PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As a national agriculture organization, it seems "O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain..." would be our focus from the song "America the Beautiful." We recognize private property ownership and rights as the cornerstone of a free enterprise system. You do what you do well. I do what I do well. And then, we barter, trade, or monetize the products or services we create to grow or strengthen our economy.

But the line that keeps America Beautiful is, "Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law." Each one of us finds a way to become better through self-discipline and persistence. We find ways to work together in our businesses and communities by lending a hand and ‘biting our tongue’ at times and being persuasive to others. We in Agri-Women actively work to make sure our liberty is protected, not abused, by laws.

It was our first President, General George Washington who said, "I would rather be on my farm than Emperor of the world." He lived through the horror of battles and his wife supported him and his troops through arduous, seemingly impossible, times at Valley Forge and elsewhere. He quoted the prophet Micah when he said, “each man shall all sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid.” No military, no ruler would oppress them. His desire was to not just enjoy peace, but to allow people to prosper during peace. His personal preference was to manage his own affairs, yet he sacrificed his family time and agronomic research to serve our country when other people needed his guidance. Peace is insured when people discipline themselves to be their best, sometimes sacrifice their own desires, and work within communities to continually improve their circumstances.

It is true leadership—leading self, leading others.

Agri-Women are providing an opportunity to all members—experienced and NEW—to refresh themselves and learn how we can all support ourselves as individuals and in teams to make a difference for agriculture, for our communities, families, and more. This August in Reno, let’s LEAP together, into being even better at speaking out for agriculture and working with others to add power to our efforts.

L.E.A.P.

Leading, Empowering, and Aspiring Toward Progress

L.E.A.P. is open to all American Agri-Women members.

Attendees must be current members of American Agri-Women. Membership can be updated at www.americanagriwomen.org.

An event dedicated to the fierce women in agriculture to refine their leadership skills and cultivate a stronger future for American Agriculture.
Presidents Message continued

JOIN AAW MEMBERS IN RENO, NV.
AUGUST 24-25
PEPPERMILL RESORT AND CASINO

Register Today

Book Your Room

Sincerely,
Heather Hampton-Knodle
President

Stay Connected With American Agri-Women

www.americanagriwomen.org

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2023 -2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 24, 2023 - Road to Influence Launch, Reno, NV., Peppermill Resort and Casino
October 1, 2023 - AAW Affiliate and Committee Annual Reports Due - Submit reports to secretary@americanagriwomen.org
November 1-5, 2023 - AAW Annual Convention, Sacramento, CA
March 1, 2024 - American Agri-Women Daughters of American Agriculture Scholarships - Applications due
April 2024 - AAW Mid-Year Meeting, Kansas (date and place TBA)
May 1, 2024 - AAW Gail McPherson Fly-In Scholarship - Applications due
May 1, 2024 - Legacy Kids Fly-In Scholarships - Applications due
June 2-5, 2024 - AAW Legislative Fly-In - Washington, D.C.
July 1, 2024 - AAW Veritas Award - Applications due
August 1, 2024 - LEAVENT Award - Applications due
August 1, 2024 - Nominations for officers, foundation board, nominating committee, and finance review committee - Applications due
August 15, 2024 - Helen Whitmore Memorial Convention Scholarship - Applications due
November 2024 - AAW Annual Meeting - AAW 50th Anniversary, Wisconsin (date and place TBA)

2023 AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

Rose Tryon Vancott, First VP, Resolution & Vital Issues
firstvp@americanagriwomen.org
Affiliate: California Women for Agriculture

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

Jean Goslin, Vice President, Education
education@americanagriwomen.org
Affiliate: Kansas Agri-Women

Arlene Kovash, Secretary
secretary@americanagriwomen.org
Affiliate: Oregon Women for Agriculture

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

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

We can do it together!
American Agri-Women recently gathered in Washington, D.C., June 4-6 for the Annual American Agri-Women (AAW) Fly-In to D.C. and the 28th Annual Symposium. The group met with elected officials and policymakers to discuss critical issues: trade, taxation, forest labor, atrazine, biofuels, animal welfare, and the 2023 farm bill recommendations.

