be visiting their equestrian center, creamery and hydroponic greenhouse. Members will have the opportunity to browse the market for an assortment of farm-fresh items and baked goods as well as Maine-made beer, wine and gifts. We will be having a Maine lobster dinner and entertainment that evening.
Hello, everyone!

We are on the move!

We started our Drive Across America on June 3, 2015, from northern Maine. McCain Foods USA launched our Drive from their processing plant in Easton. Our local newspaper and TV station covered our departure with great enthusiasm.

Maine Agri-Women and family and friends were there for support as Doris Mold, 1st VP, and myself began AAW’s Drive. We have put 4,000 miles behind us as we traveled from New England to Minnesota, visiting affiliates, members and our Drive sponsors along the way. We will be joined by other members of AAW as each of us take time off along the way. One big highlight was being allowed to park in front of the USDA building in D.C. as AAW members attended our Fly-In. AAW was recognized for its 40 years of agricultural advocacy at the Ag in the Classroom national convention. This was arranged by Kentucky Women in Agriculture. Donnell Scott, VP of Education, represented us well at this event.

This year’s Fly-In was well attended! Thanks to ALL members who worked so long to make this year’s Fly-In one to remember. We all enjoyed our tour of Mt. Vernon. Our briefing on Sunday afternoon prepared us to meet with our senators and representatives for our visits on the Hill. Our past presidents presented our annual symposium: “Divided Lands: Federal vs. State Management of Lands in the West” at the USDA building. We met with representatives of the EPA, FDA, FSA and many more. We were guests of the Saudi Arabian Embassy. Our Congressional reception was well attended. AAW members concluded our Fly-In with visits from members of Congress at our round table discussions on Wednesday.

AAW members concerns are being heard on the Hill. Keep up your efforts to inform your representatives in D.C. of what is going on in your region of the country regarding agricultural issues.

AAW’s Drive is going to be visiting you between now and November. We have had many requests to visit many different areas of each state. I hope everyone understands that the many miles and volunteered time allow us only a certain amount time to visit each state. I wish we had all the time in the world to visit with every AAW member. We are so grateful for the opportunities to visit with our members and affiliates so far.

We drove through the tremendous rains that flooded parts of Illinois and Indiana. I saw the devastating results of those storms. I think we all understand the heartbreak of those affected by wet weather. We live in a beautiful county. I have seen women involved with farming, ranching and agribusiness as we travel up and down the highways throughout our travels. You represent the BEST of the BEST of those who grow our food and fiber.

I have seen acres of cherry trees, apple orchards, strawberry fields, corn fields, soybeans growing, potatoes being planted, Christmas tree farms and acres of ornamentals, nursery trees and flowers and dairy farms. I have toured research facilities and processing facilities. The farm markets along the way seem to beckon us in as we travel by.

We never tire of telling your stories to consumers along our Drive. People do want to know who is growing their food and fiber. Our Drive is being followed by thousands. Orion Samuelson of WGN and This Week in Agribusiness invited Doris and me to participate in TV and radio interviews as we passed through Chicago. We survived driving in downtown Chicago at 5 p.m. and have finally reached the west coast!
American Agri-Women recently named Rep. Mike Conaway of Texas and Sen. John Hoeven of North Dakota as our 2015 Champions of Agriculture. The award is presented annually to outstanding members of U.S. Congress for their steadfast courage in upholding the ideals of American agriculture to their peers.

Rep. Conaway has served in the U.S. House since 2003 representing a rural West Texas district. He is a strong proponent of the ag industry and supports AAW positions on the “death tax,” the “Waters of the U.S. rule” of the Clean Water Act as well as private property and water rights.

Rep. Conaway serves as chair of the House Committee on Agriculture. He serves on the House Armed Services Committee and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He is also a member of the Armed Services Subcommittees on Oversight and Investigations; Seapower and Projection Forces; and the Intelligence Subcommittees on National Security Agency and Cybersecurity; and CIA.

Sen. Hoeven has served in the U.S. Senate since 2011 and represents North Dakota. He is a strong proponent of the ag industry and supports AAW positions on private property and water rights. He is a cosponsor of the Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015, which was introduced by Sen. John Thune of South Dakota earlier this spring. This bill helps family farms thrive from generation to generation.

