



THE VOICE



L-R Heather Hampton-Knodle, Diana Ropp, Susie Wall, Mary Meinhart, Lorrie Stahl, Ruth Hambleton, Court Hruska, Ann Hampton

GREAT TIME AT THE 2018 AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN CONVENTION

By Susan Wall

The AAW Convention which was held on November 15-18 in Springfield, Illinois was a wonderful experience and a good time of being with old friends and making new ones.

Everyone who attended the convention went home with a smile on their face and a wealth of valuable information which they acquired there. We had such great speakers and breakout sessions, that it would have been exciting to hear them all. Due to complications, Julie Borlaug could not make it to speak on Saturday. It was disappointing for her and us as well, but the convention committee just kept things rolling smoothly.

Shopping at the Trade Show was great fun and there were so many booths and so many things to buy. As well as the neat things that were brought in to bid on at the Silent Auction. Did you get your picture taken with Abe Lincoln? It was so fun to actually meet him!

What about that Hospitality Room? I just loved it! There was so much room to

sit and talk with each other while we ate those delicious Illinois produced foods and beverages. The huge windows on the 29th floor, which allowed us to see the gorgeous view of downtown Springfield was certainly the "icing on top of the cake."

I am so proud of the convention committee; they all delivered such a well-organized and professional job. As the chairman of the convention, I cannot say enough about the wonderful, talented group of women who organized and executed the program! Because they worked so hard and put so much time into the planning, I will tell you who they are.

- Program Chair: Heather Hampton-Knodle and Susan Wall
- Sponsorship Chair: Diana Ropp; Sheila Hunt, Ardath DeWall and Court Hruska



2018 Veritas Award Winner Mindy Patterson and Trooper

2018 VERITAS AWARD TO "THE CAVALRY GROUP"

By Karen Yost

Mindy Patterson, President and husband Mark CEO and co-founders of The Cavalry Group, received the Veritas Award from American Agri-Women Committee chairperson, Pat Yeagle during the 2018 AAW Annual Meeting and Convention held in Springfield, Illinois.

The AAW Veritas award, (Veritas is Latin for Truth) was

HIGHLIGHTS

05 ERICKSON-MCCRUM

Pat Yeagle was honored with the outstanding mentor award.

08 AG DAY 365

AAW is launching its third year of our AgDay 365 campaign.

12 MID YEAR AGENDA

Time to start making plans to attend Mid Year!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I hope you all enjoy the holidays with family and friends surrounding you. HAPPY NEW YEAR! I also hope your 2019 is off to a wonderful start! By the time you receive this winter edition of The Voice, your Executive Committee will be on its way to Maine to conduct our annual retreat at the home of Past President Sue McCrum. There are many goals for this year and I am looking forward to the discussion. AAW is truly blessed with many thoughtful and dedicated leaders.

Here is a sample of a few ideas we will be developing for implementation:

- 1. Cultivating Resiliency-Ag Community Support Initiative.** Please review the article in this publication for detailed information on this program. I was so thankful to receive the support of the membership for the Farmer Financial Stress and Suicide Prevention platform. AAW has received a small grant to conduct a regional pilot. Webinars have already begun, and the participation is more than I anticipated. After the pilot is completed this spring, our intention is to recreate the program in all ten USDA Farm Production Regions.
 - Volunteer Opportunity** - At this time, I am recruiting one person from each region to act as a Regional Coordinator. This volunteer would assist in getting the word out about the program in their local agricultural community. They would assist in location resources and possibly secure a meeting room for some initial training.
- I hope you will all be as excited about this effort as I am. I want AAW to

try to change the culture of agriculture to one where all producers are encouraged, supported, and empowered to take care of their mental well-being. We have a real opportunity to make an impact in our own local communities, and I hope you will consider rising to this challenge and volunteering.

- 2. Membership and Past Presidents Council.** At Convention I received a proposal from the Past Presidents Council offering their assistance with affiliation acquisition and retention. I have taken them up on their overture, and will be assigning them emails and ordering them business cards. AAW will utilize their leadership and dedication in the following ways:
 - Acquisition** - Per the American Agri-Women Bylaws: "The purpose of AAW is to unite women's agricultural organizations and individuals to communicate with one another and with other consumers to promote agriculture for the benefit of the American people and the world." Our Past President will locate and recruit new affiliates for membership in the organization. Many of us know, groups that wish to have a stronger and louder voice through an affiliate with American Agri-Women. If you are aware of one of these groups which you would like us to have preliminary discussions with, please email me their contact information at president@americanagriwomen.org. I will work with Karolyn Zurn, Membership Chair and Ardath DeWall, Past-President's Council Chair.
 - Retention** - During the existence of any organization questions may

arise on a number of topics, such as: bylaws, tax reporting, recruiting leadership, membership expansion, as well as position statements on legislative and regulatory issues. The Past Presidents Council will be a support system for our current affiliates to assist them in these and any other organizational and structural matters. If you are an existing affiliate and would like some assistance on any matter please contact me at the email address listed above.

