Summer in rural America. Does it get any better? One of our family traditions is to celebrate our Independence with fireworks, potluck and taking a break with neighbors. The Illinois State Fair in August punctuates summer and queues the beginning of school. Labor Day is celebrated in service as our 4-H Club helps the local Lions Club with their pronto pup and lemon shakeup stand after walking in the parade.

Enjoying the parades and festivities— including frog jumping, cardboard boat races, and ‘cornhole’— in our rural communities reminds me of the pictures created by Norman Rockwell that illustrated the “four freedoms” cited by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to inspire his fellow countrymen as they went to fight in World War II: freedom of speech, freedom to worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear.

AAW exercised our freedom to speak at our AAW Fly-In in Washington, D.C. in early June. It was WONDERFUL to gather with fellow AAW members from around the country. As we said at orientation, it was our time to play a role in restoring ‘representative’ government following a few years of COVID limitations. Fly-In Chair Ruth Jensen defied the odds in planning the in-person event which included extensive meetings with key USEPA and USDA officials. The Symposium on Energy planned by our past presidents and led by Karolyn Zurn was excellent. Our special conversation with experts in issues related to global food supplies and security issues planned by past president Mitzi Perdue was enlightening. And it was inspiring for our members to meet Congressman Doug LaMalfa, who was nominated as our 2022 Champion of Agriculture by members Rose Tryon-VanCott and Debbie Biacagalupi. A highlight for the entire event was the AAW Foundation sponsorship allowing us to have Agri-Pulse broadcaster Jeff Nalley moderate the Symposium. Jeff’s presence added depth and breadth to everyone’s experience and his interviews with AAW leaders continue to play on radio stations across the country and over the internet.

In the weeks following Fly-In, we issued press releases (https://americanagriwomen.org/media-center/news-releases/) on energy policy, our Champion of Agriculture and the need for the U.S. Geological Survey to list uranium, potash and phosphorous as critical minerals as well as a shout out for House passage of the Ocean Reform Shipping Act which was part of our supply chain priorities we shared at Fly-In.

Continued on page 2.
Our Issue Leads for Climate and Carbon (Meital Stavinsky) and Energy (Deb Whalen) assisted in developing our final comments to the Securities Exchange Commission in opposition to the agency’s proposed changes on Climate Disclosures for public companies that could have severe trickle-down impacts on family farms.

Our leadership development committee has put countless hours and days into developing a leadership program proposal. They made additions to the concept syllabus, recommended by the executive committee, that your AAW Board of Directors reviewed in July. Our membership committee continues to work on process improvements for serving members and managing data. Meanwhile our VP of Education, Jacquie Compston, represented AAW at the National Ag in the Classroom conference in upstate New York.

And there’s more to come...like Convention in November. “The Mountains are calling” us all to Montana where we can renew friendships, hone our skills, dive deeper into policy and learn about regional agriculture. You can register now at the Convention link at the americanagriwomen.org website.

These results have been accomplished while members are still leading their ‘day jobs,’ other service work, and well-rounded lives with family and/or friends. Like our family in June alone, many had already had their 4-H and county fairs, state FFA Convention, Bible School and were well into summer sports. And a personal highlight, Wall Street Journal asked me to present the ‘realities of farming’ as part of a panel at the Global Food Forum June 27-28 in Chicago. (https://www.globalfood.wsj.com/#speakers)

All this activity in the context of current global events makes me appreciate our freedom more than ever. My hope for each of our AAW members, who are already incredible people, is that we can experience freedom from anything that might be holding us back – be it regulations and uncertainty in the marketplace or things closer to home like insecurity, pride or fear of failure. As we each evolve, we all become a stronger, more effective voice for agriculture together.

Thank you All - for ALL you do!

Heather Hampton+Knodle
President, American Agri-Women

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 Amazon Smile purchase.
2022 Executive Committee

Heather Hampton+Knodle
President
Affiliate: Illinois Agri-Women
aawpresident@americanagriwomen.org

Jacquie Compston
Vice President, Education
Affiliate: Nevada Agri-Women
education@americanagriwomen.org

Rose Tryon-Vancott
First VP, Resolutions, & Vital Issues
Affiliate: California Women for Ag
firstvp@americanagriwomen.org

Kim Bremmer
Secretary
Affiliate: Wisconsin Women for Ag
secretary@americanagriwomen.org

Laura Hart
Vice President, Communications
Affiliate: Texas Agri-Women
communications@americanagriwomen.org

Kathy Goodyke
Treasurer
Affiliate: Minnesota Agri-Women
treasurer@americanagriwomen.org

Karolyn Zurn - Past President| Affiliate: Minnesota Agri-Women
pastpresident@americanagriwomen.org

Thank you 2022 AAW National Convention Sponsors!
Do you hear them? The Mountains are Calling, the mountains in Bozeman, Montana, to be specific. Join Montana Agri-Women as they host the American Agri-Women National Convention on November 2-6, 2022.

