Montana Agri-Women Host 2020 National AAW Convention

Do you hear them? The Mountains are Calling. The mountains in Bozeman, Montana to be specific. Join Montana Agri-Women at the AAW National Convention November 4-8th

Registration: www.mtagriwomen.com
Contact Meghan Foran - president.mtagriwomen@gmail.com

Hotel Information
Best Western GranTree Inn
1325 N 7th Ave, Bozeman, MT 59715
Dear Members,

I hope this VOICE finds you all well & your families safe. Much to our dismay, due to the closings related to the COVID-19 Virus, we were forced to cancel both AAW’s important meetings in Arizona where we were to host the AAW Mid-Year Policy Week-End & our Annual Legislative Fly-In located in D.C. We are in the process of rebooking those same hotels for next year.

We were able to regroup & are proud to say we now are able to have some meetings virtually. Due to the quick action of the Executive Team, the ones that are computer savvy, not me, the show went on & quite nicely. We were still able to review all edited or new policy positions that we plan on sending to membership.

Next up is to prepare the White Papers, which are a direct ask from AAW to our legislators. White Papers usually encompass the really hot issues going on within agriculture, whether it is taxes or land use. Agriculture is made of many sectors. Our membership comes from all over the United States, which in turn makes it hard to find compromise since the issues in western states are slightly different that the east coast or north to south, but we always do.

Along with our Annual Legislative Fly-In to D.C. we honor one of our legislators with the prestigious “Champion of Agriculture” award. Nominations are due April 30th so most likely we will have chosen that person by the time this Voice arrives. This award is given to someone that puts agriculture in the forefront. Someone that works with others in the Senate or House to pass legislation that will keep all agriculture moving into a better place, & allows farmers, ranchers, forestry etc. to actually keep our nation’s food, fiber, fuels sustainable & safe.

The Mission chosen to work during my Presidency is “STAND UP – SPEAK OUT for Agriculture”. The committee is hard at work to make this effective as possible with limited funding support. This Mission is to counteract negative & untrue statements by activists & targeting the non-agriculture public, of all ages.

We will be asking commodities for help because they want to promote this as well, such as Okabashi recyclable flip flops that contain 45% soybean oil.

We will be moving in steps, drawing attention to untruthful statements made against our beef & milk industry, then move onto defending other sectors of agriculture.

We have ordered & received bookmarks with these slogans & statements:

**Did you Know??**

Cows are good for the environment!! They eat the plants to keep the land in continuous growth all the while the green plants are removing CO2 from the atmosphere & converting it to oxygen. During this time cows are also fertilizing the plants to keep them healthy & growing.

**Did you know?** MOOOOOOOO is the only part of the cow that is not used!! Brains, Blood, Bones, Hair, Manure, Fat, Hooves, Horns, Milk, Hide, Internal Organs are used for many products from medicines & fertilizers to adhesives, textiles & most things in between. Plus providing us with a nutritious & sustainable source of protein.

The Marketing Campaign headed up by Deb Whalen includes: Pop-Up banners, table tents, press releases, public announcements, & other marketing tools. The committee is excited to roll out this program.

Our cancelled Mid-Year speaker Damian Mason, a well-known spokesperson & author surrounding Food Fear, has offered to attend the 2021 Mid-Year, to be held in Phoenix, AZ. I will be donating several books that he has authored to the AAW Foundation silent auction.

As we move through Spring & into Summer some venues may open up where we can advocate & do what we do best. STAND UP – SPEAK OUT for Agriculture.

Respectfully,

Karolyn Zurn
Fly-In 2020
Cancelled

Ruth Jensen, AAW Fly-In Chair

On behalf of the 2020 AAW Fly-In Committee, it is with heartfelt disappointment that we announce the cancellation of the 2020 American Agri-Women Fly-In event. We had a great Fly-In planned that included a tour of the White House and a visit at the Embassy of the republic of Chile. The Annual Symposium was set to be held at the Department of the Interior and our usual roundtable at USDA, as well as EPA. We had a few other new surprises for you that we had been working on over the past year. However, with the onset of the Coronavirus, not knowing what June was going to look like, we felt compelled to cancel for this year. Please know that our team will continue to work this same itinerary for next year so save up come cash and plan to attend the 2021 AAW Fly-in to Washington, DC. Thank you!