- 3. Fundraising Ad Hoc Committee.** Through the years American Agri-Women has grown and changed. The days of collecting numerous small donations has been augmented with larger corporate sponsors. These donors may expect a return on their investments by having projects completed or outreach conducted. These expectations have created a new paradigm for fundraising in AAW. This shift requires a new structure to support it.
- Volunteer Opportunity.** What the Executive Committee will be exploring at our retreat is taking the geographical breakdown being suggested in the Farmer Stress Program and selecting one member from each region to serve on this committee. Some possible job duties of these committee members might include the following:
 - a.** Treasurer-invoice and provide tax information.
 - b.** Foundation Coordinator-Day of Giving, Social Media Outreach, Disaster Recovery
 - c.** Write donation letters, proposals, contracts, activity reports on

PRESIDENT, continued on page 3 ►

◀ **PRESIDENT**, continued from page 2

- project implementation
- d. Memorials
- e. Grant Writing
- f. Thank you and recognition

There are many members who want to increase the incredible work that American Agri-Women does in fulfilling its mission. Additionally, members have expressed an interest for more participation at the national level from our incredible new members. In order to have that specific involvement, some ladies may need additional financial support than what AAW has historically been able to supply. In order to achieve these goals the organization needs to secure additional funding.

AAW is a national organization and we need more than one volunteer (past president) to support our

operational budget. The Executive Committee will look at developing this framework. Please contact me if you have an interest in volunteering for this committee. I will work with you and Doris Mold, the current Fund Development Chair.

As you can see there is exciting work ahead! Remember to give is to receive! As you make your New Year's goals, please plan to volunteer for AAW. The continued success of AAW depends on your participation....and the friendships you make along the way are an amazing bonus!

Best Regards,

Jeanette Lombardo



◀ **VERITAS**, continued from page 1

created from the AAW motto, "A Force for Truth," and is given to an individual or organization which has given public witness to the pursuit of truth.

Mindy and her husband, Mark, founded the Cavalry Group after realizing the great and critical need for the protection, awareness and legal counsel for animal-owners. They fight daily against the threat of the radical animal rights movement nationwide. "The threat of which is attempting to destroy the very heritage of American horseback, farming culture, and animal ownership -- and is ultimately an assault on American's private property rights," says Mindy.

The Cavalry Group specializes in exposing the truth against unfair and false-based accusations brought forth by extremist animal rights' groups

such as the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). They are leading the charge in defending the onslaught of a growing "anti-animal ownership" ideology. They challenge the infiltration of animal rights activism in government at the local, state and federal levels and protecting the Constitutional rights of ownership through legal defense of members, increasing public awareness through lobbying efforts and testifying in Congress.

The Cavalry Group is a member-driven organization. For more information see: www.thecavalrygroup.com or contact Mindy at: mindypatterson777@gmail.com. The Patterson's live in Wildwood, Missouri, and have a grown daughter. The Cavalry Group was nominated for this award by Montana Agri-Women.



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The VOICE is published quarterly by American Agri-Women as a service to members. For more info, contact Jenny Stelmach, VP Communications. Submission deadlines: March 10, June 10, September 10, December 10.

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

Facebook: American Agri-Women

Instagram: @americanagriwomen

Twitter: @women4ag

◀ **CONVENTION**, continued from page 1

- Marketing Committee: Margie Menacher, Krista Swanson, Gayle Baker, Gracie Weinzierl
- Trade Show Chair: Sheila Hunt
- Silent Auction Chair: Linda Swiercinsky
- Tour Chair: Kelsey Vance; Kristi Jones, Vikki Becker, Deb Schultz
- Hospitality Chair: Lorrie Stahl
- Registration Committee: Ruth Hambleton and Mary Meinhart

If you know these ladies or if you should meet them, please tell them thank you and let them know how the convention may have inspired you. It

would not have happened without them.

I guess the only way to summarize the convention is with this Irish toast I heard during the late President George H.W. Bush's funeral. "There are good ships, and there are wood ships, the ships that sail the sea. But the best ships are friendships, and may they always be."

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to sail with the best. You are all my friends, always.

Susan Wall

2018 AAW Convention Chair



Heather Hampton-Knodle & John Duarte

WEATHERING STRESS IN AGRICULTURE QUESTIONNAIRE

American Agri-Women, Minnesota Agri-Women's District 11, and University of Minnesota Extension Women in Ag Network, are collecting data to learn more about resiliency to stress and women in agriculture. We have developed an anonymous online questionnaire. There is no ability to track information back to participants. This information will be useful in developing resources to help women in agriculture. American Agri-Women will be expanding our national Cultivating Resiliency project based at least partially on what is learned through the questionnaire.

The link for the questionnaire is:
z.umn.edu/cultivatingssurvey

Please feel free to share the link with anyone that may have an interest: farmer, rancher or other agriculturalist.



We anticipate participating in this survey will take less than 10 minutes. Your participation is voluntary. You may decide not to participate or to withdraw your participation at any time

by exiting out of the online questionnaire. Anyone over the age of 18 is welcome to participate. The questionnaire will close on April 1, 2019.