Montanans like to say our state is easy to get to, hard to leave. Travel is effortless because most major airlines fly into Bozeman, at relatively inexpensive fares. Traveling continues with ease as the host hotel, The Best Western GranTree Inn, offers a complimentary shuttle from the airport and a favorite spot for locals and visitors: Bozeman’s quaint yet vibrant Main Street located in downtown, Bozeman. This option is perfect for attendees who wish to enjoy Bozeman’s unique foodie experience and niche shopping opportunities.

The convention will showcase the beauty of Montana and what it means to be in Montana agriculture. Before the usual AAW business meetings, Montana Agri-Women plans to start this convention with style at the “Meat & Greet.” Notice the “meat” may look like an error, but it is the correct reference to the kick-off event. Attendees will be right in the middle of Beef Country, and what better way to welcome AAW members and guests than with some tasty beef treats. This “ladies’ night in” will also offer many unique vendors specific to fashion with a networking style show.

No convention is complete without tours, and Montana Agri-Women created a diverse educational tour during convention and post-convention. Both tours will give participants a glimpse of the western way of life, from barley to beef and everything in between. The post-tour allows learning a little about American royalty – The Copper King and underground tours in Butte. The post-tour concludes with an evening and an overnight stay at a Montana favorite, Fairmont Hot Springs.

The convention is packed with speakers between the tours, including a panel specific to reaching urban audiences and telling our unique agricultural story. Other speakers include experts on Montana natural resources, grizzly bears, and a featured inspirational speaker. Follow Montana Agri-Women’s social media for future speaker spotlights.

During the AAW business meeting, tours are available for guests and spouses, including the Agricultural Science department and farm, through Montana State University, and the Museum of the Rockies.

Arrangements for this convention would not be possible without the generous support of our Granite Peak partners, Alltech and Northwest Farm Credit. Alltech helps farmers and ranchers feed the world, raise healthy plants and animals, and protect the environment through nutrition and scientific innovation. Northwest Farm Credit works to improve the lives of customers and employees, the communities where they work and raise families, and the Northwest agriculture, food, and fiber industries that perform a vital role in the United States and around the world.

A complete agenda and registration information can be found online on the American Agri-Women website: https://americangriwomen.org/national-convention/.

We hope you answer the call and meet us in Bozeman this fall.
REGISTRATION FORM  
American Agri-Women Convention  
hosted by Montana Agri-Women  
November 2-6, 2022  
Best Western GranTree Inn; 1325 N 7th Ave.  
Bozeman, Montana 59715; Phone: 406-587-5261

Name: _______________________________ Phone: _______________________________

Address: _______________________________

E-mail: _______________________________ Affiliate: _______________________________

Guest Name(s): ________________________ Arrival Date: ___________________________

Are you a voting member of AAW?  ❏ YES  ❏ NO  Any dietary or other needs? _______________________________

Are you a first time attendee?  ❏ YES  ❏ NO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early Registration by 9/15/2022</th>
<th>Regular Registration by 10/15/2022</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Member Registration (all days included)</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-member Registration (all days included)</td>
<td>$295.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spouse Registration (all days included)</td>
<td>$225.00</td>
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<td>Student Registration (all days included)</td>
<td>$175.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday Tour Only</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday Post Tour (additional cost*)</td>
<td>$65.00</td>
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*Post tour fees are not included in general registration cost

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<th>Quantity</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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Late Fee (postmarked after 10/15/2022) $50/person: _______________________________
TOTAL: _______________________________

Make Checks Payable to: Montana Agri-Women  
Mail to: Karen Yost, Treasurer - P.O. Box 31833  
Billings, MT 59107


What to wear: Business attire (which can include cowboy boots and dark jeans!) for meetings; casual wear for tours - bring warm clothing as we are in the mountains.