2020 Position Statements

Lisa Campion Sullivan, AAW Exec Asst

For more than 46 years, AAW has worked to bring about change to ensure a safe, reliable and affordable food, fiber and fuel supply. One of the most important ways we do that is to advocate for agriculture with legislators and policy makers. Each year, through the work and guidance of our Vital Issues committees, we develop position statements on evolving and long-standing legislative issues. As a group, we discuss, craft and agree on precise language to ensure we are representing our entire membership, for the good of agriculture. We present these legislative positions at our annual Fly-In to Washington, D.C., each June and individual meetings throughout the year. While we are not able to have a Fly-In this year due to COVID-19, we encourage our members to reach out to their legislators about our positions to advocate for agriculture. You can download them here: americanagriwomen.org/positions/

LEAVEN Award

This award is the highest member award that AAW gives. Nominees should have provided outstanding contributions to Agri-Women on the national level. Please consider your fellow Agri-Women who have gone above and beyond in their commitment to the organization and nominate them. Further information and guidelines may be found under the member login tab bottom left of the screen under Member Awards on the AAW website. Nominations and questions may be addressed to: Kimberly Schmuhl, LEAVEN Award Chair kim@colomafrozen.com Deadline for Nominations is October 25th
Women in Ag Roundtable

Lesley Schmidt, VP of Education

Three members from the AAW Executive Committee were able to attend the Women in Ag Roundtable Virtual Meeting along with AFBF, FarmHer, Sigma Alpha, Ag Council of America, and Annie’s Project. Those in attendance introduced themselves, their organization, and give updates on their organization’s events and resources available.

AFBF members shared the Women in Ag Survey Results, which can be viewed here: www.fb.org/files/2019_Women_in_Ag_Survey_f.pdf

Ag Labor

Our country’s immigration system needs work; this is statement which most Americans, but especially most farmers and ranchers, can heartily agree with. Inaction in Washington has brought us to this point, and it will take action from our elected leaders to start us on a path to a solution.

For many in agriculture the biggest challenge they face today is finding the hired workers they need to run their farms and ranches. After all, it does not matter what Mother Nature throws at you if you do not have the help to pick crops or care for animals through good years and bad. This is a challenge that is faced by lettuce farmers in California, dairy farmers in upstate New York, or, tomato growers in northwest Ohio or citrus farmers in Florida.

It is an issue that impacts communities beyond the farm gate however, since each of the 2 million or so hired farm workers in the U.S. supports two or three other jobs in the sales, marketing and transportation sectors.

This shortage of workers also bumps up against what is an open secret in agriculture today— that of those 2 million hired employees between 60 and 70 percent are unauthorized to work in the U.S., though these workers typically show employers documents that appear genuine.

The farmers and ranchers do not want to have to keep this open secret—they want a skilled, stable workforce that they can depend on and that is here in the U.S. legally. Unfortunately, they cannot find it.

Even with the recent recession farmers—often offering pay significantly more than minimum wage—still have extreme difficulty finding workers. In many cases, it is not the money that makes these jobs unappealing to many Americans. Rather, the main factor is the seasonal and often transitory nature of the work. Most people do not want a job that last only six weeks; far fewer want to travel across the country from south to north each year following the harvest seasons.

Existing guest worker programs, like the H-2A program, could, in theory, offer an avenue to find workers. Unfortunately, the program has become a bureaucratic nightmare that supplies less than 7% of the workers needed on-farm.

To respond to this need, a group of about 70 organizations representing agricultural employers came together, forming the Agricultural Workforce Coalition (AWC), to speak with one voice and to find a path forward on immigration reform. The AWC feels any proposal must deal with both current experienced agricultural workers as well as provide for agriculture’s future workforce needs. This will ensure America’s farmers have access to a stable and secure workforce.

