2018 NATIONAL AG DAY A SUCCESS
By Doris Mold, Past President

Thanks to all who promoted National Ag Day events and activities - advocating for agriculture in your hometowns and states. Thanks for continuing to make Ag Day Every Day around the country and for continuing to promote AgDay365.

American Agri-Women was out in force on National Ag Day on March 20 and during Ag Week in Washington, D.C., President Jeanette Lombardo, First Vice-President Karolyn Zurn, Vice-President of Education Jean Goslin, Past President Doris Mold and AAW Community Relations Chair Lynn Woolf all participated in a wide range of events and activities, bringing our message of AgDay365 - Ag Day is Every Day to many in our nation’s Capitol. Karolyn, as a Lead Farmer for Farm Journal Foundation’s for the Farmers Feeding the World also participated in some special Farm Journal Ag Day activities. Our Secretary Natalina Sents was also able to join us for some activities as her work schedule brought her to D.C.

We kicked off our activities with meetings with AAW supporters the day before Ag Day. We also held our first ever AgDay365 - National Ag Week Outreach Activity at DC Central Kitchen on Monday. We feel our outreach to consumers is critical in raising awareness and understanding of U.S. agriculture, as well, as to increase our understanding of consumers. At DC Central Kitchen, we worked with other volunteers, apprentices and staff to make part of the 5,000 meals they produce each day. Many of the meals are destined for the largest homeless shelter in the country, which is a stone’s throw from the Capitol. 85% of the food used in the kitchen was saved from being wasted and comes from stores, restaurants and farms through gleaning projects. It opened our eyes in more ways than one.

We are rolling into our second year of “AgDay365: Ag Day is Every Day,” American Agri-Women’s consumer-facing advocacy campaign. We are building on last year’s efforts and are launching an expanded theme of “Food: How it’s Made.” The goal is to continue connecting consumers with producers and others in agriculture to highlight our

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YEAR 2 CAMPAIGN: “FOOD: HOW IT’S MADE”
By Lynn Woolf, AgDay365 Committee Co-chair
Share Your Role for a Chance to Win a Gift Card!

We are rolling into our second year of “AgDay365: Ag Day is Every Day,” American Agri-Women’s consumer-facing advocacy campaign. We are building on last year’s efforts and are launching an expanded theme of “Food: How it’s Made.” The goal is to continue connecting consumers with producers and others in agriculture to highlight our
Your Executive Committee members arrived in Ventura, California on the evening of February 15th and spent two and a half days together working on strategy for the year ahead, getting to know each other, and beginning to build an incredible team and wonderful friendships that I know will last my lifetime. The Committee was fortunate to have Monique Tallon of Highest Path Consulting facilitate the group in learning about “The Feminine Leadership Model” from her book titled “Leading Gracefully: A Woman’s Guide to Confident, Authentic and Effective Leadership.” We learned much about ourselves and was given a copy of the book for further reflection.

American Agri-Women was well represented in Washington, D.C. for National Ag Day this year with members Lynn Woolf, Doris Mold, Jean Goslin, Karolyn Zurn, Natalina Sents, and myself all in attendance. On Monday prior to National Ag Day, we met with Leigh Foley, National Association of Broadcasters, Kellie Bray and Janet Collins with CropLife America, Jess Petersen and Lia Biondo with Western Skies Strategies, and Amy Bachman with DC Central Kitchen. If you follow AAW on Facebook, you saw pictures of #teamcornbread while we worked our shift in the kitchen.

On Tuesday, we started National Ag Day at a breakfast with American Farm Bureau Federation President, Zippy Duvall. We then headed to the Jamie L. Whitten Building for the 2nd Annual Young Advocates Lunch. One hundred top-level student leaders in FFA, 4-H, MANRRS, and AFA from around the country were treated to a visit by USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue and lunch, as AAW members lead table discussions and students participated in an Ag-Day365 social media challenge. These students were brought in by the National Agricultural Council to participate in Capitol Hill advocacy efforts on National Ag Day. Immediately following lunch, we headed to a Press Club Event where we heard more comments by Secretary Perdue and listened to a panel discussion on “The Consumer, the Farmer, and Sustainability,” hosted by the National Ag Council. Following the panel discussion, we met with Matt Perdue of the National Farmers Union and attended a networking function at the Library of Congress titled “A Taste of Ag.” At dinner, I was pleased to meet with the Farm Journal Foundation and learn more about their “Farmers Feeding the World” project.

On Wednesday, I was fortunate to attend the Agri-Pulse Ag and Food Policy Summit. Sara Wyant and her staff at Agri-Pulse Communications did an incredible job asking hard hitting questions of their panelists and guests. Some of those in attendance included; Ray Starling, Zippy Duvall, Ted McKinney, Gregg Doud, and Todd Van Hoose. During the Summit, Washington, D.C. received an abnormally late snowstorm which caused 5,000 flights to be cancelled and made travel interesting for some of our members to get to Mid-Year in St. Louis! For more details on National Ag Day, please read the article in The Voice.

I arrived in St. Louis on the morning of March 22nd to a wonderful Leadership and Development Training program sponsored by the AAW Foundation. Jolene Brown was the trainer and as always was not only an inspiration but also very entertaining. I was lucky to grab a few of her books “Holy Crap! I Married a Farmer” as gifts for my sister and friends who daily live the struggles of being the wife of a farmer.

Our Mid-Year meeting brought a wonderful tour and speakers at Monsanto headquarters on Friday morning, as well as a Fireside Chat with Forrest Lucas (founder Protect the Harvest), and Dave Duquette. In the evening, we watched the feature presentation “The Dog Lover” by Protect the Harvest. Saturday morning, we started our day with a presentation by Mindy Patterson of the Cavalry Group. As always the four committee breakout sessions had strong but healthy conversations. The voting on Committee Reports for adoption had a few robust moments as well! In the end, I feel everyone walked away feeling proud of the position statements that were crafted to use at Fly-In this June. Thoughtful discussion on these important issues helped all members in attendance develop a deeper understanding of many of the topics, as well as an appreciation for the work that will go into the white papers we will prepare for policy makers outlining our concerns for agriculture and rural America. You can read the results of all the discussion and hard work at Mid-Year in this issue.
If you were in attendance at Mid-Year, you learned that I am starting to organize my platform on Farm Stress and Mental Health. I thank you all for your support. Farming can be an incredibly high-stress occupation. Unpredictable weather, crop disease, volatile markets, risk of injury, overwhelming workloads, and social isolation are just a handful of the stressors that family farmers and ranchers cope with on a daily basis. At the same time, many farmers and ranchers don’t have access to assistance when they need help. They may not have the financial resources for a lawyer, making it challenging to resolve disputes. Additionally, many farm families lack access to mental health services. In fact, 60% of rural Americans live in areas with mental health professional shortages. This is alarming considering the fact that, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), farmers have a higher rate of suicide than any other occupation.

The Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) was authorized as a 2008 Farm Bill program, but it has never been funded. It was meant to provide farmers with affordable stress assistance programs. It would have provided funding through the USDA to state departments of agriculture and cooperative extensions for helplines and websites, training for farm advocates, support groups, outreach services and activities and home delivery of assistance. The 2018 Farm Bill must provide resources to help family farmers and ranchers effectively manage stress. Congress can do this in the Reauthorization of FRSAN as well as to fully fund CAMP which is a Certified Agricultural Mediation Program to assist with financial stress. Mediation programs can help producers handle matters within their means, avoiding legal fees and litigation, shorten the time to resolve disputes, and potentially avoid bankruptcy. I thank Matt Perdue for explaining how National Farmers Union is working on this issue and what we can do to assist in the matter. Look for more details to come in the near future.

This is an extremely busy time for American Agri-Women and I thank everyone for the months of planning to make all of our recent activities impactful. I hope that you will consider joining me in Washington, D.C. in June for Fly-In to see the fruits of your labor realized as we distribute our new policy positions to our regulatory and legislative bodies.

Sincerely,
Jeanette Lombardo

AAW Website: americanagriwomen.org
AAW General Email: aaw@americanagriwomen.org

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Submission deadlines: March 10, June 10, September 10, December 10.

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!
Facebook: American Agri-Women
Instagram: @americanagriwomen
Twitter: @women4ag

GENERAL INFORMATION
We learned the story of our baking mentor, Earl Pass, and how the Culinary Program at DC Central Kitchen put him on the right path to new opportunities. We made industrial quantities of cornbread and as Earl pointed out, it is always important to taste the results.