Hotel Rooms: Contact the hotel to book your room at the discounted rate of $93.00 plus tax/night until 10/4/2022 referencing Montana Agri-Women group.
# TENTATIVE AGENDA

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noon</td>
<td>Early Check-in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>AAW Foundation Board Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>AAW Executive Committee Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 - 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Joint AAW Executive Committee &amp; Foundation Board Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 - 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>“Meat &amp; Greet” Ladies Night In</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 - 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Presidents’ Caucus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 - 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>First Time Attendees Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Convention Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 - 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:45 - 11:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Joint AAW Executive Committee &amp; Board of Directors Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45 a.m. - Noon</td>
<td>Load buses for convention tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon - 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Convention Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 10:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Hospitality Room Open</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Silent Auction Drop-off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Opening Ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Spouse/Guest Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>AAW Business Meeting &amp; Speakers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 - 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Optional Activity (barn square sip &amp; paint)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 - 10:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Hospitality Room Open</td>
</tr>
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</table>

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>AAW Business Meeting &amp; Speakers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 - 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Affiliate Oral Reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Silent Auction closes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 - 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>President’s Reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 - 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Banquet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 - 10:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Hospitality Room Open</td>
</tr>
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## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Church Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Leave for Post Tour</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Overnight to Fairmont Hot Springs - Return to Bozeman Monday morning*
Proxy

Submit the Proxy Form if you are not your affiliate’s president and plan on attending the Board of Directors Meeting. Proxy Form is found on the AAW website at americanagriwomen.org under the Membership, Member Only (password aawagday1974). Please email or mail the form at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting to ensure it is received. If the alternate is bringing the form to the business meeting, please give it to the AAW Secretary prior to the delegate’s voting meetings.

Email to Kim Bremmer, AAW Secretary at secretary@americanagriwomen.org.
Mail to Kim Bremmer, AAW Secretary, 310 N. Division Street, Loyal, WI 54446

Affiliate Report

Please submit your Affiliate Report to Kim Bremmer, AAW Secretary at secretary@americanagriwomen.org. (See a sample of an Affiliate Report at 2019 MNAW Mid-Year Report (americanagriwomen.org))

Silent Auction

Please donate to the American Agri-Women. Each year, at our in-person National Convention, AAW holds a silent auction to benefit AAW projects. We hope you will participate. If you would like to mail your donated item or items you may do so by mailing prior to October 24th to 201 Sugar Ave, Billings, MT 59101. After that date, please contact the host hotel and having items shipped there.

Legacy Kids

Legacy Kids was the brainchild of Trenna Grabowski. Her idea was for the AAW Foundation to launch a program to provide a vehicle for AAW members to share their enthusiasm and support of agriculture and AAW with young people while encouraging the ultimate entry of second and third-generation individuals into American Agri-Women.

How to Become a Legacy Kid

Legacy Kids memberships are available for American Agri-Women members to purchase as gifts for children/young people from birth through the age of eighteen.

Benefits:

- Certificate and Welcome Letter from the AAW President and AAW Foundation President.
- Christmas cards each year, showcasing images from the Foundation’s “Beauty of Agriculture” collection.
- Student membership fee paid by the Foundation for their first year of membership after turning 18.

Give a Legacy Kids Membership Today

The Legacy Kid application can be found on the American Agri-Women website (americanagriwomen.org) under the AAW Foundation tab.
American Agri-Women Gather in Washington, DC

Women in agriculture from throughout the U.S. recently gathered in Washington, D.C., for the 36th Annual American Agri-Women (AAW) Fly-In to D.C. and the 27th Annual Symposium. After a two-year absence due to COVID restrictions, the group met with elected officials and policymakers to discuss critical issues, including environmental social and governance (ESG), trade and supply chain, land use, taxation, energy and mining, and the 2023 farm bill recommendations.

This year’s 27th annual Symposium, by the AAW Past Presidents Council, “Energy: Rebirth, Renew, Refuel,” “featured panelists on renewable energy Kathy Bergren, National Corn Growers Association; Paul Winters, Clean Fuels Alliance America; and Hillary Leach, John Deere Electric Equipment.” The Symposium moderator was Jeff Nalley, Agri-Pulse.

Also on the itinerary was the presentation of the coveted AAW Champion of Agriculture Award. This honor recognizes a member of congress who has displayed exemplary courage in presenting and supporting legislation promoting American agriculture, rural American lifestyles, and the U.S. Constitution. The 2022 recipient is California 1st District Congressman Doug LaMalfa.

Continued on next page.
Advocating for agriculture, the AAW Fly-In was an opportunity for AAW members to engage in a roundtable format with leaders from the USDA and EPA that interact and regulate farming and ranching. Members also met with their congressional representatives and senators to discuss how laws and regulations impact agricultural operations and businesses. The unsustainable cost of fuel and energy down the supply chain was included in these discussions, along with labor shortages and regulatory overreach.

American Petroleum Institute (API) hosted the group where members met with Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Amanda Eversole.

A highlight of the 2022 AAW Fly-In was the Special Event arranged by Mitzi Perdue and Ruth Jensen at the National Press Club. Members participated in discussions with national security experts on the Russia-Ukraine War: A Looming Food Supply Crisis and other significant threats facing the food supply around the world.

*Continued on next page.*
What AAW member has been resident of not one but two different state affiliates of American Agri-Women? What person has been a founding member of a third state affiliate? What person has been a long-time Land Use chair for AAW? What person has helped start other state affiliates and recruited many commodity affiliates to the AAW organization?