INTERACTIVE ONLINE SESSIONS HELP WOMEN IN AG COPE WITH STRESS

A new interactive series of online sessions, called "Cultivating Resiliency for Women in Agriculture," is now available to help women in agriculture cope with stress. Register today for the interactive online sessions to Help You Weather the Stress. The free online series will be held at 12PM CST on Dec. 14, Jan. 11, Jan. 25, Feb. 8, March 8,

and April 12. For more information on the sessions and registration, visit **umash.umn.edu/cultivating-resiliency**

"Our goal is to help women in agriculture focus on what they can control in these challenging times and connect them to resources and information to help them endure stress," says Jeanette Lombardo, AAW president.

PAT YEAGLE WINNER OF THE 2018 ERICKSON-MCCRUM OUTSTANDING AGRICULTURAL MENTOR AWARD

By Doris Mold

Pat Yeagle, Illinois Agri-Women, past American Agri-Women (AAW) Vice-President of Education and current national committee member was awarded the 2018 Erickson-McCrum Outstanding Agricultural Mentor Award for AAW at the recent AAW Convention in Springfield, IL. The award named in honor of outstanding mentors and AAW Past Presidents, Yvonne Erickson and Sue McCrum, recognizes those that go above and beyond to mentor others in agriculture. This is not a leadership award, in other words individuals are not being rewarded for positions they have held or initiatives they have worked on unless it is specifically in the realm of mentoring. It is meant to recognize people who have gone out of their way to truly mentor and coach people in agriculture in a positive manner. They are integral to the development of leaders who take on the demanding roles in our agricultural organizations, businesses and communities. Mentors must have assisted in the development of leaders within AAW. However mentoring is not limited to AAW members and mentoring of leaders outside of AAW is encouraged. At least a portion of the mentoring work must occur on the AAW national level. Mentoring work on the regional, state or chapter level will also be looked

upon favorably. Mentors must have a history of mentoring for a minimum of three years and do not have to participate in a formal mentoring program to qualify. The award consists of an award medal to the recipient and a donation toward AAW leadership/mentoring activities made in honor of the recipients.

Pat Yeagle has been mentoring others for decades; she is drawn to people and people to her. As an AAW member she has participated as a mentor in both formal programs and does plenty of informal mentoring, as well. She has served as a convention mentor and the President's caucus facilitator which is essentially a mentoring circle for affiliate presidents. She has mentored many collegiate AAW members, committee members and numerous officers who have followed in her footsteps. Pat was instrumental in the initiation and development of Illinois Agri-Women's Women Chang-



ing the Face of Agriculture program which helps hundreds of high school and college women who are interested in agricultural careers learn more about those opportunities. Pat has also served as a 4-H club leader for decades developing young leaders and ensuring they develop good life skills that will serve them well. Pat is forever helping youth who need an extra boost and additional attention so they develop into the people and leaders they are meant to be.



L-R, Murlynn Verstuyft, Jenny Stelmach, Pam Townsend

JENNY STELMACH 2018 LEAVEN RECIPIENT

This year's LEAVEN award winner is Jenny Stelmach. Jenny is a loyal AAW member holding many offices and Chairs. She has boundless energy and her enthusiasm knows no bounds. She believes in the AAW cause and is always ready to promote organization positions. Jenny is an effective voice for agriculture always willing to try new ideas. She encourages members to achieve their highest goals. Jenny is a grain manager and commodities broker. Her hard work and dedication to agri-business earned her a spot in Leadership Kentucky. Jenny is passionate about all aspects of agriculture especially as it relates to educating the consumer. Congrats Jenny!

USMCA REPLACES NAFTA by Ruth Jensen, President - Florida Agri-Women

During the December, 2018 G20 meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, President Trump, Mexico President Pena Nieto and Canada Prime Minister Trudeau met and signed the brand-new trade deal, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) created to replace the outdated North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

"It's good for all of Ag," Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue told AgriTalk host Chip Flory. "From a [market] access [standpoint], we've locked in those markets. Canada and Mexico are in our top three [export markets] year-by-year. So, these are very important markets to our overall ag industry. We talk a lot about dairy, about poultry access and the wheat grading. But actually, it's very, very encouraging for all of agriculture." He had stated earlier that "Dairy access into Canada is one of the trophies of this deal for the U.S."

The USMCA is the largest, modern, and balanced trade agreement in history. In the United States, the new trade pact will support high-paying manufacturing jobs and promote greater access for American exports across the range of sectors, including our farming, manufacturing, and service industries. Beneficiaries include dairy, grain, eggs, produce, poultry and wine. USMCA will enable food and agriculture to trade more fairly, and expand exports of American agricultural products. All food and agricultural products that have

zero tariffs under the current NAFTA will remain at zero tariffs. As part of the agreement, the United States will be able to lock in market access to Canada and Mexico, and greatly expand our agricultural exports.

USMCA also allows farmers to use cutting-edge biotechnology, and eliminates non-scientific barriers. In the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures chapter, the United States, Mexico, and Canada have agreed to strengthen disciplines for science-based SPS measures, while ensuring Parties maintain their sovereign right to protect human, animal, and plant life or health. Provisions include increasing transparency on the development and implementation of SPS measures; advancing science-based decision making; improving processes for certification, regionalization and equivalency determinations; conducting systems-based audits; improving transparency for import checks; and working together to enhance compatibility of measures. The new agreement would establish a new mechanism for technical consultations to resolve issues between the Parties.