Sen. Hoeven serves on the Senate Agriculture Committee, the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture and was a member of the conference committee that negotiated the final 2014 Farm Bill.

most magnificent views of America the Beautiful. Some of the highlights early in the drive have been:

- Launching the Drive in Maine with the help of our sponsors Penobscot McCrum and McCain Foods USA
- Visiting with our sponsor Bayer CropScience and exploring their Bayer Bee Care Center and helping plant flowers in their garden
- Attending the National Agriculture in the Classroom convention and touring the FFA headquarters in Kentucky
- Meeting with the American Farm Bureau women’s leadership committee

• Visiting Beck’s Hybrids, Fair Oaks Farm and a robotic dairy farm
• Touring an ethanol plant and a hydroelectric power dam
• Being interviewed by Orion Samuelson of WGN for his radio and TV show

As President Sue McCrum mentioned prior to kickoff, “Watch for our pickup on America’s highways, interstates, city streets and backroads. And, join in on our drive to celebrate AAW and American agriculture.”

Thank you to the many AAW members and friends who have been liking, sharing and commenting on the photos we’re posting on Facebook as we continue the Drive. To keep up with the Drive be sure to “follow” AAW on Twitter @Women4ag and “like” our page facebook.com/AgriWomen as well as check out our photos at flickr.com/photos/americanagriwomen

Also, thank you to all of our affiliates, AAW members and friends who have attended an event or invited us along the Drive Across America. Thanks for helping share the story of American agriculture!

A special thank you to all our sponsors: McCain Foods USA, Bayer CropScience, Penobscot/McCrum, Renewable Fuels Association, Syngenta, CCI Marketing, CoBank, Valent USA, Freestyle Productions and Sunrise Agricultural Associates.
American Agri-Women Advocate in Washington, D.C., at 2015 Fly-In

By Ruth Jensen, Fly-In Chair

The 40th Anniversary Celebration—American Agri-Women Fly-In to Washington, D.C., was a huge success, thanks to the great organizing team and generous donors and supporters; without their contributions, this annual event would be impossible. It was a whirlwind trip that began with a private tour of George Washington's farm at Mount Vernon. The weather was perfect for walking through history with a very knowledgeable, dedicated docent.

White paper reviews and orientation offered participants an opportunity to get familiar with the issues, ask questions and hear from a few experts on hot topics. Jessica Robinson, Director of Communications for the National Biodiesel Board offered an outstanding overview of advances made in the biodiesel industry and the many products out on the market. Chara McMichael, Chief of Staff at Congressman Randy Weber’s office walked everyone through the process of citizen lobbying.

The 22nd annual AAW symposium’s theme was “Divided Lands: Federal vs. State Management in the West.” Panelists included Utah State Rep. Ken Ivory; Randal O’Toole, Senior Fellow, CATO Institute; Harriet Hageman, Managing Partner of Hageman Law; and Will Coggin, Director of Research, Environmental Policy Alliance. The symposium was provocative, rich with information and enlightening. A lively question and answer period wrapped up this outstanding discussion, which was recorded and filmed by RFD-TV.

The American Council of Life Insurers hosted an informational luncheon on investments, taxes and retirement strategies at its banquet room high atop the ACLI building overlooking the U.S. Capitol.

Our visit to the EPA gave everyone an opportunity to visit with Ron Carleton, the new Agricultural Counselor to EPA, and Allison Wiedeman, Chief of the EPA Rural Branch. Topics included the Clean Water Act, Waters of the U.S rule, and over regulation and restrictions, especially in cases like the Delta smelt in California.

It was a special occasion to visit the Embassy of Saudi Arabia, where we were warmly greeted by Public Information Officer Tarik Allagany, who was gracious and endearing. We enjoyed a 20-minute video showcasing the country’s landscape, culture, and people as well as giving a summary of trade and economic activities. The country’s desalination technology rivals that of countries around the world and the growth of their infrastructure and agriculture activities illustrate their desire to be a self-sufficient country. The visit ended with a really cool fashion show explaining what various Saudi garments, colors and designs mean. Growth Energy topped out our day with a reception at the famous Capitol Hill Club.