On National Ag Day, we attended a breakfast at the American Farm Bureau Federation with other agriculture leaders from around the country. We then moved over to the USDA as AAW cosponsored the second National Ag Day Young Advocate student luncheon. More than 100 top level student leaders in FFA, 4-H, MANRRS (Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences), and AFA (Agriculture Future of America) from around the country were treated to pizza, as they participated in roundtable debriefings AAW members helped lead. Following the debriefing, we heard from U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, who provided an inspiring message to the young leaders in attendance. Following Secretary Perdue’s message, AAW had time on the program to introduce our #AgDay365Challenge and talked about the importance for advocating for agriculture every day. We challenged all of the students present to make a commitment to advocate for agriculture and post their commitment on social media. The winner of the #AgDay365 Challenge at each table received a Subway gift card.

The final day in D.C., the federal government had shut down due to a snowstorm, however, we continued forward. Jeanette and Karolyn attended the Agri-Pulse Ag and Food Policy Summit and Jean and Doris were able to join them for the last portion of the Summit, after they attended other appointments. The Summit was a great way to learn about many of the current issues facing agriculture including: trade; Farm Bill Insights from U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Chairman Senator Pat Roberts and Ranking Member Senator Debbie Stabenow; a panel discussion on “Are Consumers Ready to Accept New Plant and Animal Traits” and more. The reception that followed was a good way to connect with other agriculturalists and potential supporters of AAW.

Since we were out challenging others to commit to promoting Ag Day Every Day through our #AgDay365Challenge we thought it was only fair to ask those assembled at Mid-Year to do the same. We had some great ideas for advocacy and we rewarded our members for getting with it and posting. #AgDay365Challenge gift card winners from Mid-Year included: Tricia Braid, Ardath DeWall, Janell Reid, Donnell Scott, Jenny Stelmach and Deb Whalen.

Another fun contest was the Ag-Day365 - National Ag Day - AAW Photo Frame Contest. Over 240 of you participated in the contest and we did a random drawing for prizes - Caitlin Keck; Leslie Everett and Aryel Smith won gift cards for their efforts. The frame is up on Facebook until April 30 and we will pick some more lucky winners before the contest is over. Thanks to everyone who participated in promoting Ag-Day365 and AAW.

We will be highlighting more ways you can promote Ag Day Every Day as the year moves on.
The 2018 AAW Mid-Year held at the Drury Inn in St. Louis, Missouri was amazing. We had many WOW moments from the time we started our Monsanto Tour to the final vote on our Position Statements.

AAW attendees were ushered through the Monsanto World Headquarters Research Center in three groups where tour guides explained previous seed breeding projects, introduced us to new and upcoming products they will be marketing, and journeyed us through their state-of-the-art greenhouse breeding facility.

The tour was followed by lunch and speakers provided by Monsanto. Duane Simpson, Monsanto U.S. State & Local Government Affairs Lead analyzed President Trump’s agriculture policies. He was followed by S. Eliza Halcomb, MD, a toxicologist at Monsanto, who hailed the success and safety of scientifically proven crop protection and their diverse uses. Catherine Jarboe, a Business Process Analyst at Monsanto, worked behind the scenes to insure everything ran smoothly.

Our Friday evening treat was a Fireside Chat with Forrest Lucas, founder and CEO of “Protect the Harvest” and Dave Duquette. Together they explained the ventures of “Protect the Harvest” and what that organization is doing to protect agriculture and expose animal rights organizations that work to destroy agriculture. Our Movie & Popcorn evening feature was “The Dog Lover,” produced by Protect the Harvest, which showed the nefarious side of animal activists and dispelled the negative myths of “puppy mills.” “Protect the Harvest” has an amazing story and background which you can find on their website: www.protecttheharvest.com.

Saturday morning Mindy Patterson, a fellow AAW member and President of The Cavalry Group, spoke. Her presentation centered on unfair implementation of regulations against such matters as the transporting and humanely disposing of horses and the deceitful extremist practices to film private citizens farms with the intent to destroy reputations. Mindy’s presentation makes a person sit up and take note of these destructive practices. www.thecavalrygroup.org

We had 43 registrants at Mid-Year with great discussion. Members engaged in heartfelt discussion for the good of the organization and to bring forward policy that can be built on and reflect the beliefs of AAW.

As we move forward with our White Papers for our Legislative Fly-In you can be sure our positions reflect the membership.

Some of the White Papers moving forward on are Immigration and Ag Labor, Infrastructure, Rural Communications Expansion and Trade Policy. Watch for others to come as we close in on Fly-In.

safe, abundant and affordable food supply.

Join in by sharing your role in feeding the world, whether it’s through farming, ranching, agri-business, distribution and more — even cooking delicious meals with food made in the USA.

Share your photos with the Ag-Day365 committee for posting on the AgDay365 Facebook page. Each month, from April through October, we’ll draw random names for gift cards. Email them to community@americanagriwomen.org.

Please also continue to use the #AgDay365 hashtag in social media posts. You can download the logo and find other resources here, https://americanagriwomen.org/agday-365/.

Also, stay tuned as we will soon kick off other activities, including the second year of the “Gen Z Speaks” ag photo, video and special event contest for young advocates.

If you have ideas or would like to join the committee, contact Doris Mold at pastpresident@americanagriwomen.org.
We appreciate all AAW members and the contributions you all have made whether it is by giving your time and talents or providing a financial donation to continue our important work. Financial donations are critical to help advance AAW.

Member donations are key to helping us build a stronger foundation; they also ensure basic services are there, providing member scholarships and seed money for new projects. Outside donors are more likely to give if members are investing in their organization. We are excited for all of the great work being planned for 2018 and hope you support AAW in its endeavors whether it is with our wide array of programs and projects but not limited to:

• New Farm & Ranch Stress Project, helping raise the awareness of stress and the resources available to help deal with farming and ranching.
• AgDay365 project, this year’s theme is “Food: How Its Made” and through this vehicle we are promoting advocating to consumers about agriculture - food, fuel, fiber and flora every day.
• Membership education, such as our webinars and the Leadership Development Process (LDP)
• Continuing our support with AAW educational activities such as the Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) with new women scientists in agriculture profiles, Farm Safety Just for Kids, National Ag Day, National FFA Organization, Provider Pals, 4-H Virtual Farm, and many others.
• Three-annual national AAW meetings: National Convention, Midyear Meeting, and Fly-In
• Scholarships for continuing education, where we currently have four scholarships our donors can donate to:
  ° AAW Gail McPherson Fly-In Scholarship
  ° AAW Trenna Grabowski Legacy Kids Fly-In Scholarship
  ° AAW Helen Whitmore Memorial Convention Scholarship
  ° AAW Daughters of American Agriculture Scholarship
• General donation, funds will be used where it is most needed.

You may choose to donate to American Agri-Women or the American Agri-Women Foundation or both. A donation envelope is included with this Voice, for your convenience or you may donate online at https://americanagriwomen.org/make-financial-donation

Thank you for your continued support of AAW.

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON, GRATITUDE IS THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

By Doris Mold, Past President

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MICHIGAN THUMB FARMERS AMONG NOMINEES FOR NATIONAL AG AWARD

By Amy Engelhard

Nathan and Amy Engelhard, of Unionville, were recently named one of the top 10 finalists in the 62nd annual National Outstanding Young Farmers Awards Congress, the oldest farmer recognition program in the United States. The Congress was held Feb. 15-18 in Sacramento, California and is sponsored by John Deere, administered by the Outstanding Farmers of America, and supported by the U.S. Jayees, the National Association of Conservation Districts, and the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.

They were one of 10 couples who made it to the National spot out of almost 40 other competitors and were the only organic row crop representative there, as well as the only Michigan delegates. The fifth generation young farmers manage 1,100 acres in

ENGELHARD, continued on page 7 ▲
DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE
SCHOLARSHIPS DEADLINE JUNE 1ST
By Ardath DeWall

Daughters of American Agriculture scholarships were created to honor the memory of Jean Ibendahl (scholarship for ages 18-23) and Sister Thomas More Bertels (scholarship for ages 24+). These courageous and adventurous women played an important role in our lives and we must encourage the present generation to continue their education in agricultural pursuits. These two scholarships are available to any farm, ranch or agribusiness woman to pursue accredited courses in agriculture leadership, communications, rural sociology, medicine or other courses directly related to agriculture. Both scholarships were initiated in 1991, and continue to be maintained by donations from AAW members and affiliates. A $1,000 scholarship is given to each age division. Applications must be received by June 1 of the current year and sent to: American Agri-Women Foundation, PO Box 103, Baileyville, IL 61007

Make sure to include all portions of the scholarship application when you submit it. Not including all portions will disqualify your application.