This landmark agreement includes intellectual property protections. The USMCA also contains robust new provisions including the most ambitious environmental and labor protections ever placed into a major trade agreement anywhere at any time.

USMCA dramatically raises stan-

dards for combatting unfair trade practices; confronting massive subsidies for state-owned enterprises; and currency manipulation that hurt workers in all three of our countries. The inclusion of new provisions on e-commerce, information technologies, and trade-enabling practices are now part of the agreement. In fact, one third of the agreement includes topics that were not included in the current agreement.

Twenty-four years ago, NAFTA set a new benchmark for trade agreements back then. Today, USMCA is the first trade agreement incorporating elements which address the social impact of international trade, including online shopping. It enables the participation of more sectors in the economy. It extends the protection of workers' rights, strengthens the protection of the environment, and includes a review clause making it easier for the agreement to be updated and current. The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement is signed. Now, the Congress of all three countries must adopt it into law.

For more details on USMCA impact on American Agriculture:

<https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/fact-sheets/2018/october/united-states%E2%80%93mexico%E2%80%93canada-trade-fa-2>

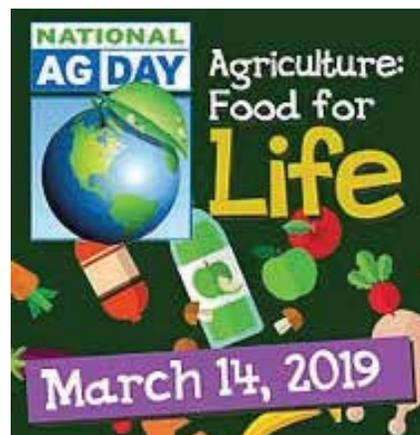
Sources include: White House, USDA, Western Growers

MARCH 14 NATIONAL AG DAY By Doris Mold

American Agri-Women is a sponsor of National Ag Day and will again be participating in National Ag Day activities in Washington, DC. National Ag Day will be celebrated on March 14, 2019. Typically Ag Day is traditionally celebrated the following week but Congress will not be in session so the Agricultural

Council of America recently voted to adjust the date.

We invite all of our affiliates and members to do something in honor of National Ag Day/Week, as well. In addition to our national activities we anticipate many of our AAW affiliates will be involved in Ag Day activities on a



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FLORIDA AGRI-WOMEN 2018-2019 OFFICERS ANNOUNCED

American Agri-Women Past President Marcie Williams, Croton, OH installed the 2018-19 officers of the Florida Agri-Women in Port Charlotte, Florida recently.

The new officers are (left to right): President Ruth Jensen, Port Charlotte; Vice President Sonia Tighe, Tampa; Secretary-Treasurer Andrea Stanford, Bradenton; and Immediate Past President Deborah Brady, Dunnellon.

Florida Agri-women is an organization dedicated to the survival of agriculture. Members unite to function as a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-commercial action group and a voice for agriculture. Florida Agri-Women is an affiliate of American Agri-Women, a national coalition of farm, ranch and agri-business women's organizations. We are a non-profit, public interest organization.

◀ AG DAY, continued from page 6

state or local basis, as many have done for years. If your affiliate has not planned an event/activity yet, you may want to consider it as a terrific way to join together as a team to promote agriculture. Many affiliates plan a "Farmer's Share" - Ag Day Meal where they charge the farmer's share for the meal, while others do special presentations in schools or at community organizations. Some have special Ag Day bags at grocery stores or have Ag Day placemats at local restaurants. Others write letters to the editor of local newspapers or run PSAs on local radio stations. While still others blog or have Facebook posts. If you are looking for additional inspiration please visit the National Ag Day website <https://www.agday.org/planning-an-event>. You may also choose to use some of the materials that AAW has developed in your Ag Day activities. Why not talk about agriculture STEM careers and use our Women Heroes of Science and Technology

bookmarks and profiles for a classroom talk and/or print some bookmarks off and drop them off at your school and community libraries? Use our AgDay365 Love Food Don't Waste It pledge cards to encourage others to do their part in reducing food waste.

For those of you not familiar with Ag Day, it is a day to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by agriculture. Every year, producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies and American Agri-Women and its affiliates across America join together to recognize the contributions of agriculture. The national day is hosted by The Agriculture Council of America. The awareness efforts in communities across America are as influential - if not more - than the national broad-scale effort, so get your Agri-Women together and get planning for Ag Day 2019!

THANK YOU SPONSORS

- AgPR/AgNewsCenter
- Agri-Pulse
- American Petroleum Institute
- Bayer Crop Science
- Bayer Feed-A-Bee
- BIO
- Brazil/LeVake
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- Caterpillar
- CropLife America
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- Food Industry
- Environmental Network
- Global Water Innovations
- Gordley Associates
- Michael Torrey Associates, LLC
- Monsanto
- National Association of Broadcasters
- Nutra-Lix
- Property Casualty Insurers Association of America
- Rural & Agriculture Council of America
- Syngenta
- Western Growers
- Western Skies Strategies



YEAR THREE FOR AGDAY 365

By Doris Mold

American Agri-Women is launching into its third year of our AgDay 365 education and advocacy campaign to show that everyone is part of agriculture, every day, and to raise awareness about who produces our nation's abundant food, fiber and energy supply.