Tuesday’s agency roundtable at USDA started off the day with four rounds of talks beginning with Agriculture Undersecretary Michael Scuse who gave us an update on issues relating to the Farm Bill, including disaster grants, conservation funds, and crop insurance, to name a few. Peter Feathers, Senior Economist, spoke on the agriculture labor shortages across the country, then Lilia McFarland gave us an update on Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden’s Women in Agriculture Blog and the Ag Women Lead mentoring network. Dr. Gerald Rushin spoke on the USDA animal welfare policy and the roundtable discussions ended with a great update on the status of immigration reform. Frank Gasperini, Vice President of Government Relations, National Council of Agricultural Employers, shared updates on labor issues around the country.

After lunch, we headed off to Capitol Hill to visit with members of Congress. The packets we distributed during our visits included the white papers we discussed at orientation. They covered air quality, ag labor, the Clean Water Act (Waters of the U.S rule), pollinators, e-verify, and the Endangered Species Act (specific to Sage Grouse Protection & Conservation Act). The Congressional reception closed out the day at the United States Senate. It was well attended by many members from both sides of the aisle.

Our last day of Fly-In was held at the Russell Senate Office Building, where we held our Congressional Roundtable. Leaders from the House and the Senate— including Senators Pat Roberts, Joni Ernst, and Chuck Grassley, Representatives Cynthia Lummis and Collin Peterson, and a representative from Rep. Mike Conaway’s office—stopped by to share updates from their committees. It was a poignant moment when Senator Roberts acknowledged the Legacy Kids who were attending Fly-In. These briefings allowed AAW members to ask questions and engage in dialogue.

Heartfelt thanks to the 2015 Fly-In team for their outstanding contribution in making this event a success. View images from the event at flickr.com/photos/americanagriwomen/sets.

Thank you to our 2015 Fly-In Sponsors: Nutra Lix, Linda Swiercinsky, Chain Cattle Co (Andrea Hutchison), Ardath DeWall, Growth Energy, National Association of Broadcasters, American Council of Life Insurers, Bayer Crop Science, CropLife America, DowAgro Sciences, Western Skies Strategies, BIO, Monsanto, and Tri Est.
CONVENTION, continued from page 1

The lobster dinner is an option for an additional fee of $20 for one or $30 for two. The other dinner options are chicken or steak, included in the registration fee.

Friday, Nov. 6, 8:30 a.m., Spouse and Family Tour: Potatoes, veggies, breweries and cattle immunity.

The tour will start at Green Thumb Farms in Fryeburg, Maine, a farming operation in since 1965 working on over 2,200 acres. Owners Don and Brenda Thibodeau are quality potato growers, marketing several varieties of potatoes for supermarkets, food service distributors and processors. They also raise Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue blend turf, dry beans, oats and corn purposed for livestock. Don and his brother, Lee, have proudly launched Cold River Vodka made from Green Thumb Farm potatoes and have received several awards. They believe that Cold River Vodka represents the only family-owned ground-to-glass vodka operation in the world.

The next stop will be to Curran Co. in Biddeford, Maine. Curran specializes in fresh-cut vegetables and vegetable blends from pre-cut salads to packaged stir-fry kits as well as a vast array of fresh vegetable blends and their Green Giant Fresh retail line. Much of Aroostook County broccoli is processed at their facility. Food safety is their top priority and they offer traceability from seed to warehouse. Over the past 10 years, Curran Company has become one of the top food providers in the Northeast and covers a region that stretches from Maine to Maryland.

We will then proceed to Allagash Brewing Co. on the outskirts of Portland, Maine. Founder Rob Tod first designed a small 15-barrel brew house, gathered the finest array of authentic raw materials and began his quest toward the production of traditional Belgian style ales. Today, Allagash has six year-round beers in its portfolio, seven yearly releases and numerous one-offs and keg only releases. Allagash began as New England’s original Belgian-style brewery and has grown into one of the industry’s most distinguished and well-respected brands.

Also, Friday afternoon our members will be taking a tour of ImmuCell Corp. Immediate Immunity is what every dairy or beef calf needs as soon after birth as possible. ImmuCell’s flagship product is called First Defense and is the only USDA-approved product proven to reduce mortality and morbidity from diseases related to the cause of scour. Our hostess for this tour is one of our newest Maine Agri-Women members, Janet Gertz.

Sunday, Nov. 8, 8:30 a.m., Post-Convention Tour: Lighthouses, lobster processing, wine, L.L. Bean store, and seafood dinner.