We encourage everyone eligible to apply for a scholarship!

ENGELHARD, continued from page 6

the thumb and raise corn, soybeans, black beans, white kidney beans, adzuki beans, pinto beans and wheat. They are also busy raising the 6th generation; they have an 18-month old son named Lawson and another baby due in May.

Four national winners were selected for the award based on their progress in an agricultural career, extent of soil and water conservation practices, and contributions to the well-being of the community, state, and nation.

During the five-day event, Nathan and Amy participated in extensive interviews with a panel of five judges from across the United States as well as from different sectors of the agriculture industry. Prior to the interview process, they had to submit a 10-page application detailing their farming practices, stewardship and conservation programs that are employed.

While they were not selected as one of the top four couples to participate in the 2019 Washington Trip, they both are thrilled and humbled to have participated in this amazing program. They met nine other couples from across the United States who also shared their farming stories and it was neat to see how everything in agriculture is connected. Both of them strongly encourage other farmers to apply!!

Check out the Outstanding Farmers of American website for more info on how to apply for 2019: http://www.ofafraternity.org.

Amy & Nathan Engelhard were named top 10 finalists in the National Outstanding Young Farmers Awards Congress.
THE ABC’S OF OUR OWN LISA CAMPION

If you haven’t had a chance to meet our very own Lisa Campion – please take the time to do so as you will be encouraged, enlightened and appreciate the woman and administrator she truly is. At the end of our conversation I came away recognizing Lisa is adventurous, accomplished and no doubt awesome!

Lisa has been with AAW since September of 2014. She is not a staff member, but rather an independent contractor who is paid a monthly stipend. AAW has no full-time staff or employees. Her primary functions are membership, event logistics, execution and communication distribution. This role has changed over time, based on the needs of AAW membership, the overall growth of AAW and the organization as a whole. Lisa works with the Executive Committee as they give her guidance on what needs to be executed.

Her educational path is nothing short of being a brave brainiac, shining as a beacon for us all to follow. She won a 4-H award in Environmental Stewardship her senior year in high school which ultimately led her to attending Michigan State University (MSU) on a 4-H scholarship. Lisa graduated from MSU in three years as she came into college with 30 college credits to her name which she obtained during high school. Ever the student striving to be engaged, Lisa has always found time to weave classes into her life.

She has a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife from the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and Management from the MSU Lyman Briggs College along with an Environmental Economics and Policy minor from the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Science, Technology and Environmental Public Policy minor with the MSU College of Business.

In between her studies and working part time jobs, she found time to be involved in Sigma Alpha Sorority. Sigma Alpha Sorority is a professional agricultural sorority dedicated to “cultivating professional women in agriculture.” Her involvement with Sigma Alpha led her to being the collegiate chapter’s president, coordinating meetings and planning events in scholarship, leadership, service and sisterhood. Remember that piece of the story as it will all come full circle near the end.

One of her mentors, Bob Wilson, (Michigan State Senate Majority Policy Advisor to the Natural Resources Committee), told her if you want to make a difference in this world do not be a politician...they don’t know anything! If you want to make a difference, we need people versed in science, economics, policy and the law.

Lisa graduated from MSU in August 2007 all while working three jobs throughout the year and attending classes on summer and winter breaks and even going to local community colleges to obtain additional credits. Lisa decided to go to law school – but was a very young entrant. She was admitted to Vermont Law School, the number one or two ranked environmental law school in the nation for the last 28 years. She started her first year completing the Masters of Environmental Law and Policy degree. One month into law school she turned 21 and ended up graduating at the top of her class. Clean Air, Clean Water, Natural Resources, NEPA, and CERCLA, Land Use, Ocean and Coastal Law courses were all part of her curriculum - always competing against older students in the classroom. After completing the year-long Masters degree, Lisa continued to obtain her Juris Doctorate where she took courses in Environmental Law and Policy, but also the essential courses in constitutional law, civil procedure, property and contract law along with many others.

The first summer of her law school adventure Lisa travelled to Alaska. Many law internships are not paid, especially in the environmental law sector. However, she was accepted into a paid program working on mining issues and the bear population within Alaska. At the completion of the internship she went back to law school and finished out the second and third year. Lisa was accepted as a Student Intern at the Institute for Energy and Environment. As one of the “Energizers,” she took on different aspects of the United States and overseas energy issues based on their clients and the grant programs funding the Institute. Lisa’s focus at the Institute was twofold. She led a student team of five students in the Agriculture Energy Program where they created an informative booklet on reducing energy on the farm as well as completing outreach around the nation. Her team’s efforts laid the foundation for Vermont Energy Program where they created an informative booklet on reducing energy on the farm as well as completing outreach around the nation. Her team’s efforts laid the foundation for Vermont Energy Policy and Planning Council. She also worked on a number of other environmental law projects for the Institute.

LISA, continued on page 9
Law School’s Center for Agriculture and Food Systems. Lisa also worked with a team to compare how deep-water oil and gas production related to the Alaska and Louisiana oil and gas regulations and how it paired with the fisheries industries in those areas and how it could improve in the future based on the changes in these industries. In her third year, she found herself in New Zealand for an externship program where she worked with the New Zealand’s Minister of Fisheries Chief Legal Counsel where she represented the New Zealand government during Aquaculture legislation in New Zealand with various stakeholder groups. After her externship, Lisa became a commercial fisherman in Valdez, Alaska bringing wild Alaskan salmon to the canneries all summer long for consumption in the U.S. Lisa continued this from 2008-2012, each summer.

At this point in my interview, I have realized this woman is nothing short of confident, courageous and creative!

After her internship experience in Alaska, she decided to sit for the Alaska bar exam. Unfortunately, (but good for AAW) an Alaskan lawyer she was not meant to be. While living and working in Alaska, she made some friends from Vermont. After much soul searching and discussions with those eastern U.S. friends, she decided to make the week-long road trip back to Vermont, ultimately passing the Vermont Bar and began practicing various types of law from family, criminal, real estate, business, estate planning, probate, civil and personal injury law. In other words, building a practice from the ground up. Even though it was a difficult time in her life, Vermont felt like home. Lisa started her own law firm in September of 2017 focusing on real estate, estate and succession planning, and probate law for Northern Vermont.

Now – along way to go, but a short time to get there – Ms. Lisa saw an ad for an opportunity with American Agri-Women. She missed her connection to agriculture and decided to apply for the position and the rest is now history.

Ultimately, Lisa would like to see AAW grow; focusing on membership and what the needs of each affiliate are. How can we initiate new affiliates and how do we support those start up affiliates in their growth? There are many resources and how do we actually focus on those to grow our organization? Illinois, Minnesota and Oregon are prime examples of affiliate organizations who have been able to maintain active organizations. Are we able to pull together a handbook to share with new affiliates which might include directions on: How do I execute Lobby Day or an amazing fundraiser? What types of tools do we need – sharing this information with other groups will help encourage their own creative minds on what might work for their organization. Unless we grow and strengthen these affiliates – how long will we be around? Public policy is at the forefront of the agriculture industry more than ever. It’s important to stand up for who are we and how can we continue to strengthen and grow women in all facets of agriculture throughout the U.S. How are we able to diversify and grow the meaning of ag for all women?

On a more personal level I asked Lisa a few lighthearted questions.

Since it was March - which animal are you most like a lion or a lamb and why? She responded a lion; she feels like she makes her presence known be it in her career or her personal life. It’s important to communicate what she means effectively and she protects those that she loves and cares about.

Would you rather be liked or respected? She would rather be respected. Because with respect it means you must make the hard decisions on be-

Lisa volunteering with USAID Farmer to Farmer Program in Uganda, Africa.

LISA, continued on page 10
When Sydney Caraballo left her family farm en route to her first year of college, the life she saw in her rearview mirror was not one she planned on returning to. In fact, Sydney’s love of writing and science would take her far from her childhood home near Wildrose, N.D.

Her next several years brought many changes and accomplishments, including two college degrees, enrollment in graduate school and of course, a boyfriend. “Kevin was serving in the Army at the same time I was in grad school,” Sydney said. “We fell in love and eventually got married.”

Back home in North Dakota, Sydney’s parents were looking to scale back their farming and ranching operation. Art and Linda Glasoe had worked many years to build their business, but with retirement on the horizon, they considered renting some of their land and selling their cattle.

However, Art proposed a different option. He recommended that Sydney and her two sisters form a limited liability company (LLC) and run the operation from afar.

