Dr. Mary-Dell Chilton
To Give Keynote at
Convention 2016

We are thrilled to have Dr. Mary-Dell Chilton, Ph.D., as one of our keynoters at our 2016 AAW Convention. Dr. Chilton will speak to us on Saturday, November 19, 2016 at 1:15 p.m.

Dr. Chilton is a distinguished science fellow and founder of Syngenta’s biotechnology research labs. While on faculty at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, Dr. Chilton led a collaborative research study that produced the first transgenic (genetically engineered) plants. She has been called the “Queen of Agrobacterium” because she was the first to demonstrate the presence of a fragment of Agrobacterium Ti plasmid DNA in the nuclear DNA of crown gall tissue.

In 2015, Dr. Chilton was inducted into both the National Inventors Hall of Fame and the USDA Hall of Heroes, and she was named a National Academy of Inventors Fellow. In 2013, Dr. Chilton was named a World Food Prize Laureate. Dr. Chilton is also the author of more than 100 scientific publications.

Dr. Chilton’s efforts pioneered the field of agricultural biotechnology and forever changed the way plant genetic research was conducted. She is recognized for her ground-breaking research and its continued impact on agriculture.

Welcome to North Carolina!

The 2016 AAW Convention will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina, November 17–19, 2016, at the Embassy Suites, Cary, N.C. We are looking forward to the warm welcome that awaits us in North Carolina.

North Carolina is an extremely diverse and dynamic agricultural state, producing more than 80 commodities. Agriculture and agribusiness combine to be the state’s number one industry, contributing $84 billion annually and employing 17% of its workforce. Additionally, the Old North State is the national leader in tobacco and sweet potato production, and ranks in the top five for production of hogs, broilers, turkeys, fresh market strawberries, upland cotton, trout and catfish. Make sure your plans include participating in the tours during National Convention for what promises to be an exciting opportunity to experience and celebrate the diversity of agriculture found in our host state.

In addition to terrific tours, we have an exciting program of sessions that will appeal to a wide range of interests including agriculture policy issues, leadership development, affiliate enhancement, skill building, networking and more. Sessions will be designed to actively engage you and there will be take-homes for your affiliate, your business/career and for you personally. Also, you will want to be present as AAW announces its next big project that will kick off at Convention.

See pages 10 and 11 for registration and schedule. We look forward to seeing you in November!
President’s Report

Dear AAW members,

It is hard to believe that life could get any busier, but as we roll into fall I know that the pace of life picks up for many of us in countless ways. Fall harvest is upon us, school has started again along with all of its related activities, elections are in the offing, the meeting cycle has picked up, projects that should have been done earlier in the year are staring us in the face, and so much more. With all of these things going on it makes me appreciate even more the commitment of our mem- bers to AAW and our affiliates. Thank you for all you do to represent Agri-Women, to advocate for and promote agriculture, to educate others, to provide leadership, and to provide training and networking opportunities.

Every week since I became president of AAW I have had the opportunity to do what many of you are doing, including representing our organization and agriculture whether virtually, via the phone, in interviews and in person. We have had many tremendous opportunities to promote AAW and agriculture.

A glance at some of the opportunities recently completed or coming up soon: an interview with the hosts of Small Town Big Deal; an interview with Cosmopolitan magazine on farm and agricultural careers; serving on a panel for the National Agricultural Statistics Service Community Based Organization Partnering Work- shop on the 2017 Census of Agriculture in Memphis; National Agri-Marketing Fall Meeting in Raleigh, NC, speaking and moderating a panel on women in agriculture; meeting with the North Carolina Agri-Women in Raleigh; participating in the CropLife America Government Policy Weekend in New Orleans and the Women in Agribusiness Summit in Chicago; attending Harvest of Knowledge Conference in Grand Forks, ND; and serving as a panelist on the Expert Panel on Farm Structure meeting in Washington, DC. And this is all before we get to our Convention in November!

 Needless to say I cannot be everywhere and I appreciate others taking up the reins and representing us, including but not limited to: The Rural Infrastructure Summit where First VP Heather Hampton-Knodle represented AAW; the Farm Progress Show where we teamed up with one of our sponsors, Caterpillar, with a booth and Instameet headed up by Krystal Doolittle and the Iowa Agri-Women where they promoted both AAW and IAW at this huge show; and the National FFA Convention where Education VP Donnell Scott worked with several AAW members to have an attractive and informative booth at the Convention. We are always open to exploring ways to get the word out on AAW so if you are aware of opportuni- ties, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

These are exciting times as we look for more ways to connect to other agriculturists, policy makers and consumers. Thanks to our social media team we are out there virtually on Facebook, Twitter and now on Instagram, as well.