First stop, Rockland, Maine, to tour Linda Bean’s processing facility. Linda Bean’s goal is to save Maine’s iconic industry by ending dependence on Canadian processing and to mass market Maine lobster. Besides wharves, she owns a warehouse, several trucks and a lobster pound where several thousand lobsters can be stored for months. The plan can process 20,000 pounds of lobster meat daily.

We will travel to Owls Head, Maine past several memorable lighthouses and visit Breakwater Vineyards, located on the coast of scenic Owls Head. The farm specializes in producing wine, bees, goats and chickens. We tour the vineyard and sample wine and delicious cheeses made on site.

The tour will proceed to Freeport, Maine, where we will tour the flagship L.L. Bean Store. We will have a brief history of the store and time to look around and shop. L.L. Bean is a trusted source of quality apparel, outdoor equipment and expert advice for over 100 years. A satisfied customer is still their most important goal. Headquarters are in Freeport where the company has grown from a one-man operation to a global organization with annual sales of $1.61 billion.

Our tour will end with a delicious meal at Linda Bean’s Maine Kitchen and Topside Tavern. The restaurant serves the famous Linda Bean lobster roll as well as a wide selection of seafood and many Maine products.

Apply for Convention Scholarships

The Helen Whitmore Memorial Scholarship is for any AAW member to attend the annual AAW Convention held November 5–7, 2015. 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 September 1.

Make sure to include all parts of the application when you submit it. Not including all portions will disqualify your application. Please go to americanagriwomen.org to download applications. If you have questions, contact Ardath DeWall at 815-864-2561 or shannon-doah@frontiernet.net.

Submit Resolutions, Bylaws Changes by September 1

According to AAW Bylaws, all resolutions to be considered at the annual meeting, except those coming from the board of directors, shall be sent to Doris Mold, first vice president, firstvp@americanagriwomen.org, at least 60 days before the annual meeting.

Resolutions originating with individual members or affiliated organizations shall be signed by at least 10 members and be accompanied by supporting data and rationale. Emergency resolutions may be presented by a two-thirds vote of the delegates. The presenter must provide copies for each delegate.
AAW Convention Registration

November 5–8, 2015, South Portland, ME
DoubleTree by Hilton Portland Hotel, 363 Maine Mall Rd.
$105.00 room rate is available until October 1, 2015. To make hotel reservations, please call 1-207-775-6161. Use booking code: AAW.

Name __________________________________________
Affiliate __________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City ________________________ State ______ Zip________
Phone ______________ Email _________________________

Voting member of AAW? □ Yes □ No  First-time attendee? □ Yes □ No
Spouse/Guest: ____________________________ Phone: __________________________

Would you like us to find you a roommate? □ Yes □ No
Special needs or requests (dietary or other): __________________________
______________________________________________

☐ Early Registration (postmarked on or before Sept. 15, 2015): $250.00
☐ Late Registration (postmarked after Sept. 15, 2015): $275.00
☐ Child/Student: $175
School Name______________________ Grad. Date _______
☐ Day Registration Only: $100.00
Which day? □ Thurs.  □ Fri.  □ Sat.
☒ Additional fee for lobster on Thursday night if you so choose: $20.00 for a single lobster dinner or $30.00 for a twin lobster dinner
No lobster? Please indicate if you would prefer: ☐ steak  ☐ chicken
(steak/chicken option included with the registration fee)
☐ Post-Convention Tour on Sunday: $60.00

Total enclosed $ __________
Make checks payable to Maine Agri Women.

Mail registration form to  Maine Agri Women, Attn: Kristi Bray, 2015 Convention, 744 Main St. Suite 14, Presque Isle, ME  04769 or email it to kristibray.insurance@gmail.com. We will contact you by email upon receipt of your registration form. If you do not hear from us within two weeks, please contact us by phone or email to verify our receipt of your registration form and payment: kristibray.insurance@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please call Patti McCrum at 207-227-4156 or Kristi Bray at 207-551-7087.
MEMBER PROFILE: Happy 97th, Jean Ibendahl!

By Diana Ropp, Illinois Agri-Women

Close your eyes and sit back for a minute. Imagine what it must be like to have lived almost 100 years! The joy, the sadness, the adventures, the laughs, the smiles and tears experienced. As I made the four-hour drive back home from Du Quoin, Illinois, following the surprise birthday gathering for Jean Ibendahl, I contemplated these thoughts and more.