AAW urges the House of Representatives to act without delay to enact immigration legislation that will provide a boost to American farmers, consumers and workers.

AWC brings together organizations representing the diverse needs of agricultural employers across the country. For more information, go to www.agworkforcecoalition.org.
AAW Members Attend Syngenta Leadership At Its Best

Farm leaders from 11 national commodity and other farm associations successfully completed Leadership At Its Best (LAIB), a Syngenta professional development program helping current and future U.S. agriculture leaders improve their skills to more effectively advocate for American agriculture.

"Through LAIB, Syngenta has been training future leaders in agriculture for more than 30 years — with over 4,600 people trained so far, and counting," said Mary Kay Thatcher, who leads federal government relations for Syngenta in the U.S. "Agriculture faces complex challenges and our program helps farmers learn skills to answer the call and stand up for our industry."

Each year, a diverse class, which includes dozens of farmers, processors and agriculture retailers, attends LAIB to develop skill sets needed to be confident ambassadors of agriculture. Many LAIB alumni have gone on to become leaders in their organizations, spokespersons for American agriculture and government officials. To learn more visit www.syngenta.com/

Annabelle Kindle of Penn Agri-Women, Lesley Schmidt of Kansas Agri-Women and AAW VP of Education, and Jane Marshall of Ohio Agri-Women and First VP of AAW are grateful to Syngenta for the opportunity to send AAW members to LAIB.

First VP, Jane Marshall said, "The training at LAIB is invaluable. It helped me understand how to use my strengths and the strengths of others to make AAW a better organization."

"After completing the training, I have a greater sense of achievement and vision for agriculture, plus an understanding of how important leadership still is for the agriculture industry. It was one of the most rewarding personal growth courses I have attended and it gave me the boost of confidence to take a more active role in my position and my community," said Lesley Schmidt, Vice President of Education. "It has been an immense benefit to me to find such a professional organization committed to the betterment of those involved in the agriculture industry and to make connections with so many wonderful people who are actively involved in not only agriculture but their communities. It was a wonderful experience I will not forget."

"Civilization as it is known today could not have evolved, nor can it survive, without an adequate food supply." — Norman Borlaug
CARES Act
Benefits for Tax-Exempt Organizations

Wanting to support AAW Foundation?
CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS
Two provisions of the CARES Act are intended to encourage taxpayers to contribute to charitable organizations by relaxing some of the current limitations on charitable contribution deductions.

ABOVE THE LINE DEDUCTION
First, the CARES Act allows a $300 above-the-line charitable contribution deduction for certain qualified charitable contributions. Under current law, a taxpayer may only claim a charitable contribution deduction if they elect to itemize deductions, rather than claiming the standard deduction. The number of taxpayers electing to itemize is relatively small, especially after the enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act at the end of 2017. Under the CARES Act, individuals who do not itemize would be allowed to claim a deduction of up to $300 for qualified charitable contributions. A qualified charitable contribution must be made in cash and cannot be made to certain charities, including donor advised funds, supporting organizations, and organizations such as many non-operating private foundations that are ordinarily subject to a 30% limitation. These amendments apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2019, and would not be scheduled to sunset.

INCREASED DONATION LIMITATIONS
Second, the CARES Act would temporarily modify certain percentage limitations on charitable contributions made during 2020. Under current law, the total deduction for contributions to charitable organizations by individuals generally is limited to 50% of adjusted gross income (30% and 20% limitations apply in certain circumstances). Deductions for contributions to charitable organizations by corporations generally are limited to 10% of taxable income. In the case of charitable contributions of food, a 15% limitation applies instead. Under the CARES Act, the 50% limitation for individuals would be suspended for qualified contributions, and the 10% limitation for corporations would be increased to 25% for qualified contributions. A qualified contribution must be paid in cash during calendar year 2020 and cannot be made to certain charities, including donor advised funds, supporting organizations, and organizations such as many non-operating private foundations that are ordinarily subject to the 30% limitation. In addition, the 15% limitation for contributions of food would be increased to 25% for any charitable contributions of food during 2020. As always, please consult tax preparers for specific details on how this would affect you individually.