In 2010, they formed Tre Farms LLC. The cattle portion of the business remained as Glasoe Angus. The sisters continued operating the LLC for nearly five years, using vacation hours from their full-time jobs to help on the farm whenever possible. Eventually Sydney, Kevin and the kids moved back to the farm full time.

The Caraballos now maintain sole ownership of Tre Farms and Glasoe Angus, with their children lending a hand and Sydney and Kevin each playing an important role in the business. Sydney said her father also remains a crucial member of the team, even in his “retirement” years. Art, as well as Linda, still contributes many hours and experienced labor to the operation, and more importantly, well-earned wisdom.

Plans for the American Agri-Women Fly-In to Washington, D.C. are falling into place very nicely. Activities will kick off during Orientation with Dr. Barbara Glenn, Executive Director of the National Association of State’s Department of Agriculture. Dr. Glenn will make a special visit to hang out with us Sunday afternoon to go over issues within various states Agriculture Departments around the country. After we review activities for the week and our issue papers we will head out for an evening Historical Tour of Washington, D.C.

Trade is our over-arching theme which will be highlighted at the Monday morning Symposium and will feature United States Trade Representative, Robert Lighthizer and an early evening visit at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea. We have confirmed a round-table discussion with leaders of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, featuring EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, and several members of his leadership team. We will also meet with Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, and leaders from Farm Service Agency, Forest Service and National Agricultural Statistics Service when we visit the United States Department of Agriculture. Some of the issues we will include: the 2018 Farm Bill, International Trade, Renewable Fuels, Rural Broadband, Rural Infrastructure, Food Safety, and Ag Labor.

Congressional visits followed by our annual Congressional reception, and the awarding of the AAW Champion of Agriculture awards, will round out the 2018 AAW Fly-In. We are working hard to add a few additional surprises to our agenda so watch for those as we move forward and confirm details. Hotel arrangements are confirmed with the Residence Inn Washington, D.C. Capitol located at 333 E. Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20024. The room rate is $269 per night for a one-bedroom suite containing two queen beds for the nights of June 2-5, 2018. The hotel block cut-off date is May 12, 2018! If you need additional assistance, please call 202-484-8280. For Registration and more details, please visit: https://americanagriwomen.org/legislative-fly-in/


For more information, contact: Ruth Jensen 805-264-4476.
AAW 2018 FLY-IN REGISTRATION
JUNE 3–6, 2018, WASHINGTON, DC
RESIDENCE INN MARRIOTT • 202-484-8280
333 E. STREET SW, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20024

Attendee ________________________________________________________________
Address _________________________________________________________________________
City __________________________________________  State ___________ Zip ______________
Phone ______________________________ Email _______________________________________
Affiliate __________________________________________________________________________

Special interests and issues (legislative or regulatory) ____________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
Senate and House bills in which you are particularly interested _____________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________________
Special needs? _____________________________________________________________

Do you want us to find you a roommate? YES ☐ NO ☐

Do you have an AAW name tag? YES ☐ NO ☐

NOTE: These have been provided the last two years. We will order a new one, if you do not have one.

COST            NUMBER       TOTAL
☐ Registration   $200         ___________     ___________
☐ Collegiate/Student Registration $100         ___________     ___________
☐ OPTIONAL Sunday Tour $25         ___________     ___________
☐ OPTIONAL Tuesday USDA Lunch $20         ___________     ___________
☐ Late Fee (May 13-25) $50         ___________     ___________

GRAND TOTAL $ ___________

**You must register by May 25, 2018. No on-site registration.**

AAW will follow up with you to obtain your social security number if required by the federal agencies for security clearance ahead of the Fly-In. So please be sure to respond, if necessary. Please do not enter your credit card information or social security number on your registration form or by email.

TO REGISTER
Go online to www.americanagriwomen.org to submit the form or mail registration and payment to:

American Agri-Women
142 Oak Circle
Colchester, VT 05446.
Phone: 586-530-1771
email: aaw@americanagriwomen.org

HOTEL INFORMATION
We will be meeting at the Residence Inn Marriott located at 333 E. Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20024. The official agenda is June 3 – 6, 2018. The room rates are good for the evenings of June 2 – 5, 2018 for $269 per night for a one-bedroom suite that includes two queen beds and one roll out sofa. Please note this room rate does not include D.C. sales tax, currently at 14.5%. Please call 202-484-8280 for reservations and reference AAW Fly-In group. Credit card information is needed at time of reservation. The hotel requires a room and incidental deposit which can be paid by cash or credit card. The deposit will be returned after 7-10 business days. Individual cancellation policy is 72 hours prior to date of arrival to avoid one night’s room plus tax cancellation charge on credit card provided. Please call 202-484-8280 and reference your confirmation number. Please obtain a cancellation number when cancelling a reservation. The deadline date to make reservations is May 12, 2018. Reservation requests received after the deadline date will be subject to availability and prevailing rate. The hotel check in time is 4pm and check out time is 11am. Complimentary wireless internet in guest rooms and breakfast is included. Parking is currently $41.30 per day. There is no airport shuttle. You can take a taxi, subway or rent a car. If you need to ship anything to the hotel, please send to: Residence Inn Marriott, ATTN: American Agri-Women, June 3-6, Your Name, 333 E. Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20024.

OPTIONAL SUNDAY TOUR
We will leave Sunday, June 3, 2018 at 5:30 pm from the hotel lobby for an Evening Tour of D.C. Monuments. Dinner will not be provided. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes for getting on and off the bus. The bus will depart at 5:30 pm and return to the hotel at 7:30 pm.

DRESS CODE
International standard business attire for meetings and reception. For example, tailored dresses; skirts with a blouse and jacket; and comfortable shoes. Business casual for evening tours.

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.

For additional information contact Ruth Jensen @ 805-264-4476 or visit us at: www.americanagriwomen.org. For registration questions contact Lisa Campion, Executive Assistant at 586-530-1771 or aaw@americanagriwomen.org.
## SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2018
You must pre-register to attend the tour and ceremony. Breakfast is included with your hotel room and served in the dining area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Residence Inn</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Mentor &amp; First</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 - 5 p.m.</td>
<td>AAW Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Residence Inn</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 - 7 p.m.</td>
<td>OPTIONAL Evening Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Lincoln Memorial</td>
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<td>• Korean War Memorial</td>
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<td>• Vietnam War Memorial</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Jefferson Memorial</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• White House (Bus will drop us off here)</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Dinner on your own</em></td>
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## MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Board Bus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hotel Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:50 a.m.</td>
<td>Bus Departs for USDA Jamie Whitten Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1400 Independence Ave., Jefferson Drive Entrance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 - 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Security Clearance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 - 11 a.m.</td>
<td>28th Annual Symposium – “Ag Trade: Critical for Agriculture, Critical for the U.S.”</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sponsored by the AAW Presidents’ Council</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USDA 107-A Press Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Bus Departs for American Petroleum Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1220 L Street, N.W., 12th Floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 - 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>American Petroleum Institute Lunch &amp; Speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>Bus Departs for EPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Security Clearance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45 - 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>EPA Agency Roundtable Visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Bus to Embassy of the Republic of Korea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2370 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td>Embassy Republic of Korea Visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>Bus Departs from Embassy Republic of Korea to Hotel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Evening on your own</em></td>
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## TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Board Bus</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hotel Lobby</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Bus Departs for USDA Jamie Whitten Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1400 Independence Ave., Jefferson Drive Entrance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Security Clearance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 - 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>USDA Caucus (Secretary, TRADE, NASS, APHIS, FARM BILL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>USDA Williamsburg Room 104A</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 - 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch Option:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• USDA Executive Dining Room or</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• On Your Own at US Capitol</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 - 4 p.m.</td>
<td>Congressional Appointments (on your own)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>AAW Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Longworth 1300</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30 - 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Congressional Reception</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Longworth 1300</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Return to hotel on your own</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2018
Attendees are encouraged to set their own congressional appointments for Tuesday from 12 - 4 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday.

## FLY-IN MEETING DESCRIPTIONS

**Orientation:** The Orientation Meeting is late Sunday afternoon to allow participants time to arrive and to check in to the hotel. Those who choose to participate in the morning event generally arrive the day before. Orientation is the opportunity for everyone to gather together, get an overview of the itinerary for the week, review the key AAW issues that participants will take to their appointments, and hear from invited speakers. This is also the time when the name tags, Agenda Packets, and Advocacy Packets are distributed.

**Symposium:** This year AAW celebrates its 27th Annual Symposium. The AAW Past Presidents host the Symposium featuring an expert panel on a timely topic. After the speaker’s presentations audience members may ask questions from a microphone. This event is usually recorded, transcribed and made available to members.