What can be written that hasn’t already been printed about the “mother” of the educational program Ag in the Classroom? Well, Jean turned 97 years old this past June and Ruth Hambleton, Linda Swiercinsky, Louise Kabat and I joined Rhiannon Storm and Karen Stoelzle Midden (ladies from Southern Illinois University) and many residents where she lives to celebrate this milestone. It was 2011 when I became acquainted with Jean, when I sent her a short note congratulating her on a recent award she had been given. She responded to me with a lovely handwritten note and I felt like I had known her for years.

As we sang “Happy Birthday” to Jean and cupcakes and punch were enjoyed, she proclaimed with a smile on her face, “Plans don’t always come through or true, but hang in there,” as she raised her hand in a fist pump! What encouraging words from this trailblazing innovator.

Allow me to share a few more facts about Mrs. Jean Ibendahl, the former school teacher. Her late husband, Calvin Ibendahl, was an alumnus of Southern Illinois University-Carbondale (SIU) and a recipient of the Service to Ag award. Jean has been an active member of American Agri-Women and was a founding member of the Illinois Women for Agriculture affiliate, which later became Illinois Agri-Women (IAW).

She was one of the five individuals on U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John Block’s advisory committee to set the agriculture educational wheels in motion nationally. In 1977, the state of Illinois legislature passed a bill to have every school in the state teach about the importance of agriculture. Jean wrote lesson plans and created ‘Agri-Data’ kits to be given to teachers from the northern tip of the state to the very southern most parts. The kits were assembled in Jean’s restored one-room school house on the farm.

Jean and Calvin would meet Illinois Women for Agriculture members throughout the state, delivering the kits which would then be delivered within each member’s region. For example, Linda Swiercinsky received 500–600 kits from Team Ibendahl and, in turn, delivered them to the superintendent of schools in downtown Chicago. This tag team effort went on all over the state.

While Jean and her husband did not have children, education and assisting others in their pursuit of their goals was very important to them. The Ibendahls owned a historic farm, Kimzey Crossing, which was an Underground Railroad station during the Civil War. After 44 years of farming, the couple donated the farm to SIU.

In 1991, she and her husband initiated and supported the Daughters of American Agriculture Scholarship. IAW awarded its inaugural Hall of Fame award to Jean at the 2011 Illinois State Fair. In March 2013, she was able to visit SIU during IAW’s Women Changing the Face of Agriculture conference. Jean always mentions during visits to campus how much SIU meant to her husband and how much support he had received as a student from Dean Gilbert Kroening. For many years, Jean has attended the SIU/College of Ag BBQ during the DuQuoin State Fair. The College of Agriculture at SIU is thankful for the generosity and legacy left by the Ibendahls.

I am honored to have become acquainted with this sweet pint-size agriculture education dynamo. Both Jean and her husband are the definition of philanthropy and true champions of the agriculture industry!
Montana Senator Named ‘Keeper of the Tenth’ Award Winner

Montana Agri-Women recently named Senator Jennifer Fielder as its 2015 “The Keeper of the Tenth” award winner. The award is given to someone chosen by the members of Montana Agri-Women that has proven to uphold and protect the ideals behind the Tenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. It is an award only given when a candidate is deemed worthy of the honor.

“Senator Fielder has provided leadership and direction for agriculture in Helena and specifically for states’ rights,” said Kellie Kittelmann, Montana Agri-Women president. “Her determination and wisdom have put her at the head of the pack and she has remained steady and brave.”

On the importance of both citizens and legislators, Senator Fielder said, “I pray we take every word written in the constitution of the United States to heart, that we educate ourselves and our children in its true meaning, and that we rededicate our lives to the spread of truth and righteousness and the preservation of liberty and freedom.”

Amy Robinette of North Carolina Travels to Uganda for Farmer-to-Farmer Program

By Amy Robinette, North Carolina Agri-Women

Amy Robinette of North Carolina, left, is the new AAW coordinator of the Farmer-to-Farmer program. She recently traveled to Uganda.

I always dreamt of traveling the world, but, as the carefree days of my youth were replaced with farm and family obligations, I felt that I had missed my opportunity. However, when I read about American Agri-Women’s partnership with Catholic Relief Services and USAid’s Farmer-to-Farmer program, I immediately knew this was my chance! It took almost a year for me to coordinate the travel, but thanks to a very supportive family and a flexible CRS staff, I finally boarded a plane to Uganda on May 1.