Call For Officer Nominations
The 2020 Nominating Committee of American Agri-Women seeks members to step into leadership roles of our exceptional organization. We have a great pool of candidates as our organization is comprised of tremendously talented, intelligent, and dedicated women. In a "Call to Service" we are calling on members to apply for various positions: VP of Education and Secretary for the Executive Board, three positions for the AAW Foundation Board, and four positions on the 2021 Nominating Committee. Applications online at americanagriwomen.org under Membership tab – Member Login. The position descriptions and the policy and procedures manual are also available on this page. Send completed application by email to Deb Whalen, Nominating Committee Chair, deb-whalen@live.com. If you have any questions please either email Committee Chair or call 218-686-1009. Please consider applying for a position in AAW. Elections will be held at 2020 National Convention in Montana. Deadline for applications is August 1st.

NEPRIS
AAW is committed to giving back to our community and sharing our passion for agriculture. As such, we are excited to announce a new partnership with Nepris, an online platform that will enable all members to connect with students across the nation. Further details on how to sign up to bring career exposure and real-world relevance to classrooms will be included in July’s newsletter or immediate questions contact Carie M. Moore, VP of Communications. Thank you!
The LEAVEN AWARD goes to those persons who, to an outstanding degree, have acted as “leaven”, a truly feminine concept since “lady” means giver of bread. “Leaven” (yeast) is a small element that can interact and influence everything around it. It permeates and raises the elements it’s mixed with; it multiplies its effectiveness for good.

Two winners were chosen who met the qualifications for the award and stood out among the nominees, Jean Goslin - Kansas Agri-Women

Jean was born and raised on a dairy and beef cattle farm. Growing up she was active in 4-H and also showed horses. Her family continues to raise beef cattle while also managing their hay operation on their ranch. She is a long-time member of her state affiliate, former VP of Education, and served on the Vital Issues committee for AAW. She is a constant contributor at every meeting, offering her ideas, and sharing of her time and support of others. She believes in the importance of AAW and offers her talents whenever she can. Her reserved optimistic “let’s get to work” attitude makes her a great contributor and leader to any effort.

Pam Townsend - Maine Agri-Women

Pam is quiet and soft-spoken yet very passionate and dedicated to AAW. She is hard-working but prefers to be in the background or behind the scenes getting the job done. She serves on the AAW Foundation board and is a consistent attendee of fly-in, mid-year, and annual meetings. Since her first convention in Colorado in 2012, she hasn’t missed one since. She is in charge of event scholarships and single-handedly runs AAW’s Legacy Kids program. She is president of her state affiliate and under her leadership, their membership has blossomed. Her grandfather was a potato farmer and she picked potatoes and worked on the harvester during school breaks and she is still working in the potato industry today. She can be trusted to get the job done in a timely manner and she always gives it her best. She is caring, honest, supportive, and kind.

As AAW recognizes these women, we hope they are individuals that you will look up to as mentors and dedicated volunteers. Congratulations ladies, it is well deserved!

Earth Day
Is Everyday

Carie M Moore, VP Communications

From sun up to sunset, sometimes through the night, we take care of the land and the animals we raise. Countless amounts of crops and animals line the nation creating a food web and the life cycle. Plants and animals work together with the sun, rain, wind, and anything Mother Nature has in store. From a small seed to the field of green lush grasses and forbs, it provides nourishment for grazing animals and wildlife we share the land with. In turn, these animals provide us with not only food, but a supply of by-products such as milk, medicine, fertilizer, textiles, and everything in between.

Animals’ grazing keeps the land in continuous growth; while the green plants are removing CO₂ from the atmosphere and converting it to Oxygen, the animals fertilize the plants to keep them healthy and growing. As our crops grow, they take solar energy and convert a tiny seed into a product that can feed millions of people.