This year’s 28th annual Symposium, by the AAW Past Presidents Council, "Border Security and Food Safety Equal National Security," featured panelists were Kathy Nuebel Kovarik, President of Sagitta Solutions, LLC, Susan J. Kibbe, Executive Director of South Texas Property Rights Association. The Symposium moderator was AAW Past President, Mitzi Perdue. Julia Haart, star of Netflix "My Unorthodox Life," was a special guest at Symposium. She delivered remarks about her work on behalf of Ukrainian farmers, the war-torn country’s plight, and the daily barrage of mines destroying the farmland.

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 2023 recipients are U.S. Senator Joe Manchin III (D-WV) and House Ag Committee Chair Congressman Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA).

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 National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) hosted the group, where members heard from Kevin Kuhlman, Vice President, Federal Government Relations. NFIB is the voice of small business, advocating for America’s small and independent business owners in Washington, D.C., and all 50 state capitals. NFIB is nonprofit, nonpartisan, and member-driven. Since our founding in 1943, NFIB has been exclusively dedicated to small and independent businesses and remains so today.

A highlight of the 2023 AAW Fly-In was the visit to the Embassy of Italy. We heard from Anna Beatrice Ciorba, DVM, Agriculture, and Food Attaché for the Embassy of Italy, on "Imports and Exports of Food Products from Italy to the United States." The embassy invited us to a "Taste of Italy," serving the group traditional Italian pizza.

This year the group also included four American Agri-Women (AAW) Legacy Kids from Texas, Florida, Maine, and Illinois.
AAW LEGACY KIDS ATTEND FLY-IN

Pictured left to right: (back) Jhett Hart, Texas (front) Sue McCrum, Maine, Collin McCrum, Maine, AAW President Heather Hampton-Knodle, Illinois, Bond Knodle, Illinois and Hannah Guthoerl, Florida

It was Trenna Grabowski, AAW President 1992-1993, 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.

Legacy Kids memberships are available for AAW members to purchase as gifts to children/young people from birth through age eighteen. The membership form can be found on page 20 of this edition of the VOICE.
2023 LegisLative Fly-In Scholarship Recipients

Trenna Grabowski Legacy Kids Fly-In Scholarship

This year the American Agri-Women (AAW) Foundation awarded two Trenna Grabowski Legacy Kids Fly-In Scholarships. The recipients were Jhett Hart, Texas, the 16-year-old grandson of AAW member Laura Hart and Hannah Guthoerl, Florida, the 17-year-old daughter of AAW member Chrissy Wozniak. Each received $200.

Hannah Guthoerl, Florida

Washington, DC | (From the perspective of a Legacy kid). The American Agri-Women congregate in Washington, DC for the 37th annual Fly-in. We had a fantastic time visiting congressmen and seeing incredible, historical sights.

During our trip to Washington DC, we learned about the many different problems and solutions in our American Agricultural system. We went over some serious topics like Border security, Biofuels, pesticide use, trade, taxation, animal welfare and most importantly, the 2023 Farm bill recommendations. The AAW spoke with people from the USDA and EPA.

The first event on our itineraries was to attend our 28th annual symposium in the USDA building. There were incredible women that spoke that day like Mitzi Perdue, Kathy Nuebel Kovarik, Susan J. Kibbe and Julia Haart. Mitzi Perdue was the Symposium moderator, and kept the day on a roll. Kathy Nuebel Kovarik touched on Border security and immigration, and how it's being handled at the moment. Susan J. Kibbe joined us to speak about the South Texas Property Rights Association. Then Julia Haart told us about her experiences in agriculture, and her thoughts and feelings on Agriculture in war torn places such as Ukraine. Those were some of the most impactful presentations I've ever witnessed!

We then went to a luncheon in a penthouse and heard a speech from NFIB. That was very interesting and easy to listen to.

The Third event was with EPA. EPA was kind and thoughtful in their questions towards us and within our questions towards them. It was nice to be able to hear a different viewpoint from some other people about the issues in the agricultural industry.

The last event on the first day was the Italian Embassy. What gracious and kind hosts they were to us! We spoke about trade and some new technology that could better the trades between America and different countries! We ate some amazing pizza, and even got to try Fererro chocolate straight from Italy!