My assignment was to spend 22 days working with the Kiboga District Farmer’s Association teaching them about farm-business practices and basic record keeping; however, I must admit that I learned just as much from these amazing people as I taught. Their resilience and work ethic were inspirational, and it was humbling to see these families achieve so much with so little infrastructure and resources. I left Uganda with a new appreciation for our American government and agriculture and a new passion to make a difference in the world.

It is with this knowledge and passion that I now assume the role of Farmer-to-Farmer coordinator for American Agri-Women. I am excited to work with our partners at Catholic Relief Services to enable and empower other AAW members to step outside their comfort zone and embrace this opportunity. Facebook friends who followed my journey called me “brave,” “an inspiration,” and even “a farmer-ninja” — however, I am simply a member of American Agri-Women who answered the call to serve, and I look forward to working with other farmer-ninjas to do the same!
Congratulations to Shelly Davis of Oregon for being selected the national winner of Monsanto’s 2015 America’s Farm Mom of the Year. She grows grass seed, wheat, radishes, hazelnuts and bales grass straw and transports her products through their family run trucking company to the coast and ships it overseas to international markets they helped develop. Shelly had many nominations and is particularly proud of the nominations she received from outside of the agriculture community, which shows that people within their community are starting to hear about and understand their farming story. But Shelly places the highest importance on her partnership with her husband and her role as mom to her three daughters – her “most important crop.” Shelly is a member of Oregon Women in Agriculture.

Davis was one of five women who were recognized at the end of April as a regional finalist in the program. All of them, including Megan Seibel (Roanoke, Virginia), Shelley Heinrich (Lubbock, Texas), Amy Kelsay (Franklin, Indiana), Sara Ross (Minden, Iowa) and Davis, were selected by both American Agri-Women and Monsanto for their dedication and commitment to their families, farms, communities and the agriculture industry.

After the regional finalists were selected America got the opportunity to vote and selected Shelly from the regional finalists.

Thank you to Monsanto for tasking American Agri-Women with reviewing the nominations and assisting in the selection of the finalists from each of the five regions. This year, nominations came from 48 states representing many amazing farm moms. It is was an honor to read the stories family and friends submitted about these amazing farm moms and how they work, support and assist on their family farms.

Thank you to those Agri-Women who assisted in the selection process: Merlynn Verstuyft, Texas Agri-Women, Melody Speer, Texas Agri-Women, and Rachael Vonderhaar, Ohio Agri-Women.

AAW Foundation to Award Mini Grants

By Jane Marshall, AAW Foundation President

The AAW Foundation is wasting no time doing what foundations do … give money away. This year, the foundation will be awarding mini grants. In our first year, we are going to offer $1,500 that can be applied for in grants that are no more than $500 each. The grants will require 50% cash match. Any of AAW’s affiliated organizations or their chapters can apply. This must be for an educational or a membership activity.

Application are due by October 15, 2015 to foundation@americanagriwomen.org. The application will be scored by the foundation and the award winners will be announced at the 2015 convention in Maine. The winners will have to submit a report outlining the specific details of their project outcomes including all qualitative and quantitative data available. This will be due 30 days after completion.

Applications will be scored based on the following:

- **Project Description** (30 points, a maximum of 300 words): Please describe the project for which you are seeking a grant. Specify whether you are starting a new program or expanding an existing program. What is your vision and goals for the project? How many people will this project impact?
- **Work Plan** (30 points): How will the project be carried out? List any specific steps you will take. What is your project timeline? Please put date of completion. Is this a one-time project? If not, please explain how you will sustain this project?
- **Project Budget** (30 points): What is your budget? What are the other sources of funding for the project? (50% cash match required.) Please list any in-kind resources that you will use.
- **Outcomes** (10 points): How will you measure the project’s success? In what ways will this make a positive impact on agriculture? In what ways will this make a positive impact on your chapter, affiliate or AAW?

The application can be found on the AAW Foundation page of the AAW website, www.americanagriwomen.org. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Marshall at citizenjane@me.com or 937-336.1456.
Upcoming Webinars

New ‘Planting Our Future’ Affiliate Best Practices Webinars

This new webinar series offers information and tips from successful AAW affiliate programs and elsewhere that you may use to grow your own affiliate. Noon CST/1 p.m. EST.