**Agency Roundtable:** The USDA Agency Roundtable has always been a favorite for Fly-In and planned for Tuesday morning. High level agency officials are invited to speak in 15 - 20 minute increments, allowing 5 minutes for Q&A. Two/three hours are generally allowed for this event, depending on the number of speakers.
2018 AAW POSITION STATEMENTS

AGRICULTURE BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

AGRICULTURAL LABOR AND IMMIGRATION
AAW believes the continual workforce shortage facing the labor-intensive agricultural industry is a matter of national security. Agricultural production as a strategic resource in the United States, and the stability of our domestically-produced food supply, is at risk without an improved temporary guest worker program.

1. AAW supports public/private investments in training the rural work force.
2. AAW supports the overtime exemption for production agriculture.
3. AAW supports a reliable, affordable, legal, and plentiful agricultural worker program.
4. AAW supports a year-round agricultural visa program to bring workers in as needed and to keep in place the skilled workforce that is already here.
5. AAW opposes fines and sanctions applied to agri-business producers who have done due diligence to hire eligible workers.
6. AAW supports strong border security.
7. AAW supports a secret ballot as the way for workers to vote for union representation.
8. AAW supports youth working and learning in production agriculture including farm family youth and youth in supervised educational experiences.
9. AAW supports full disclosure of Dept. of Labor (DOL) policies, guidelines and operating procedures such as those found in the Field Operational Handbook.
10. AAW encourages agencies that perform labor housing inspections, including the Department of Labor (DOL) wage and hour division, to work with growers to provide safe housing, or camps, and to allow them to correct problem areas in a timely manner before imposing fines.
11. AAW supports the enforcement of statutorily-required Department of Labor internal timelines for labor visa processing.
12. AAW opposes a limit to the number of agricultural worker visas passed.
13. AAW supports the call for legislation to protect the rights of workers, farmers and consumers against loss of products/production during labor disputes.
14. AAW supports wage rates for the migrant worker to be determined on a state-by-state basis with options for piece-rate, hourly rate, daily rate, or monthly rate.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND DISASTER RELIEF
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).

15. AAW supports efforts to educate producers about ways to safeguard our nation’s food and fiber supply and agricultural inputs from acts of terror.
16. AAW supports rural crime task forces in collaboration with local law enforcement for the prevention of rural and farm crime.
17. AAW urges states to identify Department of Homeland Security funding to support activities to protect food production and food distribution.
18. AAW supports legislation that would allow more rural communities to qualify for federal disaster assistance.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND BIO TECHNOLOGY

19. AAW supports continued public investment, in 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.
20. AAW supports the management and utilization of baseline data supplied by producers through USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA/NASS) and USDA Economic Research Service (USDA/ERS).
21. AAW supports the investment in research and development of agricultural transgenic biotechnology to maximize humanitarian benefits and to provide producers a greater range of management tools to promote sustainable agriculture.
22. AAW supports a coordinated framework and approval process of technological products by EPA, FDA and USDA.
23. AAW supports the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conclusion that genetically engineered plant varieties marketed to date are as safe as comparable non-genetically engineered foods and must meet the same food safety requirements as foods derived from traditionally-bred plants.
24. AAW supports the position that any biosafety protocol that is implemented should be based on risk assessments and research-based science.
25. AAW recognizes a difference between gene editing and transgenic breeding methods. Labeling and testing policies should reflect such differences.

GLOBAL ISSUES
AAW stands firm in defending the Constitution and Bill of Rights of the United States of America. We strongly urge all members of Congress to protect the sovereignty of the United States against global governance.

AAW defines “sustainable agriculture,” including silviculture, forestry, aquaculture, and hydroponics, as using best management 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.

26. AAW rejects the involvement of international organizations in the re-distribution of wealth, limitations on property rights, and limitations on opportunities and privileges.
27. AAW recognizes the need for an international forum for countries to discuss their differences and cooperate on problems of common concern.
28. 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 and its territories.
29. AAW supports the concept that the United States, not the United Nations, establish the criteria to be met by developing nations prior to receiving U.S. food aid.

We support giving “food” in food aid rather than dollars. We recognize that the United States needs to provide a steady level of food aid every year, on which the international humanitarian community can rely.
30. AAW opposes any new designation of biosphere reserves.
31. AAW opposes the sale of U.S. public lands holdings or its mineral rights, water rights, or other resources to foreign entities.
32. AAW recognizes the need for international self-reliant farm programs for developing and/or war-torn countries.

**TRADE ISSUES**
AAW supports a free enterprise economy that encourages innovation and entrepreneurship based on private property rights.

**DOMESTIC**

**LABELING**
33. AAW supports labeling on all imported agriculture and aquaculture products at the final point of sale to consumers.
34. AAW recognizes food safety and traceability mechanisms; however, the added cost of implementation must not be borne solely by producers.
35. AAW contends that protein products derived from tissue-engineered processing is not meat and should not be labeled as “meat.”

**MARKET CONSOLIDATION**
36. AAW supports active regulatory oversight of market consolidation.
37. AAW supports efforts to maintain a robust marketplace for U.S. agricultural producers, supported by the notion that many participants bring transparency to prices. We believe that any schemes or mechanisms that artificially limit market access should be subject to review for anti-trust violations, price fixing, or other collusion that would lead to price distortion and competitive disadvantage to those who are uninvolved in those schemes.

**INTERNATIONAL**

**INTERNATIONAL TRADE NEGOTIATION AND POLICY**
38. 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.
39. AAW recognizes the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the primary international forum for world trade.
40. AAW encourages the U.S. Trade Representative and/or the WTO to review the developing nation status.

**SANCTION REFORM**
52. AAW believes that unilateral sanctions involving food have not proven to be an effective means to further foreign policy goals and are disruptive to international food trade.

**TRANSPORTATION**
53. AAW supports investment in modernizing our transportation infrastructure.
54. AAW supports the repeal of the electronic logging devices mandate.
55. AAW believes that all commercial vehicles operating within U.S. borders must meet uniform safety standards.
56. AAW supports that the governance of U.S. ports be in line with the policies governing railroads and air. The purpose is to avoid any interruption of commerce and the prompt and orderly settlement of all disputes.

**RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS**
57. AAW supports a full range of ownership of telecommunications infrastructure, including entrepreneurs, corporations, cooperatives, municipalities and other units of local government.
58. AAW supports federal resources to build out fiber-based and wireless telecommunications (line of sight and satellite) for support of rural development.
59. AAW urges that speeds equivalent to metropolitan areas be made available and affordable for all rural Americans.
60. AAW supports the Federal Communication Commission fully compensating low-power television stations and translator owners for costs associated with broadcast spectrum changes or relocations.
61. AAW encourages the Federal Communication Commission to maintain an inventory of all spectrum usage.
62. AAW supports keeping the Internet as a means of open communication.
63. AAW supports federal funding for any requirements mandated by the federal government to upgrade first responder and local law enforcement technology.

**INNOVATION**
64. 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.
65. AAW supports efforts by nonprofits and educational institutions to develop entrepreneurship in youth and adult populations.

**COOPERATIVES**
66. AAW supports the ability of farmers and ranchers to participate in cooperatively-structured enterprises.

**ACCESS TO CAPITAL**
67. AAW supports lending policies that recognize the unique lending environment of rural areas.
68. AAW supports initiatives that will ensure that community banks and the Farm Credit System remain reliable and
DEPRECIATION
80. AAW supports the depreciation recapture rules when farm and other business depreciable assets are sold on retirement or cessation of business.

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

82. AAW supports the permanent authorization of at least 50% bonus depreciation.

RURAL POST OFFICES
72. AAW opposes the closure of rural post offices and facilities and the reduction of services that provide rural mail distribution.

TAXATION
73. AAW supports measures that will provide tax simplification for farmers, ranchers, and small business and opposes any effort to make tax laws more burdensome.

74. AAW supports the cash accounting method for family farmers and ranchers, regardless of business structure and gross income.

75. AAW opposes making changes to Section 1031, Like-Kind Exchanges.

76. AAW supports restoring the “Small Partnership Exception” into tax code. Congress eliminated this provision in the 2015 Budget Bill found in Section 6231(a)(1)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code.

77. AAW supports business interest paid on loans to be fully deductible as it is a cost of doing business.

78. AAW supports FICA and Medicare taxes (self-employment tax) to be assessed only on wages, not on pass-through dividends to shareholders from corporate-structured farms.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX ON THE SALE OF FARMLAND
79. AAW supports increasing the federal primary residence tax exemption to $500,000/$1,000,000 and it would apply to the sale of farmland.