The first event on the second day was to speak to spokes-wo-men about Agriculture in the USDA building! Listening to this roundtable was my favorite event during my AAW experience because all of the topics interested me! We listened to the NRCS, TRADE, USFS and NASS! It was a great learning moment for, I think, all involved!

We then broke into smaller groups and went to our congressional Appointments. This was one of the coolest experiences I've had in Agriculture, EVER! My Mom and I spoke with three different Congressmen and even got to meet the man who runs agriculture in Charlotte County, Florida! That meet meant alot to us because we only live about 10 mins away from Charlotte county! It was so amazing to be able to directly talk to such important people!
Scholarship Recipients continued

The last Event we enjoyed was the AAW Congressional Reception! We gave GT. Tompson and Senator Joe Manchin Champion of Agriculture awards. The Awards were to symbolize their amazing works and dedication in agriculture! This was an incredible night because my Mom and I even got to take a photo with GT. Thompson!

In conclusion, I appreciate the time I got to spend in Washington at the annual AAW fly-in! I've never felt so at home in a place I've never been before! I used my time there wisely and even got more direction towards the person I want to become in the future! Agriculture is where all my passion resides, and hopefully the Legacy's kids (now and the future kids) will be more involved in the AAW!

JHETT HART, TEXAS

The American Agri-Women's Legislative Fly-In was my first time visiting Washington, D.C.; it was a trip I will never forget. I left Washington, D.C., with a better understanding of how the political side of things works with the USDA, EPA, and Congressional.

I traveled to Washington, D.C., with my Grandma Laura Hart. We got to stay the entire week to attend the Fly-In, and then the rest of the week, we toured Washington, D.C.

The American Agri-Women were all very welcoming and made my experience at Fly-In memorable. I am already looking forward to attending Fly-In next year with my Grandma.

GAIL MCPHERSON LEGISLATIVE FLY-IN SCHOLARSHIP

ASHLYANN LEMHOUSE, OREGON WOMEN FOR AGRICULTURE

Sunday, June 4th, our nation’s capital welcomed the arrival of 18 members of the American Agri-women into its historic city. We were here to accomplish three things: Network with our fellow members, educate ourselves and have an open dialogue with several departments of our government, and meet with our state representatives to promote the upcoming Farm Bill.

Monday morning started off by loading up on a charter bus and attending the 28th Annual AAW Symposium at the USDA. Here we listened to several speakers regarding border security and the effects that has on our nation’s food security as well as how we can help farmers internationally.

Following this was a lunch provided to us by the National Federation of Independent Business which discussed how they can be beneficial in assisting farmers run their business and the rooftop also gave us a stunning view of the city. From here we visited the EPA which made for a very interesting and informational meeting! We chatted with their two agriculture advisors, one was a toxicologist and the other had sat on the board for the National Corn Growers Association. I didn’t realize these were even positions within the EPA so, it was very positive to listen to them.

The day wound down with a wonderful presentation given to us by the Italian Embassy followed by some traditional pizzas! With a free evening, I took this opportunity to do some exploring on my own. I had been to DC once before as a teenager so coming back as an adult helped renew much of the wonder, I experienced the first time.

Day two took us back to the USDA for back-to-back meetings with members of the different sects within the USDA. These were very informational and each of our speakers made sure to leave plenty of time to answer all of our questions.

That afternoon we broke off into smaller groups to meet with our individual state representatives. I went with our other Oregon members, Marie Bowers, Tracy Duerst, and Emily Duerst, to visit Lori Chavez-DeRemer, Cliff Bentz, and Val Hoyle. After this we enjoyed appetizers at the Congressional Reception for the Champion of Agriculture. Which was a lively mingle with many representative’s offices.

This was an amazing experience. I was very hesitant at first when we discussed actually speaking to our representatives but, after spending a few days with such a vocal and strong group of women, I felt very empowered to speak up about agricultural issues that carry great meaning to me. This is why we have elected these women and men, to give our voices a greater one, on a greater platform.
American Agri-Women
Sponsors

American Agri-Women Members
John Deere
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American Petroleum Institute
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Gowan USA
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Zurn Farms
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Versatile Equipment
American Soybean Association
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We thank these sponsors for their generous donations.