Crops and livestock are not the only thing helping to make the earth productive, but our technology in the equipment operated on the farms has grown exponentially, making the earth a better place. Emissions on tractors are putting cleaner air back into the environment than what they are taking in. The precision application of our fertilizer, pesticide, and herbicides is making for safer waterways and less waste. Seed placement and harvesting technology are allowing fewer trips over the fields reducing fuel, time, and costs. Farmers are also about family. Increasing our efficiency and productivity allows more time with family and engaging with those we feed and those who write our laws. Farming isn’t just about what is done on the farm, but about investing in the future. The future of our land, our animals, our families, and our humanity.
Finding Your Voice

Lesley Schmidt

What I wish I knew about agriculture going back, is the importance of finding my voice. First listening to people, then understand why they are concerned, & then sharing my knowledge of agriculture. Simply sharing my ag story creates a connection with the person & encourages them to contact me when they have a question or concern about agriculture.

Seasonal Protection for U.S. Produce

Kathy Reavis, AAW Vital Issues Co-Chair

When President Trump signed the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) trade agreement, not everyone was happy with it. The U.S. produce growers in Georgia, Florida, Texas, and California have submitted comments to the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Robert Lighthizer, asking for seasonal protection for their products when in season, from Mexico. Throughout the USMCA process, Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association, alongside their congressional delegation, worked to convey the effects of unfair trade practices on Florida’s fresh fruit and vegetable industry over the past two decades under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). In January 2020, USTR Lighthizer announced plans to follow up on “trade-distorting policies that maybe contributing to unfair pricing in the U.S. market for seasonal and perishable products and to assess the impact of those policies on the U.S. producers.”

However, a produce farmer of Wauchula, Florida disputes that it is only a small group of producers. In his comments to USTR Lighthizer, he states: “Florida starts production in October and doesn’t finish till the middle of June. That is 3/4ths of the year in production. I’ve seen years where Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina picked produce for almost the same seven months that Mexico is in full production. That production in the U.S. is hampered and sometimes seasons are a total loss due to illegitimately low prices from Mexican production. I have also sat in Michigan in July and August and seen beautiful local tomatoes sell for $5 a box while the major chains in the area sold Mexican/Canadian tomatoes, not because the quality was any better, but because they had a cheap contract on them and wouldn’t switch over to local tomatoes.”

Produce growers in south Texas, Randy, Kathy (AAW member), and Wayne Reavis, also submitted comments on how Mexico came in and stopped almost all the growing of watermelons in their area because of these same problems. They quit farming watermelons and switched to onions. Now the same thing is happening to onions.

While the Trump administration tried to include seasonal and perishable provisions in the USMCA, that effort was not successful. Trade representatives in Mexico made it clear that any such protections would be a poison pill. Field hearings in Florida and Georgia on seasonal protection for produce farmers have been scheduled and then postponed due to the coronavirus restrictions. Comments can still be submitted on this issue at www.regulations.gov.
President Donald J. Trump proclaimed March 24 as National Ag Day. This year marks the fourth year that the administration has publicly recognized National Ag Day as a salute to the contributions of America’s farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses. The proclamation highlights the timeless American values of hard work, perseverance, and stewardship of the land. It also stresses that farmers provide the foundation of a national economic supply chain that is critical to our national security and prosperity. The entire proclamation can be viewed at www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-national-agriculture-day2020/.

Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue talked about how National Ag Day plays a key role in helping the American people understand where their food and fiber comes from.

Greg Horstmeier, DTN/Progressive Farmer, chairman of the board for the Agriculture Council of America (ACA), the national organization charged with promoting National Ag Day, said receiving this type of recognition from the administration and USDA greatly enhances the stature of National Ag Day, as well as the many local and state Ag Day activities planned around the country. "More importantly, it reminds everyone that the affordable, abundant and nutritious food that they depend on every day comes to them thanks to the hard work and resilience of 2 million American farmers and ranchers.”

This year marked the 47th anniversary with the theme being “Food Brings Everyone to the Table.” Ag Day is about recognizing and celebrating the contribution of agriculture in our everyday lives. This means understanding its production, the role of ag in our economy, and the career opportunities in agriculture, food, fiber, and renewable resource industries. Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis and is increasingly contributing to fuel and other bio-products. As the world population soars, there is an even greater demand for the food and fiber produced in The United States. Many agricultural associations, corporations, students and government organizations involved in agriculture participate, including American Agri-Women.