We will be announcing the next big thing for AAW at our Convention in Raleigh, NC, November 1719. In keeping with the Convention theme, “A Force for Truth,” it will include opportunities for anyone in AAW: affiliates, individuals, and literally anyone in the organization and beyond to help spread the truth about agriculture throughout the coming year.

We hope that you will be able to join us for Convention because besides the next big thing we have some great speakers, terrific tours, and wonderful hospitality for you to experience.

Here’s to a safe and bountiful harvest and here’s hoping to see you at Convention in November.

Doris Mold
Congratulations!

We are starting a new section of the Voice to let you know about the great things that AAW members have accomplished. Please e-mail us with your submissions at aaw@americanagriwomen.org.

Please join us in congratulating...

Marta Alvarez, California Women for Agriculture, was recently honored as the 2016 Engineer of the Year by the Society of Women Engineers and in February was named a national winner in the American Society of Civil Engineers “Dream Big” contest. She’ll be hosting the local iMAX movie premiere of “Dream Big: Engineering Wonders of the World” in February 2017.

Iowa State University and Extension and their Women in Agriculture program is honoring two AAW members with Women Impacting the Land Honors at Farm Progress Days.

Cathy Ayers, Iowa Agri-Women, is a Warren County Soil and Water District commissioner and region 6 director for Conservation Districts of Iowa. The help she received from the district after inheriting her family farm in 2008 inspired her to serve. Ayers built terraces, then shifted to no-till and using cover crops. She enrolled some of her land in CRP, including the CRP Pollinator Program. Ayers produces corn, soybeans, and hay on her farm.

April Hemmes, Iowa Agri-Women, has been a farmer for 31 years, implementing conservation practices in Franklin County and traveling the world to tell others about sustainably raised crops. She developed a wetland on her farm; added filter strips along streams, as well as wildlife habitat, a pollinator plot, and pasture; and uses no-till and conservation till on her corn and soybean acres. She mentors young people in FFA and 4-H and is a spokesperson for organized agricultural groups for women.

Doris Mold, Minnesota Agri-Women, was recently presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award by the University of Minnesota College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences alumni society.

Ohio Agri-Women VP Lauren Schwab was featured in the Fall 2016 Pork Checkoff Report. (It’s a national insert into the state’s publications.)

Member Carly Neff, owner of Rhoads Farm Market in Circleville, Ohio, was a featured interview on the Weather Channel last week. Topic: pumpkin in cooking.

Kelly Irvine was featured in the “Fields of the Future” broadcast from Fair Oaks Farm in Fair Oaks, IN, in June, where she discussed the future of agriculture and the involvement of science and technology with United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Land O’ Lakes CEO Chris Polincinski. Kelly is a junior at Buffalo High School in Buffalo, WV. She is involved in her family’s beef cattle operation and also serves as president of her 4-H Club.

In Memory of Jean A. Ibendahl

Jean A. Ibendahl, 98, Illinois Agri-Women and lifetime AAW member, passed away, Tuesday, July 26, 2016.

Jean was the founding mother of the National Ag in the Classroom program and was an Ag in the Classroom Advisor for the USDA in Washington, D.C. from 1981 until 1991. She was the founder and establishing donor, along with her husband, Calvin, of the AAW Daughters of American Agriculture Scholarship Fund. For eighteen years, she served as officer and/or chairman in American Agri-Women., as well as on the AAW Resource Center/Foundation board. She was a member of various other agriculture organizations.

Jean was a 4-H leader and a history enthusiast. She was an incredible mentor, advocate for agricultural education and literacy, and world traveler — she traveled to 21 countries and 43 states. Jean was one incredible lady in so many ways. Words do not do her justice.

Let us all share the story of Jean and, for that matter, all of our terrific AAW members who leave their earthly bonds. Their stories need to be remembered and their memories honored. If you feel so moved, might we suggest a memorial in Jean’s honor and memory to the Foundation’s DAA Scholarship fund?

Annual reports due
Please submit your annual reports to aaw@americanagriwomen.org by November 10, 2016.

Donate via Amazon Smile
Go to smile.amazon.com, select AAW Foundation as your charity, and anytime you make a purchase, Amazon Smile provides a small percentage of your purchase to us. It does not cost you anything, but helps our Foundation grow!
Upcoming Webinar Series: Best Practices in HR

American Agri-Women will be offering a three-part webinar series in best practices in hiring and human resources (HR) with Kristine Ranger. For more information, visit americanagriwomen.org/webinars.

Kristine has spent the majority of her professional career educating others about food and farming. From teaching agriscience, farm safety and Ag in the Classroom lessons to writing, speaking and developing innovative solutions, she has been a strong advocate for agriculture and local food systems. Kristine is the only volunteer to be honored four times from the American Farm Bureau Federation for outstanding promotion and education programs.