American Agri-Women
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California Women for Agriculture
Ceres International Fraternity
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Florida Agri-Women
Foremost Farm USA
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Idaho Women in Timber
Illinois Agri-Women
Kansas Agri-Women
Kentucky Women in Agriculture
Maine Agri-Women
Minnesota Agri-Women

Montana Agri-Women
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association
Nevada Agri-Women
New Mexico Wool Growers Auxiliary
Oregon Women for Agriculture
Oregon Women in Timber
Sigma Alpha Sorority
Texas Agri-Women
United Ag
Wisconsin Women for Agriculture
Women of Kansas Agriculture Aviation Association
Women’s Mining Coalition
Wyoming Agri-Women
American Property Rights Alliance

We can do it together!
As I write this, I can't begin to say how much I enjoy this organization. But this organization is missing something. It's missing the "wow factor" that it once had. How many of you remember when American Agri-Women was a "known" organization? I hear AAW is no longer the "known" organization it once was. Many other women-led organizations have replaced AAW. This organization claims, "American Agri-Women is the nation’s largest coalition of farm, ranch and agribusiness women with more than 50 states, commodity and agribusiness affiliate organizations, united to communicate with one another and with other consumers to promote agriculture. AAW members... advocating for agriculture since 1974." Are we united? Do we communicate with one another? Are we educating the consumer and promoting agriculture?

My wish for this great organization is that we get back to the roots of the organization. Great women started this organization, and they had that "wow factor." However, we have lost the "wow" somewhere along the way. Do you want everyone to know what the American Agri-Women organization is and what it does? Instead of the who or what is American Agri-Women. Appointments with our legislators are getting harder and harder to get because their schedulers have never heard of AAW and our mission. How can we fault the scheduler when our legislators don’t know who American Agri-Women is? How can we get back to the roots of the organization?

We can UNITE, EMPOWER, EDUCATE, LEGISLATE, ADVOCATE. Women play an essential role in developing a united voice for agriculture. Let us UNITE as members and bring the "WOW FACTOR" back into this wonderful organization. Let us EMPOWER one another instead of tearing one another apart. No one person or affiliate is above the other. Everyone should be beggiong to hold a position on the executive committee or their state affiliate. Let us EDUCATE the consumer instead of allowing all the misinformation spread about our industry to be their source. Let us LEGISLATE essential issues our industry is facing today. Come to Mid-Year, Fly-In, and Convention. Have a seat at the table and a voice. Let us ADVOCATE for our industry by ensuring people know the facts and truth, not the lies spread about our industry.

So, who’s with me by being the root, the heart of AAW? We can unite and grow this organization back to what it once was. Today more than ever, the agriculture industry needs AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN. Let’s do this!

Laura Hart
AAW VP of Communications
November 2021-November 2023
Suppose you are looking for a gift, educational material for your classroom or at home, or promotional material. In that case, these decks of playing cards with 50 agriculture facts from across the United States are perfect. Each deck comes in a clear case. The more you order, the more you save.

If you want to order, please click AAW DECKS OF CARDS.

Price:
- 1-24 decks $6.00 per deck with a flat rate shipping of $10.00
- 25-50 decks $5.50 per deck with a flat rate shipping of $15.00
- 51+ decks $5.00 per deck with free shipping

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact AAW VP of Education Jean Goslin at education@americanagriwomen.org.

Not all corn is the same. There are three main varieties, popcorn (flint corn), sweet corn, and field corn. We eat all three just in different ways. #itscorn #biglumpofknobs #ithasthejuice

AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

An individual may pay $500 in one lump sum for a lifetime membership to AAW. This may also be gifted or donated to a special member. Lifetime members enjoy all the rights and privileges of a full voting membership for their lives and join the elite group of AAW leadership for special recognition.