This member is Linda Swiercinsky, a long-time and devoted member of American Agri-Women. An Illinois native, Linda grew up in a nationally-known Hereford family. She worked for the Kansas Department of Agriculture and married a Kansan. Linda served as President of Kansas Hereford Women and was President of Kansas Agri-Women before moving back to Illinois and serving as President of Illinois Agri-Women. Linda’s family also maintained a home in Nevada, where she became a founding member of the Nevada affiliate. She now lives in Florida near her son John and his wife and family and is a member of Florida Agri-Women.

Linda has devoted a great deal of her time and interest to AAW. A past national AAW VP of Communications. Her degree is in journalism, and she is a great editor. As VP of Communications, she spent much time editing the Voice and working on getting informative articles that could not be found elsewhere. She is a Leaven Award winner and has nominated numerous others for the honor. She currently serves on the AAW Foundation Board. Over many years, she has been a fearless fundraiser for AAW and demonstrated a remarkable ability to
gather donated items for the silent auction.

Linda has always been committed to working on the issues facing agriculture and believed in AAW as a strong voice for addressing those issues. She has attended many conventions and fly-ins through the years. She has a remarkable memory of AAW history from the earliest days and is serving on the 50th Anniversary committee. Her mission is to stay current on issues and legislation, keep the Land Use Committee informed, and share information members bring to her attention. She stays in contact with her U.S. senators and representatives and frequently senators and representatives in various states who are working on crucial legislation. The work of issues committees has been a major part of AAW’s history, and there’s likely been no more active and consistent committee chair than Linda as Land Use Chair.

One of Linda’s great strengths is her commitment to younger generations of people in agriculture. She has supported and mentored many new AAW members and young 4-Hers, including helping them with the sheep project. Linda gathered recipes and wrote a cookbook with the proceeds going to the Illinois Junior Hereford Association. She has invested a great deal of time and effort in ensuring youth have opportunities to support and be involved in agriculture.

Throughout her life, Linda has cared deeply about American agriculture and has worked hard to promote the industry and American Agri-Women.

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**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. It was established to increase active involvement in AAW and to encourage members to influence their home affiliate members.

This scholarship is available to any AAW member to attend the annual AAW Convention held in November of each year. 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 young 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.

The Helen Whitmore Memorial Convention Scholarship Application and eligibility can be found on the American Agri-Women website ([americanagriwomen.org](http://americanagriwomen.org)) under the AAW Foundation tab.
Daughters of American Agriculture Scholarship is to honor the memory of those courageous and adventurous pioneer women who played such an essential role in the founding of this nation and encourage the present generation to continue their education in agricultural pursuits.

Both scholarships are for $1,000 and are available to any farm, ranch, or agribusiness woman or daughter to pursue accredited courses in agriculture leadership, communications, rural sociology, medicine, or other studies related to agriculture.

Deidra Meyer, Amery, Wisconsin, is the recipient of the High School Graduate (18 – 23 years old) Scholarship. Deidra aims to graduate from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities in agriculture communications, marketing, and business. Also, to become a professional parliamentarian and seek a career as a professional agricultural consultant.

This young lady has an impressive resume of honors and awards, which are too numerous to mention. She has excelled in Parliamentary Procedure and is an Accredited Parliamentarian (AP), a member of the Society of Agriculture Education Parliamentarians, and a member of the American Institute of Parliamentarians. As a dedicated FFA member, these are just a few ways Deidra has shown her success, hard work, leadership, and citizenship in her activities.

Kestlyn Willert, Aurora, South Dakota, is the Continuing Education (24 + years old) Scholarship recipient. Kestlyn is currently enrolled at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Minnesota. Through a double major in Agricultural Communication and Marketing along with Animal Science, Kestlyn is sharing stories with producers and discovering innovations in animal agriculture. Following her undergraduate education, she plans to attend law school or complete a master’s in an agricultural-related area of study. With a college education and professional degree, she is confident she will continue to give back to the industry that has given her so much.
AAW FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

2022 EARLY BIRD NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION REIMBURSEMENT

Chances - Five (5) tickets for $20.00

The winner will be reimbursed $250.00 for their early registration to the American Agri-Women 2022 National Convention in Bozeman, MT., November 2-6, 2022. The drawing will take place during The Convention Banquet on Saturday, November 5. You must be registered to win.

Tickets will begin selling on Monday, August 1, and continue through Convention, ending on Friday, November 4 at 4:00 pm.