In 2019 one of the topics that we will address is food waste. The USDA estimates that food waste is an astounding 30-40% of our food supply. Everyone has a role to play in reducing food waste and it is a good topic to start conversations around. We developed a "Love Food Don't Waste It" challenge and tested it out on consumers and FFA members this past fall and



found that it is a great way to connect with consumers on agriculture. Doing your own challenge by having pledge cards to complete or a banner to sign are two ways to engage people.

Look for our general public monthly photo contest to start again this spring. We enjoyed some terrific images from our contest in 2018 and are working to get those posted and utilized to further promote AgDay365. Our GenZ speaks Ag Contest will be part of our 2019 activities, as well. More updates will be available soon.

We are looking at both in-person and virtual advocacy training opportunities. If you took the Bayer AgVocacy training in the fall of 2017 you are encouraged to use that training in your affiliates and beyond to help grow more advocates for agriculture.

The AgDay365 campaign continues on social media (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) through the hash tag #agday365. Please continue to share and repost and make sure to use the #agday365 hash tags on your own posts. To learn more and to become part of



the advocacy efforts, email communityrelations@americanagriwomen.org.

INVEST IN AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN

By Doris Mold

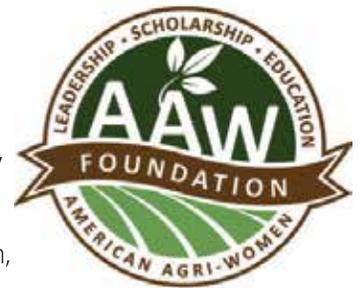
We appreciate all AAW members and the contributions that you all have made whether it is by giving your time and talents or providing a financial donation to continue our important work. Financial donations are critical to help advance AAW. Member donations are key to helping us build a strong foundation for the organization in that they ensure basic services are there, provide for member scholarships and seed money for new projects. Outside donors also are more likely to give if members are investing in their organization.

We are excited for all of the great

work being planned for 2019 and hope that you support AAW in its endeavors whether it is: Our New Cultivating Resiliency Project helping raise the awareness of stress and the resources that are available to help deal with it. Our Women Heroes of Science and Technology - bookmark and profile project promoting STEM careers. Our AgDay365 project this year's theme is "Love Food Don't Waste It" and through this vehicle we are promoting advocating to consumers about agriculture - food, fuel, fiber and flora every day. The Leadership Development Process. Scholarships for continuing education,

member education, webinars, Ag In the Classroom, FFA Con-

vention, our three annual national AAW meetings, or a general donation 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 www.americanagriwomen.org. Thank you for making a donation to your organization.



AAW MINI-GRANT OPPORTUNITIES by Janell Reid

The AAW Foundation is proud to announce its 2018 mini-grant awards. These awards go to AAW affiliates for membership drives and other chapter growth events. This year's awards go to the Peterson Elementary Ag Study organized by Agri-Camp USA, in Oregon and Rock River Chapter of Wisconsin Women for Agriculture for their Watertown Public Library Agriculture Education area. Each group will receive \$500 from the foundation. Congratulations to each organization on being selected.

Kimberly Schmuhl, Marilyn Verstuylt and Deb Whalen were reelected to positions on the board. The AAW Foundation officers include; Janell Reid-President, Pam Townsend-Vice President, Kimberly Schmuhl-Secretary and Lesley Schmidt-Treasurer. The AAW Foundation will continue working to raise funds to supply scholarships to attend meetings, for students who are attending college as well as to fund the mini-grant program.

TWO NEW OFFICERS ELECTED AT CONVENTION By Jenny Stelmach

Lesley Schmidt from Kansas was elected vice president of education at the national convention in Springfield. Lesley has a passion for agriculture and teaching others about the ag industry. She represents the fifth-generation of her Kansas family farm, where she raises crops and livestock with her family. Lesley also holds a fulltime job off the farm as a civil designer, cartographer and permitting specialist. She has previously served as president of Kansas Agri-Women, is a current board member of the AAW Foundation, Agri-Business Council of Wichita and Challenge Foundation. She has been involved in many other agriculture and community organizations including 4-H, Commonground, Kansas Beef Endurance Team, the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership (KARL) program with an international study tour in South Africa and Young Professionals of Wichita. Schmidt graduated from Fort Hays State University with degrees in technology studies, agriculture and certificates in leadership studies and civic leadership. She is also a certified sports coach and track and field official, with the goal of officiating in the Olympics.

Natalina Sents was elected Secretary. She has served as the interim Secretary since February. Immediately after graduating from Iowa State University with a degree in Agricultural Business, Natalina pitched, planned, and partnered



with Beck's Hybrids on a year-long 50 state road trip, honoring farmers through blogs and photography in all 50 states. After completing the "Why I Farm Road Trip" and returning to the Midwest, she finished several freelance projects, and began speaking about her traveling experiences around the country. In October 2017, Natalina joined the Successful Farming Staff as the Digital Content Editor of Agriculture.com. In that role, she coordinates the back end of the website, sends a daily newsletter, and manages the brand's social media accounts. While new machinery is her area of focus, Natalina enjoys writing a variety of news and information in a way that serves farmers. Those responsibilities allow her to travel several times a month. Outside her full-time job, she still speaks at conferences around the country and does consulting work on the side.

DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE By Ardath DeWall

Daughters of American Agriculture scholarship applications open on Friday, March 1, 2019 and have a deadline of June 1, 2019. These 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 adventuresome 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 agri-business woman to pursue accredited courses in agriculture leadership, communications, rural sociology, medicine or other courses directly related to agriculture.

Scholarships 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 the American Agri-Women Foundation, PO Box 103, Baileyville, IL, 61007.

Scholarship applications are available online at: <https://americanagriwomen.org/scholarships/> Make sure to complete 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.

“ Having interactions with customers and knowing that our product is going to help nourish a family to do the best they can do is why we are here. ”
 – Amy Ager

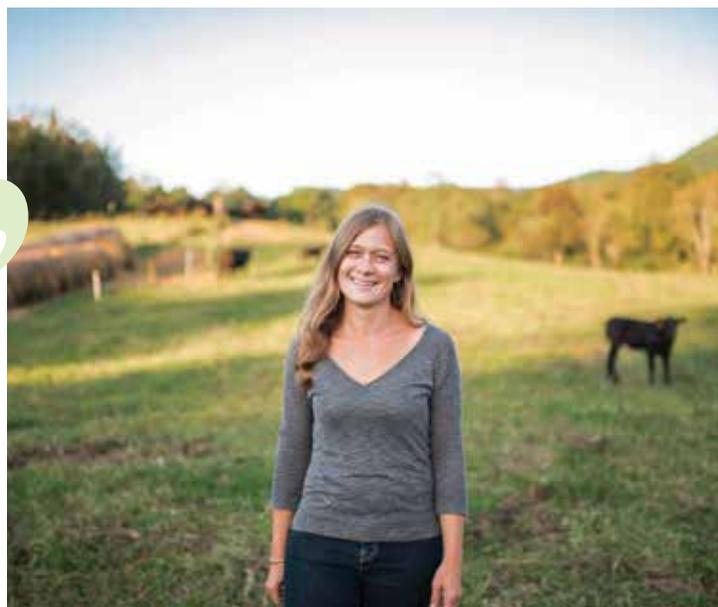
FARM CREDIT “VOICES” SERIES: AMY AGER - ASHEVILLE, NC

Nestled in the beautiful mountains near Asheville, N.C. you can find a local foods haven in Hickory Nut Gap Farm. Established in 2000, Hickory Nut Gap Farm has grown to feature a restaurant, catering, and a retail store and meat shop. Amy Ager is the co-owner and operations manager/marketing manager for Hickory Nut Gap Farm along with her husband, Jamie.

Primarily known for their meats, Hickory Nut Gap Farm raises grass-fed beef and pasture raised pork and poultry. Today, the meat raised for their wholesale program by the Hickory Nut

Gap farmer producer group can be found at grocery stores such as Whole Foods, Ingles, Earth Fare, local restaurants and on at their on farm store.

Expansion has been the name of the game for Amy and her husband for the past 10 years. The opening of the retail shop, the growth of the wholesale business, the creation of the farm tour and event center; everywhere you look, Hickory Nut Gap is growing.



As agriculture continues to grow, Amy believes that the future is bright for young women looking to pursue a career in agriculture. “There will be obstacles you have to overcome, but if it is your passion, don’t let those things stop you.”

Read more about Amy’s story at <https://farmcredit.com/story/amy-ager>

AAW LEADERS FEATURED ON ‘KEEPING AG REAL’ PODCAST

Listen in to a three-part podcast series featuring interviews with President Jeanette Lombardo, First Vice President Karolyn Zurn and Past President Doris Mold. Our AAW leaders were interviewed by Jenny Schweigert, host of the popular “Keeping Ag Real” podcast. Jeanette shares comments about the future of women in agriculture and is featured along with Dr. Jackie Applegate, head of global vegetable seeds & environmental science at Bayer. Karolyn talks about innovations in agriculture. And, Doris shares about the Ag Day 365 project.



Thank you to Bayer Crop Science for sponsoring the series and connecting our leadership team with Jenny. Take a listen and share, www.KeepingAgReal.com.

VOICE ELECTRONIC ONLY OPTION
 Reading only the electronic version of the VOICE but still get the paper version as well? Help AAW cut cost on postage. Send an email to aaw@americanagriwomen.org and put “Opt Out of the VOICE” in the subject line. You will be removed from the paper copy mailing list and only receive the electronic version. Thank you!

THE ENVIRONMENTAL SMOKESCREEN

By Karen Yost and Jacquie Compston

Historical Wildfires in 2017 and 2018 in California have gained unprecedented attention by the media and climate change advocates with its millions of acres burned, human lives lost and countless animals killed. Climate change, due to man's activities, they say, are the cause of these wildfires.

Arguably, man does influence the rash of wildfires. But not in the manner insinuated. While accusations of climate damage caused from gasoline burning vehicles, industry, cattle emissions, and a myriad of other human activities run amuck, science shows this all to be a smoke screen.