If you are interested, please mail your check to Kathy Goodyke, AAW Treasurer
25204 210th St. SW
Crookston, MN 56716

Make check payable to American Agri-Women - Memo: Name and Lifetime Membership.
AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN
NATIONAL CONVENTION

November 1st - 5th
Embassy Suites by Hilton
Sacramento Riverfront Promenade
100 Capitol Mall,
Sacramento, CA 95814
Hotel Cost: $229/night + tax

Hosted By:
California Women for Agriculture
1521 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
*Please complete the registration form below and mail to The California Women for Agriculture.*

Registration Pricing
Member Pricing:
Early Bird before 9/15: $300
After 9/15: $325

Non-Member Pricing:
Early Bird before 9/15: $330
After 9/15: $355

Student Pricing:
Early Bird before 9/15: $250
After 9/15: $275

Register Online:
https://www.eventcreate.com/e/aawconvention23

Register by Mail:
California Women for Agriculture
1521 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Includes Main Tour,
Friday Saturday
Meetings
Gala Dinner

Virtual Zoom Option:
$50
Includes Friday & Saturday
Meetings

Registration Deadline:
10/10

California Women for Agriculture is thrilled to host the 2023 American Agri-Women Convention in the capital city of Sacramento. Join us in the Farm-to-Fork Capital and the heart of California’s Gold Rush history. Our host hotel, the Embassy Suites Riverfront Promenade sits along the majestic Sacramento River and in the heart of historic Old Sacramento, with dining, history, and shopping options nearby.

With a nod to the history around us, we will be celebrating innovative approaches to agriculture—technology, innovative approaches to topics such as agriculture education, farm families that have worked to innovate their businesses, and more. We will also elect and install our 2024 officer team, thank the 2023 officer team, and celebrate friendships new and old.

We look forward to our AAW colleagues form around the United States joining us for California Dreamin’: Celebrating Innovation in Agriculture.

View Schedule, Pricing & More at: https://www.eventcreate.com/e/aawconvention23
stateCWA@gmail.com Embassy Suites 100 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814
November 1st - 5th
Tentative Schedule

**Wednesday Nov. 1**
- 2:00PM-6:00PM: Registration Open
- 2:30PM-4:30PM: AAW Foundation Meeting
- 2:30PM-4:30PM: Executive Board Meeting
- 5:00PM-6:30PM: Joint Meeting- AAW Executive Board & Foundation
- 4:30PM-8:30PM: Welcome Activity
  - Dinner on your own
- 7:00PM-10:00PM: Hospitality Suite Open

**Thursday Nov. 2**
- 8:00AM-6:00PM: Registration Open
- 7:00AM-8:30AM: Affiliate President’s Caucus
- 7:00AM-8:30AM: First Time Attendee Orientation & Networking
- 8:50AM-10:50AM: Board of Directors Meeting
- 10:45AM-11:45AM: Speaker: Ag Economy - Terrain Ag
- 11:45AM: Depart for Tour *Boxed Lunch Provided
- 12:00PM-6:00PM: Tour: Sacramento Area
  - Dinner on your own
- 7:00PM-10:00PM: Hospitality Suite Open

**Friday Nov. 3**
- 8:00AM-6:00PM: Registration Open
- 7:00AM-8:00AM: Past Presidents’ Breakfast
- 8:15AM: AAW Opening Ceremony
- 8:30AM-9:00AM: California Welcome/Caliifornia Ag Primer
- 9:00AM-10:00AM: Speaker: Dr. Frank Mitloener
- 10:00AM-5:00PM: Spouse/Guest Tour
- 10:00AM-10:50AM: Break
- 10:50AM-12:30PM: AAW Business Meeting
- 12:30PM-1:30PM: Lunch
- 1:45PM-2:45PM: Speaker
- 2:45PM-5:15PM: Break
- 5:15PM-4:45PM: AAW Town Hall
- 5:30PM: Evening Activity TBA
  - Dinner on your own
- 7:00-10:00PM: Hospitality Suite Open

**Saturday Nov. 4**
- 8:50AM-10:50AM: AAW Business Meeting
- 10:50AM-11:00AM: Break
- 11:00AM-12:00PM: Speaker
- 12:00PM-1:15PM: Lunch
- 1:15PM-2:00PM: AAW Member Recognition
- 2:00PM-TBDPM: AAW Business Meeting
- 6:00PM-6:30PM: Presidents Reception
- 6:50PM: AAW Banquet
- 8:00-10:00PM: Hospitality Suite Open

**Sunday Nov. 5**
- 8:00AM: Church Service
- 8:30AM-11:00AM: CWA Statewide Meeting
- 11:00AM-6:00PM: Post-Convention
  - Tour: Gold Rush History (Tentative)