To purchase your tickets, please mail your check to Linda Schiffer, PO Box 894 Buffalo, WY 82834. Linda will place your name on the tickets and send you the ticket stub. Print your name clearly and buy as many as you please!!!
A Tribute To Sister Thomas More Bertels

AAW 1974 to 1994 - A Proud Heritage - A Precious Legacy

What has Sister Thomas More Bertels contributed to the unprecedented mobilization of women in agriculture? She never held an office or dictated policy. However, she preached the gospel of unification of effort within the agricultural community to build a power base in the economic and political arenas to ensure the production of the effects farm and ranch families intend.

Her role was as a resource person, always on tap as needed. Examples: She was present in Milwaukee, WI, when AAW formed as well as and when some state affiliates were born; at Lake Arrowhead, CA, when AAW’s philosophy and goals were delineated; on the committee that developed the “family farm” definition; when the Agricultural Women’s Leadership Network was in its infancy. She authored a book, “In Pursuit of Agri-Power,” that tells what Americans should know about farmers but have never asked, as well as articles, newsletters, and letters to the editor on issues on farm labor management, land use, environmentalism, and biotechnology. Fortunately, Silver Lake College administrators never asked for an accounting of time and money spent in any of her endeavors.

Thank you, Sister Thomas More Bertels!

Call to Power from Sister Thomas More Bertels

History will be kinder to us if our capacity to effect change is implemented in the right way and for the right reasons. Our dedication to truth and our identification with the institutions that foster justice and good will provide our rod and staff in the struggle to put away untruth and injustice.

When the responsibility for change falls to only a few, the resulting sense of powerlessness is dehumanizing. The feeling of helplessness institutes a plague of apathy and fosters the growth of the philosophies that trouble us.

But who has not tasted the sweetness of success in effecting change and been inspired to try again and seek greater challenges? By its very nature, the capacity of one alone to effect change is limited; but the scope expands when the common cares of more than one give birth to unity of purpose. From the beginning of time, the hallmark of any group has been its ability to produce intended effects – the very definition of power itself. The power gained in those efforts is the force which has mobilized mankind. The use of power springs from unity and commonality and the degree to which the group is organized within the framework of sound, human oriented principles, will determine its ability to survive the stresses from change to renewal.

The need for power is not shameful, nor is it to be feared. When power is used to overcome injustice and untruth, we must assume that the Hand of God is still at work perfecting His creation.
As we move to build power, we affirm the following principles:

- The constant pursuit of truth must lie at the heart of our purpose and actions.
- The manner in which we seek truth must be thorough and without prejudice.
- As we search for truth, we recognize others equally valid searches and seek to remain open to their wisdom.
- We are never better than the means we use.
- We reject the use of violence in either action or words; however, one should not confuse vigorous expressions of truth with violence.
- Rejecting the ideal that it is necessary to foster hate, we are called to this responsibility in the spirit of goodwill.
- We affirm our responsibility for the generation yet unborn.

POWER IS A NEUTRAL CONCEPT, one that is neither good nor bad. Philosopher Bertrand Russell defined it as “the production of the intended effects.” What effects do we intend? Can we produce these effects? If we can, we have power.

Unfortunately, too many people fear power, identifying it with Hitler, Stalin, the Red Brigade – those who have abused power; more unfortunately, to few people find fault with those who neglect or refuse to use power, which can also be abuse. “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.” Said, Edmond Burke, British statesman of the American revolutionary period. Put another way: “Whatever happens, somebody plans it and the rest of us permit it. We are all responsible.”

We must want and use power; that is, we must produce the effects we intend. What do we intend? For the membership of American Agri-Women, that is no secret. Our intentions are voiced in our seven goals.

We intend...
...to forge the true image of the farm entrepreneur
...to foster collaboration with the system
...to formulate fair market practices
...To foster cooperation among producers
...to fight oppressive forces
...to form leaders

How many AAW affiliates and their chapters keep these goals in mind when planning policies and actions? What activities are conducted in each affiliate that can be categorized as an implementation of each goal? How many evaluate chapter performance regularly? How successful have we been in achieving each goal? HOW MUCH POWER DO WE ACTUALLY HAVE?

What difference does it make? A great deal of difference! The most important task facing farm entrepreneurs today is capturing a significant degree of influence over the policy-making function as it relates to food, feed, fiber, forest products and flora. If producers were perceived as having power, they would not be ignored when policy is being formulated.

Today, however, farm entrepreneurs are conspicuous by their absence in the arenas of power. That scenario must change. To date, producers have waited patiently for the scenario to change. It won’t, unless they themselves change it. “Patience without pressure is perceived as paralysis” said Herb Cohen, the famous negotiator who addressed AAW in San Diego several years ago. The powerless cannot pressure. We have been CALLED TO POWER. What is your response?
National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization and New York Agriculture welcomed us with joyful enthusiasm and warm greetings on June 27th in Saratoga Springs. “When you think of New York, you may think of the city, but agriculture is our dominate industry at $3.6 billion annually with more than 35,000 farms.”