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HEALTH INSURANCE FOR SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS
83. AAW supports the deduction for health insurance for the self-employed and family-owned corporations regardless of business structure at 100%.

ESTATE AND GIFT TAX
84. AAW supports a continued individual estate tax exemption at $10 million or above, indexed for inflation.

85. AAW supports maintaining a minimum gift tax exemption of $15,000.

86. AAW supports repeal of the estate tax as long as the stepped-up basis is maintained.

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.

LONG-TERM SECURITY AND RETIREMENT
87. AAW supports a tax incentive for lifetime payouts from individual annuities. AAW supports investment standards to protect the client’s best interest.

HEALTH INSURANCE, PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AND MEDICARE
88. AAW supports mental health services, including prevention, treatment, and recovery of addiction.

89. AAW supports that citizens of the United States should have access to the best medical service, health insurance, prescriptions and Medicare coverage from the most economical source.

90. AAW supports employers being able to choose what health insurance plans to offer their employees, if any.

91. AAW respects and supports continued medical research.

92. AAW supports requiring health insurance companies to reimburse pharmacies for prescriptions at the pharmacy’s cost.

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RURAL POST OFFICES
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103. AAW supports a national Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) program with continued funding and support for a national director, regional and national conferences.

104. 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.

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

106. AAW supports the teaching of our nation’s cultural, religious, social, economic and political structure; AAW opposes the use of public education to politically indoctrinate America’s children.

107. AAW supports a requirement for all students of Land Grant universities to be required to have basic instruction on agriculture and the food, fiber and fuel system as part of their graduation requirement. passed

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 wellbeing of the world depends upon modern, progressive production capabilities and practices of U.S. agriculture.

108. 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.

109. AAW requests an independent audit of all commodity checkoffs as well as complete transparency.

110. AAW supports the retention and continued development of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). AAW believes the USDA is imperative for the continued global success of our national food, fuel and fiber product security.

111. AAW supports legislation that will enhance domestic and international market growth as well as legislation that exempts food from trade embargoes.

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

113. AAW supports an efficient and modern transportation infrastructure, which enables U.S. farmers and ranchers to access 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.

114. AAW urges USDA Regional Climate Hubs to use peer-reviewed data when delivering information and guidance. We oppose technologies and risk management procedures that would create a burden to those producing food and fiber.

115. AAW supports redirecting funds from the USDA Regional Climate Hubs to a Foot and Mouth Disease Vaccine Research and Development Bank.

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

117. AAW supports organic producers paying into commodity check-off programs as do conventional producers.

COMMODITY MARKETING

118. AAW supports initiatives that promote the ability to offer forward contracts and risk mitigation tools.

CROPS

CROP INSURANCE

119. AAW supports crop insurance that: • provides coverage based on current crop history and is administered by the private sector; • provides affordable priced, adequate coverage, which is actuarially sound and voluntary, in all regions of the country; • requires participation for eligibility in government crop disaster programs.

120. AAW supports crop insurance as a viable alternative within the Farm Program as a necessary means for global food security at an affordable cost to producers.

121. AAW supports the strict enforcement of crop insurance regulations with regard to abuse of the program.

122. AAW supports the government recognizing that private insurers must preserve capital for possible future payouts to producers. We support the transparency of all crop insurance companies.

CROP PROTECTION

123. 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.

124. AAW supports the re-registration of current fumigants and continued development of new fumigants for crop production and export opportunities.

125. AAW supports the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducting more timely review and determination on new product registration.

Sections 18 and 24 are emergency pest management protocol.

126. AAW urges Congress to continue oversight of the EPA in its review of Section 18, Section 24C and Crisis Exemption requests by the states, manufacturers and third parties in a timely manner.

127. 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.

128. AAW opposes a zero-risk standard for spray drift and supports the requirement that products be applied according to the label.

129. AAW supports the policies that provide for producers to keep records on-site for chemical usage.

130. 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.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND SPECIALTY CROPS

131. AAW supports the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) increasing fruits, vegetables and specialty crops for consumption in federal food programs.

132. 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.

133. AAW supports research and implementation of minimum grade quality standards for fresh fruits, vegetables and specialty crops that will improve product quality and meet consumer expectations to enhance the growers’ competitive position. We also support a periodic review and revision of federal grades and standards to better reflect conditions due to modern harvest and marketing methods.

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

135. AAW supports individual and cooperative efforts by producers to improve income with processing and marketing methods which add value to farm products while maintaining food safety.

GRAINS/SUGAR/COTTON

136. AAW supports and promotes alternative uses of all grain and related by-products produced in the United States.

137. AAW supports a national energy policy that includes a Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) for all transportation fuels and less dependence upon foreign oil.

138. AAW supports cotton being recognized as not only a source of fiber and feed but also as an oil.

139. AAW supports the U.S. sugar program.

NEW CROPS AND NEW USES

140. AAW supports research efforts into the development of alternate/new crops for commercial food, fiber and energy uses.

141. AAW supports research on plant-based feeds necessary to develop the regulatory structure for an offshore aquaculture industry in the U.S.

142. AAW supports the federal legalization of industrial hemp for food and fiber use.

FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION

143. AAW supports a federal standard to maintain the U.S. food supply while maintaining consumer food confidence in the safety and affordability of U.S. agricultural products.

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 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.

144. To ensure the safety of our food supply, AAW supports:
   • the implementation of animal health emergency management and eradication programs;
   • Hazard Analysis and Risk-based Preventive Control (HARPC);
   • monitoring 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;
   • the advancements in ag chemicals and technology that play a major role in maintaining both quality and quantity of food.

145. AAW fully supports peer-reviewed published scientific studies in dietary recommendations. AAW also supports healthy eating habits, recommending a balanced daily diet of meats, dairy, fruits, whole grains and vegetables in order to support healthy living.

146. AAW supports the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) — the most sweeping reform of our nation’s food safety laws in more than 70 years — shifting focus to risk prevention, rather than only responding to contamination, in the following areas:
   • protection of food against intentional adulteration
   • sanitary transportation of human and animal foods
   • safety rules for produce
   • foreign supplier verification
   • accredited third-party certification
   • preventative controls for human foods
   • preventative controls for foods for animals

   Implemented, these regulated programs assure consumer confidence in our national food supply and products sourced from other countries.

LANDSCAPING, NURSERIES AND GREENHOUSES

147. 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.

148. AAW supports continued research and development of biological, physical, chemical and chemical tools necessary for nursery growers and landscape maintenance professionals to incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies into their overall management regimens.

149. 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.

LIVESTOCK AND DAIRY

150. AAW supports programs financed by producer and processor investment that increase demand for U.S. dairy and livestock products both in the United States and around the world.

151. AAW supports the use of the latest technological tools to meet increased global demand for meat, milk and eggs.

152. AAW supports availability of new products to safeguard the health of animals.

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

154. 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.

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

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

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

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

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

160. 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.

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

162. 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.

163. AAW opposes implementing fines and/or prison time for anyone who sells, transports, imports or exports horses going to a humane and regulated horse processing facility.

164. AAW supports having regulations that preserve premiums for higher quality livestock yet allow individuals to prove they themselves have suffered economic damages from direct purchasers versus proving economic damages to all producers.

165. AAW supports a more flexible pricing structure for milk producers to ultimately achieve greater profitability and sustain the family dairy.

166. AAW supports the development of new technology or strategies to be able to sell dairy products directly off the farm to increase profitability.

167. AAW supports the development of new dairy products and the expansion of current dairy products into new markets.

168. AAW supports classifying milk as a commodity for federal crop insurance purposes.

169. AAW supports updating the Margin Protection Program to better reflect feed costs and provide better coverage.

170. AAW opposes any organization working to force its members into a socialistic group, thereby destroying the protections of individual liberties provided in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

171. AAW opposes policies with a façade of compromise and agreement to unnecessary, onerous, prohibitive, and costly regulations at the expense of fewer producers, fewer ranches, higher food prices, all of which are intended consequences.

172. AAW defines “milk” as being produced by a mammal.

ANIMAL WELL-BEING

173. AAW supports the responsible treatment of animals and livestock industry participation in the development of any new policy to regulate treatment practices.

174. 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.

175. AAW supports only highly qualified and uniformly trained states’ departments of agriculture employees access to properties for inspections at slaughterhouses or any other animal handling facility. AAW opposes any legislation or regulations that would allow the 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.

176. AAW respectfully asks legislators, when they are approached by animal rights representatives to carry bills pertaining to animal health and welfare, 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.