It is important to understand that the correlation between the current wildfire epidemic and current land management practices (of which two major practices are removing cattle from grazing and the denial of logging permits) exponentially increases the fuel supply.

Grade-school science class teaches (or at least it used to) that fire requires three things to burn: oxygen, fuel, and a spark. Oxygen is ever present; a spark can come from any means and can be somewhat contained by man but not by

nature; fuel is the unpredictable factor.

Wildfires evoke huge impacts on climate temperatures and cause irreparable damage to the environment and animal species. According to Zachery Gerber, a partner at Gerber Law in Elko, Nevada, "a single Alaska wildfire emitted more carbon monoxide (CO) pollution than all of the human-caused CO pollution from 'tailpipes and smokestacks in the United States.'" According to the EPA statistics, the 2017 California wildfires burned 1,266,224 acres which emitted over one billion pounds of "PM 2.5" (PM 2.5 are very small particles that have a dangerous impact on health. EPA statistics also show that during 2017 all the California drivers emitted only 2% of that.) In addition, 3.5 million animals were killed."¹

Mr. Gerber, stated that his father, who was raised in Arizona, "saw the size of wildfires steadily climb in the American West and he also saw a decrease in wildlife...that the greatest threat to many species in the West, including the sage grouse, is wildfire. He writes that in 2011 the ferocious Bear Wallow Fire in Arizona consumed at least 1.5 million vertebrate animals and that not even

flies or other bugs could be found or heard in its wake.

It's time to stop blaming cattle and farming for destroying habitat. If there is true concern about the protection of species, then forest and range management practices need to be implemented and a new program of stewardship by the Federal agencies needs to be a priority.

While environmental news professes that wildfires are a consequence of climate change, in reality, science proves that climate change is actually the consequence of wildfires. "The solution is to reduce the overgrown fuels in forests and on the range at the benefit of taxpayers and the U.S. Treasury," writes Mr. Gerber.

Facts and statistics in this article are taken from Range Magazine, Winter 2018, Zachary Gerber, pp 34-35.

¹According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) and the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC), as of November 30th, the 2018 wildfire season is the most destructive wildfire season on record in California, with 1,824,505 acres burned, 103 human deaths, and costs of \$3 billion.

WEYERHAEUSER COMPANY V. U.S FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICES

By Tricia Braid

Several weeks ago the Supreme Court ruled on an endangered species case regarding the dusky gopher frog. This case is important because of its implications for the Endangered Species Act (ESA) application to private land.

ESA requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to identify critical habitat for designated creatures. Land can be designated as critical habitat only if it's "essential for the conservation of the species." In this case, a 2012 FWS decision designated more than 1,500 acres of private land in Southeast Louisiana as critical habitat to the endangered dusky gopher

frog. This is troublesome because the frog does not currently live there, and it is disputed whether the land would need minor or major tweaks to support the frog now, which is known to live only in parts of a national forest in Mississippi.

The Supreme Court unanimously threw out a 2016 ruling by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit that had favored the FWS, finding the lower court gave the government too much leeway. The justices sent the case back to the Fifth Circuit to reconsider. Chief Justice John Roberts wrote that the ESA, which governs the critical habitat designations

at issue in the case, impermissibly failed to include a "baseline definition" of habitat. The Supreme Court also ruled that the Fifth Circuit should review whether FWS properly considered the costs and benefits of its decision not to exclude a broad swath of private land in its critical habitat designation for the frog. The Fifth Circuit must now consider the definition to determine whether land protected for the dusky gopher frog meets the standard.

If the lower court ruling were allowed to stand, the economic impacts to landowners especially across rural America would be significant.



AAW Mid-Year Meeting Agenda

April 4-7, 2019

Embassy Suites, Convention Center
3600 Paradise Road

**DRAFT AGENDA
SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Plenary & Positions Review Sessions held in Main Meeting Room; Working Sessions to be assigned.

THURSDAY, April 4, 2019

- 7:30 am – 9 am Registration
Breakfast
- 9 am – 11 am **AAW Communications / Leadership Program**
- 12 pm – 1 pm Lunch
- 1 pm – 3 pm **Executive Committee Meeting**
- 1 pm – 3 pm **Nevada Agri-Women Organizational Meeting**
- 3 pm – 4 pm **Foundation Meeting**
- 4 pm – 5 pm **Joint Meeting of Executive Committee and Foundation Board**
- 5:30 pm Leave for T Mobile Arena - Hockey Game Option; Vegas Golden Nights vs Arizona Coyotes Game time 7:00 pm.
Group of 15 or more ticket price: \$103 ea. Contact Linda Swiercinsky By Jan 15, 2019 if you are interested at (708) 334-4030 or showlamb@earthlink.net
- Other option: Evening/Dinner on your own