Thirty-four companies and organizations either donated or exhibited in support of this event. There were more than 500 participants in attendance.

We found the participants curious about the American Agri-Women organization, and many took the information from our booth. Several stopped by to say hi to members of our AAW affiliates - one was Eleanor Zimmerlein’s niece, and another was a friend of Jean Goslin.

Drawings for door prizes were held with two drawings each day. The door prizes consisted of an AAW insulated bag, an AAW canvas bag, a journal, a package of cards, and the book “Food Fear” by Damian Mason – donated by Karolyn Zurn. Other giveaways were pens, post-its, bookmarks, a pizza dough recipe, and QR codes for American Agri-Women Scholarships and educational resources. We also sold out of the Foundation note cards.

On Thursday, we had the pleasure of having Cristina Hudson Kohler, a large egg producer, an active New York Ag in the Classroom and NYFB member spend the day with us. She introduced us to her friend, the New York Ag Commissioner, and other New York ag community members.

It was an enjoyable experience! We came home re-energized, proud to be a part of agriculture and AAW, but also a strong hope for the future of ag.

Continue to the next page for contact information and a recipe.
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LaMalfa Awarded ‘Champion of Agriculture’ by the American Agri-Women

Jun 13, 2022 Press Release

(Washington, D.C.) – Last week, Congressman LaMalfa (R – CA) was awarded the ‘Champion of Agriculture’ by American Agri-Women (AAW). Each year, the Champion of Agriculture award is presented to one U.S. Senator and one U.S. Representative that displays extraordinary leadership in agriculture policy and shows strong commitment to the American agriculture industry, the rural way of life, and the United States Constitution.

Congressman LaMalfa was nominated for this honor by two North State Residents, First Vice President Rose Tyron VanCott and Debbie Bacigalupi. In their nomination, they cited the Congressman’s work to protect water rights and develop more water storage throughout the West. As the Ranking Member of the House Agriculture’s Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry, he has led the charge on polices that alleviate burdensome regulations for producers, reduce costs for consumers, and increase innovation and flexibility in the agriculture, forestry, and energy industries.

“In these times where farming and our rural way of life faces constant obstacles, it is critical to stand together. I was pleased to accept this ‘Champion of Agriculture’ award, and to be able to work side-by-side with these incredible women. Bringing struggles facing our industry and our rural way of life to the forefront of the national stage is at the utmost importance to myself and AAW,” said Congressman LaMalfa.

“Congressman LaMalfa’s exemplary record of supporting property rights, working for rural communities and pursuing common sense policies for agriculture embody the spirit of the Champion of Agriculture Award,” said Heather Hampton Knodle, President of American Agri-Women.

“Doug LaMalfa works hard for agriculture and Northern California. Congressman LaMalfa has been a long-time advocate for sensible forest management and private property rights. I can not think of a more deserving person to receive the American Agri-Women Champion of Agriculture award,” said American Agri-Women’s First Vice President Rose Tryon VanCott.

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“It is an honor to have my Congressman awarded the 2022 American-Agri Women’s ‘Champion of Agriculture,’” said Debbie Bacigalupi. “Doug and his entire staff deserve such an honor for their tireless, thoughtful work on major issues like the head shaking agenda to destroy clean renewable energy dams on the Klamath, wildfires spurred on by forest mismanagement (but mislabeled as climate change), and the deliberate destruction of property rights to name a few.”

Finding Your Voice
Farmers and Ranchers: The Stewards of the Land

Sustainability and good environmental stewardship are hot-button issues in today’s popular culture. It seems those who use “sustainability” most tend to present it like they invented the idea. Meanwhile, they ignore the masters of sustainability in our society: those involved in agriculture. The industry-wide practices in agriculture have significant positive environmental impacts and are not being acknowledged. In many cases these industries are being criticized for not being “sustainable” when nothing could be further from the truth.

Farming and Ranching Are Tied to the Earth
Farming and ranching are inherently tied to the earth. This makes our agriculturalists and producers some of the foremost, oldest stewards of the land. Rural communities understand this as well – with over 70% citing environmental issues as very important according to a Duke Nicholas Institute survey. For generations they have been recycling, upcycling, and reinventing all to grow more food in a sustainable way.

A Combination of Science and Practical Experience
In recent years, agriculture has used more science and data to stretch those horizons even further while building on the lessons of the past. Unfortunately, the understanding and appreciation of the longstanding sustainability story of our farmers and ranchers has been lost. Miscommunication and false information in our media is rampant and we need to set the record straight on the irreplaceable role of agriculture in a sustainable future.