Virtual learning was used featuring webinars on advocacy and promoting agriculture. www.agday.org/webinars

"It is important to show gratitude to the many men and women who make agriculture possible as they continue to contribute to our nation’s safe, abundant and affordable products of food, feed, fiber, flora, and fuel supply; especially during the current pandemic. This is one of the many reasons AAW visits Washington D.C. to participate in the national activities as well as visit other agencies to discuss agriculture issues and current topics important to our members as well as our communities and government. Of late, farmers have faced an unexpected trade war, extreme weather including droughts, flooding, wildfires, and blizzards, as well as other unforeseen hardships. These have led to an upturn in farm foreclosures and a need for mental health care. This right here highlights the strength and resiliency of our nation’s agriculture industry. These hardworking men and women work day in and day out to put food on the table at an affordable price for you, your family as well as mine." Lesley Schmidt

Membership Support
Jane Marshall, AAW First VP & Membership Chair.

Membership...what does that mean? American Agri-Women is a membership organization. Without the membership, AAW wouldn’t exist. The two words that I found in the thesaurus that I think fits AAW is belonging and community. Since becoming active in AAW in 2004, belonging and community is what AAW has been to my family. The Marshall refrigerator is littered with pictures of our AAW friends. AAW will grow as the new people who attend our meetings are made to feel welcome like they belong to a community.

The goal of Membership Support is twofold... to support existing members and work on gaining new members. The first thing that we planned was a Membership Support Gathering for March 13-15 in Holmes County, Ohio. This was a regional meeting geared toward giving people in driving distance of the venue a taste of an AAW National meeting. This had to be cancelled because of COVID-19. We are going to reschedule this when it is safe. We plan to do them in other places across the country as well. In addition to Gatherings, we will do other things to support our members and affiliates. This is new and evolving, so if you have ideas please let me know. Stay tuned to the Voice and the Communiques for these activities. You can always contact me at jane.marshall@americanagriwomen.org.
Addressing Agriculture’s Challenges
In The War Against Coronavirus

Ruth E. Jensen, President, Florida AW

In this moment in time due to the coronavirus pandemic, our nation is facing many challenges as we adhere to instructions of social distancing. Our leaders are working 24/7 to contain the spread and are developing American-made tests, vaccines and medicines in their efforts to eradicate this invisible enemy. While agriculture is listed as an essential critical business, there are issues unique to the fresh fruit and vegetable sector.

Florida Agri-Women along with other members of AAW sit in on the White House Critical Infrastructure Partners conference calls to hear from many of the White House Coronavirus Team updates (DHS, HHS, CDC, FEMA, USCBP to name a few). When they email updates, we make it a point to share with our members and others.

We have heard of stresses occurring in farm communities, particularly the fresh produce industry that typically caters to restaurants, hotels, cruises, catering events, conferences and conventions. The question was posed about what is being done, if anything, to mitigate this situation so that fresh crops do not end up in garbage bins across Florida’s agricultural landscape.

To that end, Florida Agri-Women has communicated with the White House Critical Infrastructure Partners along with state, regional and federal agricultural government leaders to find ways to assist our farmers with mitigation methods. We included in our message that some farms across the country are using creative alternatives such as, working with food banks, direct sales to consumers, working with some farmers markets that are open, and selling to USDA for school bus home delivery of breakfast and lunch to name a few.

But more is needed. We also noted that many states have a coordinating "repository" where farmers coordinate through a coalition of sorts, some through their Department of Agriculture and others through their Farm Bureau, etc. and that FedEx, UPS, Lyft, and Uber have all stepped up to assist with deliveries. Here too, we need to be proactive and do whatever we can to assist farmers and ranchers. We need to ask ourselves, what can we do locally? Can we connect farmers to markets, to Community Supported Agriculture to possible buyers? Together, we can do this.