Clients appreciate Kristine’s down-home delivery style, keen eye for review, and unbiased analysis. Her methodology of deliberate practice impacts the entire workforce and improves performance at all levels. In other words, shift happens!

Session I: Evaluating, Extending and Enhancing your Farm HR Program

Session II: Addressing Soft Skills with Hardcore Strategies: How Organizational Health Impacts Employee Engagement and Retention

These sessions can be found in the archives at americanagriwomen.org.

Session III, December 8, 2016, 8 p.m. EST: How to Hire a Rock Star (and keep the drama queens out)!

In the final session of our three-part HR series, participants will examine a successful hiring process that can be adopted for operations of any size and understand how to implement proven practices that will help them become the envy of their neighborhood.

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... and we’ll be here tomorrow.

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American Agri-Women will hold its election of officers at its convention in North Carolina. The AAW Secretary, AAW VP of Education, three AAW Foundation members and four 2017 nominating committee members will be elected. Kathy Rhoads is the nominating committee chairman and her committee is Janell Reid, Tiffany Marx, Peggy Clark and Marie Bowers Stagg.

Kristi Bishop, from Stillwater, OK, and Oklahoma Agri-Women is the nominee for Secretary of American Agri-Women. Kristi belongs to the Oklahoma Women in Ag and Small Business and is employed by the Oklahoma State University College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR). She is the current Oklahoma Agri-Women president, serving since 2014. Kristi has been part of the Oklahoma Collegiate Cattlewomen, the OSU Meat Science Association and the National Junior Hereford Association board of directors.

Kristi’s AAW experience includes communications committee member, membership committee member, attending recent Mid-Year meetings, Conventions and Fly-In. She is also a Syngenta Leadership at its Best Graduate. Other agriculture experience includes Masters of Beef Advocacy program and Masters of Agriculture in Animal Science Industry Leadership through Oklahoma State University. Kristi has done three international trips to Australia and Brazil. She has extensive public speaking and presentation experience. She is detail and task-oriented as well as an effective communicator. Kristi has been endorsed by two AAW members as is required.

Pamela Sweeten of Turlock, CA, and California Women for Ag (CWA) is the nominee for AAW Vice President of Education. Pamela belongs to Women in Ag for Mentoring and Empowerment, Stanislaus County Ag Advisory Board, and Stanislaus County CWA Chapter. She has served in several offices in the Stanislaus County CWA. Pam has served on a variety of committees in CWA and is currently the state historian.

Pamela’s AAW experience includes attending most AAW conventions since 2004, helping with AAW Specialty Crops and AAW Fruits Nuts Specialty Crops. Pamela is a graduate of Syngenta Leadership at its Best. Pamela has served on the AAW nominating committee and is currently co-chair of the AAW leadership committee. She has also previously served as AAW VP Education from 2008 through 2010.

She has worked on the CWA Leadership Symposium, the Almond Board of CA Leadership and Kiwanis Leadership. Pamela has served on her church council and is a member of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Turlock. She has helped with Dinner at Dusk and is a member of Master Brewers Association of the Americas. She is also an Institute of Food technologist. Pam has been endorsed by two AAW members as is required.

The AAW Foundation will elect three members. Two incumbents Pam Townsend from Maine and Jenny Stelmach from Kentucky are each seeking a second term (Foundation members are allowed two terms). Pat Yeagle, from Illinois, is the third nominee for the AAW Foundation position. She has previously served as AAW Vice-President of Education and served as President of the Illinois Resource Agricultural Council (IRAC) foundation.

Special Member Benefits from Our Partners

Keep yourself, your family and your employees safe by following the tips shared by Caterpillar. Safety News for You is delivered to your email each month, along with downloadable Toolbox Talks. If you missed it, go to americanagri-women.org, Membership tab, Special Projects.

Mahindra North America is offering AAW members rebates on several products in its product line, including tractors, attachments and its XTV utility vehicle. The rebate program for AAW members runs through December 31, 2016.
Hotel Information: We will be meeting at the Embassy Suites Raleigh, Durham/Research Triangle, 201 Harrison Oaks Blvd, Cary, NC 27513, (919) 941-6066. The official agenda starts November 17, 2016. You can check in beginning Wednesday, November 16, 2016 and check out Sunday, November 20, 2016. Wireless internet in guest rooms is complimentary. Please call 800-EMBASSY and reference American Agri-Women National Convention group block. Credit card information is needed at time of reservation. Individual cancellation policy is 72 hours prior to date of arrival to avoid extra charges. Please call 800-EMBASSY and reference your confirmation number. Please obtain a cancellation number when cancelling a reservation. Rooms will be booked based on availability with the hotel. Reservation requests will be subject to availability and prevailing rate.

Ground Transportation: The Embassy Suites Raleigh offers complimentary transportation to and from the Raleigh – Durham Airport. Please call them upon picking up your bags at baggage claim.