Stewardship is Essential for Future Generations
By its very nature, farming must go hand in hand with environmental stewardship. It takes hundreds of years for nature to create a single inch of topsoil. Therefore, farmers need to ensure that they take the utmost care of the land because it cannot be easily replaced. Topsoil is delicate, and to continually support a healthy crop it must be properly maintained. With 98% of farms being family-owned, most farmers desire to see their land, natural resources, water, and knowledge passed on to future generations.

Fortunately, there are many ways farmers can help safeguard their soil and these sustainable practices are used industry-wide.

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**Working with the Land and Scientists**

Many farmers and ranchers work hand in hand with agronomists each season. They use lab analysis to get a clear picture of their land’s soil health and its nutrients. The agronomist uses this information to give accurate recommendations on what tools and practices they can use to enrich and maintain the soil.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service - The Dust Bowl is in the Past**

In response to the great Dust Bowl that plagued approximately 100,000,000 acres of the U.S., the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – then the Soil Conservation Service – was established as a permanent agency of the Department of Agriculture.

Like so many other sciences, agronomy has come a long way. Sadly, some of the worst erosion in U.S. agriculture happened during the 1950s and 1970s. It was estimated that some regions experienced a loss of 20 metric tons, nearly 10 tons per acre, of topsoil each year. Since the situation has improved greatly and starting in 1982 wind and water erosion on cropland has decreased by over 43%. To this day this agency continues to educate farmers, ranchers, and landowners by administering programs and regulations that help preserve these valuable resources.

This is necessary not only to prevent another national tragedy but to also help farmers and ranchers do better business. Every landowner knows that taking better care of the land means a better bottom line for agriculturalists. Things as simple as tilling technique used or managed cattle grazing have a profound positive impact on the natural environment.

**The Role of Grazing in Soil Quality and Wildlife Habitat**

Proper grazing techniques help enhance soil quality by natural fertilization and promote more growth of healthy, younger vegetation. Grasslands can also sequester carbon and provide habitats for wildlife. In fact, one study found that land managed with strategic grazing produced 50% more invertebrates than those that did not. A similar effect was seen with habitat availability for mammals.

**Protecting our Water**

Did you know that approximately 587.76 million gallons of recycled water are used each day in American agriculture?

Water management has always been a primary concern in agriculture as it is a requirement when raising animals and vegetation. Grasslands managed with grazing can also promote conservation of this resource by increasing absorption, decreasing runoff, and building drought resistance.

When it comes to growing crops, farmers have many advanced irrigation technologies at their disposal to carefully evaluate and measure water distribution. To be even more conservation savvy, many growers also use recycled water for their irrigation practices. Additionally, farm ponds, waterways and streams can also help promote wildlife habitats and healthier ecosystems. Many crop farmers use conservation buffers to protect these. Buffers are areas and strips of land that are in permanent vegetation to protect waterways and reduce runoff. These buffers, according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, remove up to 50% or more of nutrients and pesticides, remove 60% or more pathogens, and remove 75% or more sediment from making their way into our freshwater.

**More with Less is the Key to Farm and Ranch Families Bottom Line**

Agricultural efficiency is something most people don’t consider when biting into a steak or eating a fresh salad.

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Our farmers and ranchers can raise crops and manage livestock in ways that reduce the use of precious resources in a big way. Today it takes 75% fewer resources to produce the same amount of chicken than it did over 50 years ago. It now takes 65% less water and 90% less land for each gallon of milk produced compared to over 75 years ago. These new efficiencies make it possible to feed more people than before using fewer resources which is a big win for everyone. When it comes to reusing and recycling, livestock farmers and ranchers are experts. Finding creative ways to do this not only helps the planet, but it also saves money and energy on the farm.

Each farm or ranch is unique, but you will find common threads of the principles of sustainability at each to reduce, reuse, recycle, and rethink. Fertilizers and other substances farmers use to protect crops and help them grow are very expensive. Reducing the amount of inorganic and organic fertilizer used is one way farmers cut back on expenses. Livestock producers have an especially unique advantage. Three of the primary crop nutrients – nitrogen, potassium and phosphorous – are found in animal manures.

Some farms have been able to reduce the amount of manure applied to fields with tools like manure or anaerobic digesters that concentrate nutrients with minimal waste. These types of digester systems can take the methane gas from manure processing and turn it into power sources like electricity and fuel.

If you visit a farm, you may also notice how many items farmers recycle by using them in different ways. Farmers and ranchers rethink daily to find ways to become more efficient and have less waste; more waste equals more time and money that could have been used for improving efficiency.