177. AAW supports the responsible use of animals in research.

178. 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.

179. AAW supports legislation that 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.

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

181. AAW supports the right of farmers to protect their records from public access.

182. AAW supports the legalization of horse slaughter plants to guarantee the humane and environmentally sensitive disposal of abandoned, aged and infirm horses in the U.S. without excessive regulations.

183. AAW supports the sale, possession and humane transportation of horses for processing across state and international borders without excessive regulations.

184. AAW supports the use of standardized Best Management Practices (BMPs) in livestock carcass disposal.

185. AAW opposes regulations which require licensed businesses to sell only rescue animals.

NATIVE POLLINATORS

186. AAW supports strong pollinator communities, and the funding for continued research, including but not limited to, bee pests and diseases.

187. AAW supports locally-determined practices as the most beneficial means of maintaining native pollinator health.

NATURAL RESOURCES

AAW stands firm in defending the Constitution of the United States of America and we strongly urge all members of Congress to protect the sovereignty of the United States against global governance.

AAW strongly rejects the policy of social justice as described as the right and opportunity of all people to benefit equally from the resources afforded us by society and the environment which would be accomplished by redistribution of wealth.

AAW defines “sustainable agriculture,” including silviculture, forestry, hydroponics and aquaculture, as using our best management 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.

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

189. AAW supports the multiple use of natural resources.

190. AAW recommends policies that promote abundant renewable natural resources in a healthy, productive environment.
191. AAW supports the use of natural resources to produce food, clothing, shelter and fuel as a priority for the U.S. economy and national security.

192. 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 and actions. There should be:
- specific timetables,
- timely efficiency reports,
- analysis of public and private costs of implementation,
- balancing of harms and benefits using peer-reviewed science and economics, and
- analysis of the effect of no-management actions (i.e. increased loss of lives and property due to wildfires).

193. AAW supports community-oriented policing with increased training for local, as well as state and federal, law enforcement to understand the local agricultural practices.

194. AAW asserts that any new policy must deliver environmental progress without harming the U.S. economy or its food, fiber or fuel production.

**CLEAN AIR**

195. 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 peer-reviewed science as justification for the increased regulation.

196. AAW supports a clean air standard that does not:
- curtail production activities;
- restrict pesticide applications when following label instructions;
- eliminate pesticide availability;
- restrict animal agricultural feeding operations due to emissions from animal waste handling and storage;
- prescribe costly control measures for animal agriculture;
- require wasteful control measures for certain food and agricultural processing industries;
- restrict energy production or lead to increased energy costs in rural areas.

197. AAW opposes public efforts, such as emissions limits and exchange schemes (for example, Cap and Trade), which puts U.S. agriculture at a competitive disadvantage with other countries.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**

*America's security and economic solvency depend upon our military and domestic food and energy supply and must therefore take precedence over the regulations of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).*

198. AAW supports the value of human life, safety, and welfare above any other species whether endangered, threatened, or not listed.

199. 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 reauthorized and the means for funding is reevaluated. In addition, we recommend concentrating on reforming guidance and court proceedings that detrimentally affect implementation of the ESA.

200. AAW supports active land management, private property rights, and policies that benefit all species without placing any one (i.e. endangered or threatened) species above others.

201. AAW supports full partnership with states and local agencies in listing species, defining critical habitat designations, leading recovery planning, and delisting decisions.

202. AAW supports state and local control of the management of all species of predators. Each state has different issues with animals such as, but not limited to, wolves, cougars, or bears.

203. 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 and should be enforced.

204. AAW supports an ESA consultation process requiring the use of peer-reviewed 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.

205. AAW supports eliminating subjective biological units (subspecies, populations, stocks) from ESA action and pursuit recovery of only significant species.

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

207. 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. No fine should be assessed unless a violation is proven. AAW supports the implementation of an Endangered Species Recovery Transparency Act.

208. 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.

209. AAW strongly supports accountability by reviewing and evaluating recovery plans every five years.

210. AAW recommends streamlining the pesticide registration process and ESA compliance by changing the process and underlying policy to allow governmental agencies to use existing resources and expertise.

211. AAW supports excluding a species from consideration as endangered or threatened, or if already on the list, de-list it, if it is abundant in any location.

212. AAW acknowledges “extinction” as a natural process.

213. AAW believes ONLY native species should be considered for endangered species status in historic and/or current native habitat.

214. AAW opposes expansion of critical habitat designations for species listed under the ESA without peer-reviewed scientific data, and a process to incorporate public comments, that clearly show a need for additional acres.

215. AAW opposes the U.S. listing of endangered species in foreign countries.

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

216. AAW supports an initiative of having 25% or more of the U.S. renewable energy sources being produced by farms, ranches and forests by the year 2025.

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

218. AAW supports the use of alternative energy sources, such as ethanol, biodiesel, wind energy, solar, hydro-power, compressed natural gas and biomass fuels, because:
   • alternative energy sources are an abundant renewable resource;
   • alternative energy sources are important to our nation's energy security;
   • alternative energy sources are environmentally friendly.

219. 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.

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

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

222. AAW supports continued research of nuclear energy and development of new plants providing there is a safe means of disposal of the nuclear waste.

223. AAW opposes moratoriums of any kind on fracturing for oil or natural gas or frac sand mining.

Fracturing for oil and natural gas is based on the geology for exploration and production, which is currently granted a permit by each individual state. Each U.S. geographical area is different, so each state's pollution control agency should prepare an environmental study prior to granting a permit for frac sand mining.

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

225. AAW supports the passage of legislation to promote the export of raw hydrocarbons to further industry growth.

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 habitat. 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 use and enjoy.

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 biomass and saw logs would make materials available to be used for generating electricity, biodiesel, bio-ethanol, or other heavy fuel oils and aid in carbon sequestration. It is not economically feasible to remove woody biomass without the removal of the traditional saw log. Restoration 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.

226. AAW urges Congress to require the Forest Service to implement their National Forest Plans by:
   • increasing the timber sale program to 4 billion board feet annually and continuing to increase annual volumes until they achieve the Forest Plan levels;
   • reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfires and insect epidemics using timber harvest and other available tools;
   • salvaging trees killed by fires and insect epidemics to reduce excessive carbon emissions;
   • reducing carbon emissions from the national forests at the same rate expected of private enterprises and businesses.

227. AAW supports creating a separate fund to allow extraordinary wildfires to be treated the same as other natural disasters, changing the methods used to fund national forest fire suppression costs to:
   • Fire funding should be the highest priority of the Forest Service.
   • Eliminate the need for “fire borrowing”
   • Provide policy reforms that would provide for treating an increase number of forested acres in a more expedient manner.

Our public national forests are sick and dying. Today's public forests are growing 10 to 100 times more trees 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.

228. AAW urges Congress to expand Forest Service authorities, such as Categorical Exclusions, to ensure that national forest projects are implemented on a landscape scale.

229. AAW opposes the sale of national forest lands to fund the purchase of more federal lands.

Wilderness Study Areas: Lands not actually designated yet as “wilderness” are being treated in a like manner long after studies have shown these areas do not fit criteria for wilderness. These areas should be returned to multiple-use status and allow roads and trails to be maintained for access.

230. AAW urges legislation to offer cost sharing towards environmental quality incentives and tax incentives for developing renewable energy sources, habitats and/or water improvements.

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.

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

232. AAW urges Congress to amend the Equal Access to Justice Act, requiring full transparency and disclosure of payments, a significant bond based on losses incurred by delays, limiting
amounts awarded, and requiring plaintiffs to pay government’s attorneys’ fees if they lose, which would deter frivolous lawsuits.

233. AAW opposes the purchase of additional federal lands considering current maintenance backlogs and inadequate management of current lands.

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.

234. 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.

*“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.

LAND USE AND PROPERTY RIGHTS
235. AAW supports the preservation of our nation’s sovereignty and our Constitution as the supreme law of the land.

236. 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 the land.

237. 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.

238. AAW opposes the elimination of productive agriculture lands to construct artificial wetlands.

Even though local, state and federal governments own nearly 50% of the land in the western 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. * (2017 USGS)

239. AAW opposes any authority given to nongovernmental 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.

240. AAW opposes the designation of scenic byways, flyways, waterways or any other designations and the resulting restrictions on private lands in the U.S.

241. AAW supports protection from public agencies that through unconstitutional actions assert their authority by using unreasonable searches, seizures and entries onto private properties.

242. AAW supports access to federal lands for multiple uses including but not limited to agriculture, grazing, mining, drilling, forestry, habitat and recreation.