FRIDAY, April 5, 2019

- 7.3 am – 9 am Registration
Breakfast
- 8 am – 10 am **AAW Board of Directors Meeting** (Board of directors is open to all members; voting members are affiliate presidents or their proxy and AAW Executive Committee members. A quorum shall consist of 4 executive committee members+5 affiliate presidents or their proxies)
- 9am Silent Auction opens
- 10 am – 12 pm **Property Rights Panel with Tim Williams**, Deputy Director External Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior
Panelists: Kimmi Lewis, CO State House Representative; Wayne Hage, Jr.,
- 12:30 pm **Lunch with speaker David Spady**, California State Director of Americans for Prosperity
- 1:30 pm **Opening:** Welcome, Jeanette Lombardo, AAW President
- 1:45 pm – 2 pm **Vital Issues Session:** Karolyn Zurn, AAW First Vice President
Procedure : Karen Yost, AAW Government Affairs Co-chair
- 2 pm – 5 pm **Committee Breakout Meetings**
- Agriculture Business and Economics
 - Commodities
 - Natural Resources
- 5 pm **Movie Night** - Featured Film: "Pray for Rain", Protect the Harvest Production.
- 8 pm **Live Auction** to benefit Nevada Agri-Women organizational meeting
- If any committees need to meet, the Chair will call a meeting at designated place*

SATURDAY, April 6, 2019

- 7.3 am – 9 am Registration
Breakfast
- 9 am – 12 pm **AAW Positions Review**
- 12 pm – 1 pm Lunch Speaker
- 1pm – 5 pm **AAW Positions Review & Adoption by Board of Directors**
- 2 pm Silent Auction Closes
- 5 pm Dinner / Entertainment On Your Own

SUNDAY, April 7, 2019

- 8 am – 8:30 am **Worship Service**
- 9 am – 2 pm Optional Tour - Mob Museum



**AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN
GAIL MCPHERSON FLY-IN
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

This scholarship was named to honor Gail McPherson of Pennsylvania. Gail was a founding mother of AAW and a past president of the Foundation. She was proficient in parliamentary procedure, she was chair of the bylaws committee and author of many pertinent resolutions. Gail was instrumental in the creation of the first AAW Fly-In.

This scholarship is available to any AAW member to attend the annual AAW Fly-In held in June of each year in Washington, DC. The applicant may be any age, but cannot have attended a past Fly-In. Only one applicant per affiliate will be accepted. Up to three scholarships will be awarded at the discretion of the committee. This scholarship is for \$500. Applications are due by **May 1st** of each year to aawfoundationscholarships@americanagriwomen.org or mailed to Pam Townsend, PO Box 71, Blaine, ME 04734

Name: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Home Address: _____
(Street or Box) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Work/School Address: _____
(Street or Box) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

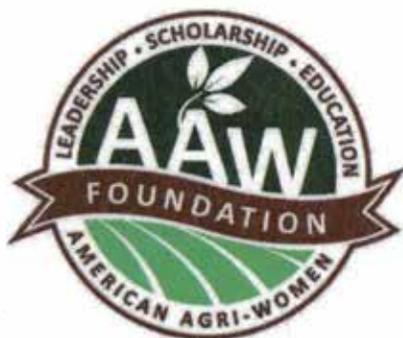
Email: _____

Current Affiliate Membership (if any): _____

1. What is your current or previous background relating to agriculture?

2. List your volunteer service, with special emphasis on your involvement in AAW or your state affiliate.

3. Why would you like to attend Fly-In?



**AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN
TRENNA GRABOWSKI LEGACY KIDS
FLY-IN SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
(FOR AGES 8-18)**

The Trenna Grabowski Legacy Kids Fly-In Scholarship is an award for two kids 8-18 years of age, which will pay \$200 towards expenses for the AAW Washington D.C. Fly-In. Eligibility requirement is to be a Legacy Kid member of AAW. Legacy Kids memberships are available for AAW members to purchase as gifts to children/young

people from birth through age eighteen. It was Trenna's idea through the AAW Foundation to launch a program to provide a vehicle for AAW members to share their enthusiasm and support agriculture and AAW with young people, while encouraging the ultimate entry of second and third generation individuals into AAW. Submit completed application by May 1st of the current year to aawfoundationscholarships@americanagriwomen or by mail to Pam Townsend, PO Box 71, Blaine, ME 04734.

AAW Legacy Kid Information:

Name: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address: _____
(Street or Box) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Please attach a separate sheet of paper with responses to these statements:

1. What you hope to learn from the Fly-In to Washington D.C.?
2. What you would like to see in Washington D.C.?
3. What is your current background relating to agriculture?



American Agri-Women
 142 Oak Circle
 Colchester, VT 05446

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**Have a membership question?
 Need to update any of your
 information?**

Contact Lisa Campion, AAW's executive assistant, with all membership requests. You can e-mail aaw@americanagriwomen.org or call 586-530-1771. You can also write Lisa at: American Agri-Women, 142 Oak Circle, Colchester, VT 05446

ADVERTISING RATES & DEADLINES FOR SPONSORS

AD SIZES	DIMENSIONS	RATE	AD DEADLINES:
Full page	7.5"W x 10"H	\$1,000.00	Noon on these dates.
Half page vertical	3.875"W x 10"H	\$750.00	December 1 for Winter Issue
Half page horizontal	7.5"W x 4.875"H	\$750.00	March 15 for Spring Issue
Quarter page	3.875"W x 4.875"H	\$500.00	June 15 for Summer Issue
Business card	3.875"W x 2.375"H	\$350.00	September 10 for Fall Issue

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