**Upcycling**

Upcycling on farms and ranches is accomplished by using byproducts from other industries. A surprising 40% of feed ingredients used for livestock are in fact byproducts from other industries that would otherwise be wasted. An example of this is feeding cattle distiller grains from breweries, carrot tops, orange peels, and even almond hulls, all of which are edible and nutritious to cattle when mixed in the correct proportions with their feed.

With the right processing equipment, livestock producers can even recycle and reuse old bedding for their animals. Sand has become a very popular bedding choice for many dairies, in part because it can be cleaned with recycled wastewater water, dried and then put back in the barn.

Other common recycled items you might see on farms and ranches include things like tires, plastic containers, bailing twine, and wood pallets.

**Farmers Are Trusted, So Where is the Misinformation Coming From?**

It is no longer hidden that there are wealthy special interest non-governmental groups (NGOs) working to change our way of life. These groups want to change how animals are perceived and end animal agriculture...
and state their stances publicly. There are groups claiming to focus on the environment and their latest push is to “re-wild” significant portions of our country which includes making the land inaccessible to humans. These animal and environmental extremist NGOs are interconnected and openly share staff projects, lawsuits, jointly write legislation and regulations.

These groups have used the internet and the production of documentaries to push the agenda forward. As many have now realized, the internet has been a breeding ground for misinformation where it can spread quickly. With very few people knowing farmers and ranchers in real life, it’s a rarity to get information straight from the source. This is why we are tirelessly working to set the record straight and correct the misinformation that is spreading like wildfire.

The truth is that sustainability isn’t a new concept in agriculture. Sustainability is woven into our food system and is continually improving. It is part of the day-to-day operation and management of farms and ranches.

Here are some of the common misconceptions and the real truths:

• False Claim: Farming is Inherently Bad for the Environment
  • Facts: The fact is, all human activity has an impact on the climate, and all societies are contributing to global emissions. Agriculture is providing a necessary end-product for people: food. What makes agriculture an especially unique industry is that proper practices mitigate climate impact and also improve it with carbon sequestration. The report from the United Nations FAO, “Livestock’s Long Shadow,” which is frequently referred to as the definitive source for agriculture impact has been debunked and the FAO was forced to retract it. Unfortunately, groups who have an agenda to push have ignored this significant fact and continue to use it. Agriculture only provides a small percentage and animal agriculture specifically is less 4%.

• As previously mentioned, other ways farming can give Mother Nature a helping hand include restoring wildlife habitats, improving soil health and reducing erosion.

• False Claim: Livestock and Meat Do More Harm than Good
  • Facts: The environmental impact of raising livestock is greatly misrepresented by those with an ulterior agenda, therefore, it is misunderstood by the public. In the U.S., only 4.2% of all greenhouse gases GHGs are related to livestock production. Practices like strategic grazing and manure management go hand in hand with other environmentally-friendly farm and ranch practices.

Large livestock operations are required to have a comprehensive nutrient management plan or CNMP, for handling, storing and applying their manure. The required guidelines are overseen by NRCS and is the responsibility of the farmer to update and maintain.

Besides providing nutrient-dense and delicious food products, animals also provide materials for countless byproducts for many other industries. Researchers are always working on new ways to get even more out of byproducts from the production process, even using emissions like ammonia and methane.

• False Claim: Pesticides, Herbicides, and Antibiotics are Regularly Abused
  • Facts: There are numerous guidelines and practices that farmers follow when applying any sort of pesticides or herbicides to their land. More efficient use of these products also save money and makes the cost of production much more economic.

• False Claim: Antibiotics are Over Used in Agriculture
  • Facts: Antibiotics are expensive to purchase and administer. They are highly regulated so they are only used as directed to help prevent antibiotic resistance and wastage. All farmers and ranchers must also follow

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good stewardship practices regarding how medical products are stored and disposed of to keep people, animals and the environment safe.

Where to Find Factual Information
While there is an abundance of myths and misinformation regarding food production and the environment, there are also many good, factual sources available as long as you know where to look. In addition to following our organization, others such as the Animal Agriculture Alliance, The Cavalry Group, National Animal Interest Alliance, Diary Carrie, and universities with agriculture programs have accurate and factual information available. Sources and citations should always be fact-checked to ensure they are coming from individuals, academia, and organizations actually involved with agriculture, and not from groups who have an agenda to end agriculture and animals in human care in the United States.

Looking to the Future
Thanks to the dedication, scientific information, and advancing technology, farmers and ranchers are more capable than ever of doing things right to ensure there is not only a future in food production but one better than we had before. Protect The Harvest commends and supports America’s agriculture industry leaders and workers and the true passion they have to be sustainable stewards of the land.

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THANK YOU TO OUR AFFILIATES!

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“Agriculture is a fundamental source of national prosperity.”
- J. J. Mapes