August 19: Oregon Women for Agriculture Keeps Rollin’ Along with Oregon Women for Agriculture members. Oregon Women for Agriculture has an outstanding array of agricultural advocacy projects that they have developed over the years, including an innovative “moving” project. They will share some of their recent projects and how they get it all done.

September 16: Women Changing the Face of Agriculture with Penny Lauritzen and Pat Yeagle, Illinois Agri-Women. Illinois Agri-Women organizes the Women Changing the Face of Agriculture conference as an investment in the future of agriculture. This outreach project gives all women the opportunity to explore different career paths offered in the agriculture sector. Our goal is to help attendees receive accurate information firsthand from actual women agriculture professionals. You will find out about how this pioneering program started and has evolved over its successful tenure.

October 21: Planting Our Future with Doris Mold, cofounder of the Women’s Agricultural Leadership Conference. Seventeen years of Women’s Agricultural Leadership — conference, mentoring and networking programs — and still growing! Find out about the genesis of this successful program and how it has expanded opportunities for women in Minnesota and beyond. The atmosphere at the conference is absolutely electric. Find out why, along with lessons that have been learned along the way.

AAW Leadership Academy

Presenting our third year of outstanding leadership webinars. Noon CST/1 p.m. EST on the second Friday of the month.

October 9: AAW Succession Planning with Doris Mold, president, Sunrise Agricultural Associates, LLC. If 70 percent of farmland will change hands in the next 20 years, what does that mean for the leadership of our ag organizations? We are encouraged to make succession plans for businesses, but who is working to ensure that our ag organizations have a plan for a secure and vibrant future? Are we sourcing emerging leaders or do we frantically search for someone when elections roll around? We will discuss all of this and more while putting participants on the path of succession planning for their organizations.

November 13: Team Building with Juanita Reed Boniface, owner, JRB and Associates and Boeckenhauer Cattle. Juanita has logged thousands of hours as an educator and has an impressive toolbox to share. In this team-building webinar, she will lead us through understanding and identification of basic principles of teamwork, and the characteristics of the ideal team.

Planting Our Future: 40th Anniversary Challenge

By Doris Mold, First Vice President

We are encouraging all affiliates to get involved with the celebration of our 40th year through a friendly competition. Affiliates are encouraged to help “plant our future” for AAW by developing a new program/activity or modifying an existing program/activity to incorporate the 40th anniversary of AAW. The anniversary must be recognized during the program/activity and the logo and/or theme must be used in promotional materials to be eligible for awards. Programs/activities should take place sometime between January 1 and October 1, 2015 (they may be continuing as long as they start before October).

Projects will be judged on impact, quality, creativity, ability to incorporate the 40th anniversary of AAW and raise awareness of AAW, among other things. Affiliates may enter in more than one category (see americanagri-women.org for categories and more details). Participating affiliates will be recognized at the convention, in the Voice, online in our various social media outlets, and in our 40th anniversary booklet.

Financing farmers and ranchers since 1916...

... and we’ll be here tomorrow.

Farm Credit

farmcredit.com
More News in the Voice Extra
Go to americanagriwomen.org for more stories, including:
• 40 members of women’s mining coalition travel to Washington, D.C
• Complete text of ‘White Papers’ position statements
• Editorial on pollinators from president Sue McCrum
• Information on bees from Bayer

Advertising Rates & Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ad Sizes</th>
<th>Dimensions</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full page</td>
<td>7.5&quot;W x 10&quot;H</td>
<td>$850.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half page vertical</td>
<td>3.875&quot;W x 10&quot;H</td>
<td>$575.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half page horizontal</td>
<td>7.5&quot;W x 4.875&quot;H</td>
<td>$575.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quarter page</td>
<td>3.875&quot;W x 4.875&quot;H</td>
<td>$325.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business card</td>
<td>3.875&quot;W x 2.375&quot;H</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contract rates available. Ask about special sizes and display advertising. To advertise, contact Lisa Campion at (586) 530-1771 or aaw@americanagriwomen.org.

Ad Deadlines: Noon on the 15th of the previous month.
• November 15 for Winter Issue
• March 15 for Spring Issue
• May 15 for Summer Issue
• July 15 for Fall Issue

Thank you to these sponsors of the Drive Across America!

For an update on the Drive, see story starting on page 1.