View Schedule Online:
https://www.eventcreate.com/e/aawconvention23

View Schedule, Pricing & More at: https://www.eventcreate.com/e/aawconvention23

stateCWA@gmail.com  Embassy Suites 100 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814
# AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Convention Application**  
November 1st - 5th

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**Are you a voting member of AAW?**  Yes ___  No ___  
**Are you a first time attendee?**  Yes ___  No ___

**Please note any dietary or other needs:**

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## Registration Options:

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*Post tour fees not included in general registration.*

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**Checks Payable To:**  
California Women for Agriculture  
**Mail To:**  
California Women for Agriculture  
1521 I Street  Sacramento, CA 95814

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**Subtotal**  

**Late Fee: $50/per person postmarked after 10/10**

**Total**

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View Schedule, Pricing & More at: https://www.eventcreate.com/e/aawconvention23  
*stateCWA@gmail.com  Embassy Suites 100 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814*
ARTICLE VI — ANNUAL MEETING

Section 1 Timing
The Annual Membership Meeting shall be organized by the affiliate awarded the bid and AAW president, to be held during the last quarter of the calendar year.

Section 2 Quorum
A quorum shall consist of one-third of those voting members registered at the convention, and must include at least four officers, five affiliate presidents or their proxies, and five commodity and/or vital issues chairmen.

Section 3 Site
The Annual Membership meeting site shall be determined two years in advance upon approval of the convention bid by the Board of Directors. If there are no bids, the Executive Committee will determine convention arrangements.

Section 4 Adoption of the budget
A. The membership shall adopt an annual AAW budget at the annual membership meeting.
B. Adoption will occur by a majority vote of the voting members.

Section 5 Voting
A voting member shall have one vote, must be physically present for the vote, and there will be no proxy voting.

Section 6 Resolutions
All resolutions to be considered at the Annual Membership Meeting, except those coming from the Board of Directors, shall be sent to the First Vice President of Resolutions and Vital Issues Chair at least sixty (60) days before the Annual Meeting. The Resolutions Committee shall prepare all resolutions for consideration and provide copies for publication in the VOICE before the Annual Membership Meeting. Resolutions originating with individual members or affiliated organizations shall be signed by at least 10 members and be accompanied by supporting data and rationale. Emergency resolutions may be presented by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates voting members. The presenter must provide a written copy for each delegate voting member.

AFFILIATE AND COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS
Affiliate Presidents, Executive Committee, and Committee Chairs please submit your annual report on or before October 1, 2023 in preparation for the Annual Convention. Please email your reports to Arlene Kovash at secretary@americanagriwomen.org.

PROXY VOTING AT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNUAL MEETING
Board of Directors
It consists of Presidents of affiliates or their proxy, who have filed a proxy form with the Secretary before the President calls the Board of Directors meeting to order, and the AAW Executive Committee. You may email your proxy to Arlene Kovash at secretary@americanagriwomen.org before the meeting, or your representative may bring the proxy form with them to the annual meeting.

The form can be found by clicking PROXY FORM.
THANK YOU . . .

I would like to express my thanks to the many American Agri-Women members who remembered me at the time of my husband – Verlo’s passing in February. The outreach of the Ladies from AAW was overwhelming. I want to thank you for the cards, telephone calls, and Memorial Donations given in Verlo’s name to AAW Foundation. Without your support, special friendships, and prayers, the difficulty of my husband’s passing would have been a much heavier burden.

Ardath DeWall
AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN FOUNDATION

The Foundation’s purpose is to receive and administer funds for promoting and developing educational and leadership programs and opportunities relevant to agriculture. Our overall objective of this organization shall be educational.

American Agri-Women Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with an IRS ruling year of 1978, and donations are tax-deductible.

Other objectives include:

- To raise funds to support education about agriculture, agricultural education, and leadership development.
- To promote the leadership of American Agri-Women through scholarships, grants, projects, and training.
- To serve as a partner with American Agri-Women in the development of educational and leadership programs and materials.

The Foundation has nine (9) members from across the United States. The terms are three (3) years, with a two (2) term limit.