243. AAW supports a policy of no net loss of taxable private property and a policy of no net increase in the acreage of any national forest.

244. AAW opposes preferential treatment to sellers or buyers of private lands, water, or mineral rights through tax incentives or other measures to nonprofit entities.

245. AAW supports efforts to prevent entities from setting up “shell” companies in order to obtain funds on conservation payments.

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

246. AAW supports restricting and monitoring the conditions by which private nonprofit groups and nongovernmental organization (NGO) groups can purchase land with the intent to sell or transfer ownership of that land to the government.

247. The federal government must show where their authority comes from to acquire land or take the use of the land.

248. AAW supports limiting the President’s authority to unilaterally designate national monuments or any designation, either by 1) repeal of the Antiquities Act or 2) by requiring prior state approval and by act of Congress.

249. AAW strongly opposes the designation of additional wilderness areas.

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 fires. 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 October 15, 2017, the National Wilderness Preservation system currently contain 765 wilderness areas comprising 109,982,783 acres in 44 states and Puerto Rico. (source: wilderness.net, Univ. of Montana)

PUBLIC LAND AND ANIMAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
250. AAW expects the government to comply with the same standards imposed on citizens and businesses regarding the management of natural resources and wildlife.

251. AAW supports active, responsible management of wildlife.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS
252. AAW supports legislation that reinforces our citizens’ constitutional private property rights that require just and complete compensation at highest and best use for the taking of private property.

253. AAW opposes “ takings” legislation that devalues land by: • regulatory action; • activities that negatively impact adjacent land; • by creating buffer zones, scenic byways, scenic view sheds and scenic view scapes; • activities that impact landowner rights in any way, or by endorsing conservation easements.

AAW contends that water is property (the Hage vs. United States Takings case, January 26, 2004) and therefore privately owned permitted water shall be held at the highest and best use even when the public deems as necessary a beneficial use of that water.

254. AAW strongly supports private property owners and the sovereignty of states above the federal government regarding allocations of water within their borders.

255. AAW supports a private property owner’s right to a fair appeals process prior to any fines being imposed by a government agency.

256. 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.

257. AAW opposes the right to trespass onto private property by land, air, or water access.

258. AAW opposes government agencies or third parties using unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) for the purpose of regulatory enforcement, litigation or inventorying natural resources without the written consent of the landowner and/or farm operator.

Furthermore, we are distressed to see many government employees go unpunished for criminal behavior while private property owners are the victims of fraud, bullying, and activist judges.

EMINENT DOMAIN

260. 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.

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

262. AAW opposes the use of eminent domain for economic development and additional tax revenue accruing from such development.

263. When eminent domain is used for public welfare or safety, AAW opposes the government acquiring more land than necessary for the project.

264. AAW strongly opposes the taking of private property by postings on the internet. We support written notification through registered mail of any intent related to private property.

265. AAW supports every effort to use existing public land before imposing eminent domain.

266. AAW opposes the taking of private property by eminent domain to construct the planned North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Transportation Corridor that will reach from Mexico to Canada.

267. AAW opposes the use of eminent domain by a foreign country.

WATER RESOURCES

WATER QUALITY

Programs under the Clean Water Act should promote the use of voluntary Best Management Practices (BMPs) by rural landowners, agricultural producers and urban natural resources 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.

NON-POINT SOURCE

268. AAW supports revising water quality standards based on real risk to human health as determined by peer-reviewed scientific methods.

269. AAW supports the clarification by Congress that access roads on federal lands are not point-source pollution.

DATA AND MONITORING

270. 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.

271. 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 seasonable water temperature standards for rivers and streams.

272. 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 MANAGEMENT

CIVIL WORKS

273. 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.

274. 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.

275. 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.

276. 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.

277. 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 credible research to ensure that socioeconomic costs are justifiable with devaluation and/or harm to individuals, communities or states being fully compensated.

278. 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 peer-reviewed science 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

279. AAW advocates policies that promote abundance of water resources and/or water storage.

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

**NAVIGABLE WATERS**


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

**WATER CONTRACTS, WATER RIGHTS AND OWNERSHIP**

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

283. AAW urges Congress to honor its contractual obligations to agricultural water users who rely on federally-constructed water projects for irrigation supplies. Full contract supplies are essential to maintain productive farmland.

284. 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.

285. AAW opposes foreign ownership of water and water treatment and distribution utilities.

286. AAW opposes federal purchase of privately held water rights in cases where the federal government would then hold the water right.

287. AAW supports agriculture as the highest and best use 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 products.

288. AAW supports the protection of water, existing water rights, and future water availability for agricultural use.

289. AAW supports the protection of historic water rights.

**WETLANDS**

290. AAW objects to a national policy of no impact to wetlands, versus the previous policy of minimizing impacts to wetlands.

291. AAW objects to public funds supporting easements or buyouts to nonprofit groups for large-scale wetland restoration that removes agricultural land from local tax rolls and other local economic activity.

292. 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.

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

293. AAW suggests continued research on the causes and effects of man-made climate change.

> “There are several reasons why scientists disagree about global warming: 1) A conflict among scientists in different and often competing disciplines; 2) fundamental scientific uncertainties concerning how the global climate responds to the human presence; 3) failure of the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to provide objective guidance to the complex science; and 4) bias among researchers. “Why Scientists Disagree About Global Warming: The NIPCC Report on Scientific Consensus”

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**We are a force for truth, a reasoned, non-partisan voice for the agricultural community to the public.**

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*Ardath DeWall introducing Jolene Brown for the AAW Foundation’s Leadership Event. AAW Mid-Year Attendees enjoyed the Monsanto tour and speakers.*
Top left: AAW Mid-Year attendees tour Monsanto.
Middle left: Kellie Bray from CropLife America joining in the AgDay365 Challenge.
Bottom left: Executive Committee members enjoying the Executive Retreat in Ventura, California
Top right: AAW President Jeanette Lombardo’s AgDay 365 Challenge.
Bottom right: AAW Foundation President, Janell Reid, and Jolene Brown smiling after the AAW Foundation’s Leadership Event.
JOIN US IN ILLINOIS
FOR THE 2018
AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN CONVENTION
hosted by
the Illinois Agri-Women

NOVEMBER 15-18
2018

WYNDHAM CITY CENTER
700 E Adams St.
Springfield, IL
217-789-1530

CONVENTION CHAIR:
Susan Wall
217.825.7975

REGISTER ONLINE AT:
www.illinoisagriwomen.org
**Wednesday, November 14, 2018**

- 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Registration, Mezzanine
- 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting

**Thursday, November 15, 2018**

- 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Registration, Mezzanine
- 8:30 a.m. Thursday Tour (KEL Equine Productions, Lincoln Presidential Museum, Brandt Consolidated) Departs, Lobby North Entrance
- 4:00 p.m. Thursday Tour Returns to Wyndham City Centre, Lobby North Entrance
  
  Placing Silent Auction Items begins, check in at Registration Desk to set up in Prairie
- 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Hospitality Suite, Vista 1,2 & 3 on the 29th Floor
- 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. AAW Foundation Board Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Joint AAW Executive Committee and AAW Foundation Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. AAW Board Meeting of AAW Officers and Affiliate Presidents

**Friday, November 16, 2018**

- 8:00 a.m. Guest Tour Departs (tentative schedule - CAT Bulldozer, Precision Planting, Sinn Turkey Farm)
- 8:30 a.m. Opening Ceremonies and Welcome, Capitol/Illinois
- 9:00 a.m. General Session Speakers
- 1:30 p.m. – 4:15 Breakout Sessions – Leadership, Personal Development, Policy and Applied Knowledge
- 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. AAW Committees Meet {Education, Leadership, Membership, Policy}
- 5:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Hospitality, Vistas 1,2 & 3
- 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Syngenta Leadership at Its Best Reception for Program Alumni

**Saturday, November 17, 2018**

- 8:30 a.m. – Noon AAW Business Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Lunch and 2019 Convention Invitation
- 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions – Leadership, Personal Development, Applied Knowledge
- 4:00 p.m. Silent Auction and Trade Show Concludes
- 5:30 p.m. President’s Reception followed by Banquet and Keynote, Capitol/Illinois
- 8:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. Hospitality, Vistas 1,2 & 3

**Sunday, November 18, 2018**

- 7:30 a.m. Worship Service, Vista 3
- 8:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Post-Tour Lock and Dam 26, tent. Cleanest Coal-Fired Plant in World, Marcoot Creamery, Hampton+Knodle Homestead Supper Departs
- 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Optional Executive Committee. Capitol Suite (or possibly the Presidential Suite)
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