The Florida Agricultural Commissioner Nikki Fried has reached out to USDA in an effort to partner up networks. Efforts also are underway to streamline the H-2A program coronavirus guidelines. There is a great deal of misinformation being perpetrated upon the American people unnecessarily causing panic, hysteria and hoarding in parts of our country. I can’t stress enough that for all questions regarding coronavirus, www.coronavirus.gov or www.cdc.gov.

I truly believe we are going to get through this and come out with many lessons learned. We ask that all American citizens, government and related associations work together to protect our food supply by supporting the needs of the American farmers who put food on our table through all types of adversity. In the meantime, please be careful out there, volunteer your talents however best you can and let’s all stay connected.

During this difficult time I have been reminded of the genuine lasting friendships of the men and women in agriculture that we have been blessed with. Sam loved Oregon Women for Agriculture and American Agri-Women. He supported me in every step of my journey. After attending his first AAW convention in Phoenix, Arizona he was hooked and there was never a question about whether he would attend. I have wonderful memories of our many times together with all of you. Thank you so much for all the telephone calls, cards and memorial gifts in honor of Sam. I have been comforted by so many of you. With love, Alice Dettwyler, AAW Past President

Donate To AAW Via Amazon Smile

Go to smile.amazon.com, select “AAW Foundation” as your charity, and anytime you make a purchase, Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchase. It does not cost you anything, but helps our Foundation grow!
National Ag Day Essay Contest Winners

The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) announced the 2020 National Ag Day video and written essay winners. The winners were chosen based on the theme: “Food Brings Everyone to the Table”. The theme presented an opportunity for high school students to address how agriculture brings everyone together by feeding a growing population. Entrants chose to either write an essay or create a video. A first-place written winner and a video winner were selected.

The Ag Day Essay Contest is sponsored by CHS Inc., National Association of Farm Broadcasting and Farm Progress.

“CHS has long supported rural youth education and leadership programs and we are proud to give this year’s essay contest winners a platform that lets them share their ideas with a broader audience,” says Annette Degnan, CHS Inc., director, Marketing Communications, and Agriculture Council of America board member.

The national written essay winner, Eli Mittermeyer from Loraine, Illinois, receives a $1,000 prize.

The contest also named two merit winners who receive $100 and blog posts featuring their essays. They are Britt Bowersox of Swisher, Iowa, and Kaya Dorogi of Marlboro, Massachusetts. This year’s video essay winner, Samantha Gerges of Mansfield, Texas, wins a $1,000 prize. The winning entries can be viewed online at www.agday.org/2020-contestwinners

Helen Whitmore Memorial Convention Scholarship

This scholarship was named to honor Helen Whitmore, a well-respected rancher and teacher from California. It was initiated in 1993 by a friend and AAW Past President, Mitzi Ayala Perdue.

This scholarship is available to any AAW member to attend the annual AAW Convention held in November. The applicant may be of any age, but cannot have attended a past Convention. The purpose of this scholarship is to encourage an awareness of AAW in women, to increase active involvement in AAW, and to challenge them to have an influence on their peers. Only one applicant per affiliate will be accepted. The scholarship is for $500 and the committee may award up to three scholarships. Applications are due by August 15th of each year to foundation@americanagriwomen.org.

“I always felt like I didn’t want to be hired or advanced because I was a woman. I wanted to be advanced because I was the best, so I made myself the best in science.”

Dr. Mary-Dell Chilton, World Food Prize laureate
Have a membership question?
Need to update your information?
Contact Lisa Campion Sullivan,
AAW Executive Assistant
aaw@americanagriwomen.org
586.530.1771
142 Oak Circle
Colchester, VT 05446

www.americanagriwomen.org

VOICE ELECTRONIC ONLY OPTION

Reading the electronic version of the VOICE but still getting a paper copy?
Help AAW cut costs on printing & postage by sending an email: aaw@americanagriwomen.org
In the subject line “Opt-Out of the paper VOICE”
You will be removed from the paper copy mailing list & only receive the electronic version.

Thank you!

GenZ Photo by Alyssa Napolitano

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