Dress Code: International standard business attire for meetings, receptions and banquet. For example, tailored dresses, skirts or slacks with a blouse and jacket, and comfortable shoes. Business casual for the Wednesday tour.

Please note: Photographs of attendees may be taken at this event. These may appear in AAW publications and in online communications. By registering for this conference, you authorize AAW the right to use any photographs taken of you for AAW communication.

Registration: We will contact you by email upon receipt of your registration form. If you do not hear from us within two weeks, please contact Lisa Campion, Executive Assistant at 586-530-1771 or aaw@americanagriwomen.org.

AAW National Convention
November 17–19, 2016, Raleigh, NC
Embassy Suites Raleigh: Durham/Research Triangle, 201 Harrison Oaks Blvd, Cary, NC 27513 US  •  (919) 941-6066

Name __________________________________________
Address ________________________________________
City __________________________ State _____ Zip_____
Phone ___________ Email _______________________

Date of birth ___________ Social Security number ___________
We must have this information for spouse tour only.

Affiliate _______________________________________

Are you a voting member of AAW?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No
Are you a first time attendee?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No
Do you want us to find you a roommate?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

Special needs? ____________________________________

Spouse/guest/child’s name(s): _______________________
Spouse/guest/child’s phone number(s): ________________

Cost  Number  Total
☐ Registration $275  ______  ______
☐ Spouse/Guest Registration $275  ______  ______
☐ Child/Student $175  ______  ______
School name __________________________ Grad date ________
☐ One Day (choose one)  ☐ Fri  ☐ Sat $100  ______  ______
☐ Thursday Convention Tour $25  ______  ______

Total enclosed $_____

To Register
Go online to americanagriwomen.org to submit the form or mail form and payment to AAW, 142 Oak Circle, Colchester, VT 05446. Phone: 586-530-1771; email: aaw@americanagriwomen.org.

Proxy voting form located on page 8.
AAW Convention 2016 Tentative Schedule

November 17–19, 2016 • Note: subject to change. Final will be provided at registration.

Wednesday, November 16, 2016
7–8 p.m. Registration
8–9:30 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting
7 p.m. Hospitality Suite open

Thursday, November 17, 2016
Breakfast on your own; complimentary by hotel 6–9 a.m.
Recommended attire: Business casual; jeans are acceptable.
7:30–8:30 a.m. Registration open
8:30 a.m. Board buses
9–4:30 p.m. Tours with lunch onsite
5–5:30 p.m. First Time Attendee Gathering
5–6:30 p.m. Foundation Meeting
5:30–7:30 p.m. Registration open
5:30–7:30 p.m. Complimentary Hotel Reception, Atrium
6:30–8 p.m. Joint Executive Committee and Foundation Meeting (dinner provided)
6:30–8 pm Affiliate Presidents’ Caucus (dinner provided)
8–9 p.m. Standing Committee Meetings (Finance, Membership and Education)
9–11 p.m. Hospitality Suite open

Saturday, November 19, 2016
Breakfast on your own; complimentary by hotel 7–10:30 a.m.
Recommended attire: Professional business; slacks are acceptable.
7:30–8 a.m. Registration open
7:30–2:30 p.m. Silent Auction open
8–5:30 p.m. Trade Show open
8:30–Noon AAW Business Meeting
10–11 a.m. Noon–1 p.m. Lunch and Minnesota 2017 Convention Invite
1:15–1:45 p.m. “A Force for Truth” Keynote Address by Dr. Mary-Dell Chilton, 2013 World Food Prize Laureate and Distinguished Science Fellow, Syngenta Biotechnology, Inc.
2–3 p.m. Best Practices for Affiliates Panel
3–3:15 p.m. Break; Silent Auction closes: pay and pick up items
3:15–4:15 p.m. Ag Media Panel and Q & A
4:15–4:45 p.m. Foundation Meeting (Elections)
6–7 p.m. President’s Reception
7–9 p.m. Banquet and Entertainment
9–11 p.m. Hospitality Suite open

Sunday, November 20, 2016
Breakfast on your own; complimentary by hotel 7–10:30 a.m.
8–8:30 a.m. Worship Service
American Agri-Women Proxy Form

___________(date)

Please be advised that ____________________________ (name) has been authorized to represent ____________________________ (affiliate) at the ____________________________ (name of meeting) to be held on __________(date) at ____________________________ (location).

______________________________
(President of Affiliate)

______________________________
(Affiliate Name)

Please email or mail the form at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting to ensure it is received. If the alternate is bringing the form to the business meeting, please give to the AAW Secretary prior to the delegate’s voting meetings.

Email: aaw@americanagriwomen.org

Mail: American Agri-Women, 142 Oak Circle, Colchester, VT 05446