2023 Foundation Board
- Jacquie Compston, President
- Linda Schiffer, Vice President
- Jenny Stelmach, Secretary
- Chris Wilson, Treasurer
- Anna Morrison
- Lesley Schmidt
- Maggie Howley
- Linda Swiercinsky
- Arlene Kovash
- Jean Goslin, AAW VP of Education, Foundation Liaison

Donate to AAW via Amazon Smile

Go to smile.amazon.com and select “AAW Foundation” as your charity, and any time you make a purchase, Amazon donates 05% of your eligible Amazon Smile purchase.
AAW FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ALL SCHOLARSHIPS CAN BE FOUND AT:
https://americanagriwomen.org/scholarships/

Helen Whitmore Memorial Convention Scholarship
This scholarship honors 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. All applications are due on or before August 15, of each year.

Daughters of American Agriculture Scholarships
• Jean Ibendahl Scholarship (for ages 18-23)
• Sister Thomas More Bertels Scholarship (for ages 24+)

The Daughters of American Agriculture Scholarship was created to honor the memory of those courageous and adventuresome 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. These two scholarships ($1,000 each) are available to any farm, ranch, or agribusiness woman or her daughter to pursue accredited courses in agriculture leadership, communications, rural sociology, medicine, or any other studies directly related to agriculture. Applications open on January 1 each year and are accepted through March 1.

Gail McPherson Fly-In Scholarship
This scholarship was named to honor Gail McPherson of Pennsylvania. Gail was a founding member of AAW and a past president of the Foundation. She was proficient in parliamentary procedure, chair of the bylaws committee, and author of many pertinent resolutions. Gail was instrumental in the creation of the first AAW Fly-In. Recipients agree to write an article for the Fall VOICE about their Fly-In experience. Each recipient will receive $500. All applications are due on or before May 1, of each year.

Legacy Kids Fly-In Scholarship
• Trenna Grabowski Legacy Kids Fly-In Scholarship – 2 kids between 8-18 years of age

The AAW foundation will award $200 towards the AAW Washington D.C. Fly-In expenses. The 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. Trenna’s idea through the AAW Foundation was 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. All applications are due on or before May 1 of each year.

“We are a force for truth; a reasoned, non-partisan voice for the agricultural community to the public.”
AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN FOUNDATION
DONATION FORM

Before we can ask outside donors to give to our organization, we need to invest in our own organization. Please help us in our fund drive. No donation is too small (or too large!)

I would like to donate $________ at this time.

Please designate where you would like your money to go. If there is no designation, the money will go into the general fund.

Daughters of American Agriculture (for further education)

_____Jean Ibendahl (age 18-23)
_____Sister Thomas More Bertels (ages 24+)
_____Helen Whitmore Convention Scholarship
_____Gail McPherson Fly-In Scholarship
_____Legacy Kids Fly-In Scholarship
_____Mini-Grants
_____Other designated for ____________________________________________________

_____Other Undesignated Is your gift given as: (please designate as above as well) ____________________

__________________________________________________________

_____Memorial gift in remembrance of _______________________________________

_____In Honor of gift ________________________________________________________

Address for either if notice is to be sent _________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

Your Name ____________________________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip ________________________________________________________

Phone ____________________________

E-mail ______________________________

Checks should be made payable to AAW Foundation. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your contribution!

Please send donations to:

AAW Foundation Treasurer, Chris Wilson
2103 Zeandale Rd. Manhattan, KS 66502
AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN  
LEGACY KID MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in giving a child or children a Legacy Kid Membership, you may do so by using the form below and mailing the form along with the $100.00 per child enrollment fee to the address listed on the form. Once the child reaches age 8 and up until 18, they can apply for the American Agri-Women Trenna Grabowski Fly-In Scholarship for $200 to help with their expenses to attend the AAW Legislative Fly-In.

AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN  
LEGACY KIDS  
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Legacy Kids Memberships are available from American Agri-Women members to purchase as gifts to children/young people from birth through age eighteen. Each year until age eighteen, the Legacy Kids’ member will receive correspondence from AAW and the opportunity to apply for the American Agri Women Trenna Grabowski Legacy Fly-In Scholarship once they reach age 8-18.

Return this form and $100.00 Enrollment Fee to Chris Wilson, AAW Foundation Treasurer, 2103 Zeandale Rd, Manhattan, KS 66502. Please make checks out to AAW Foundation.

AAW Member Making Application:

Name: ____________________________

(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address: ____________________________

(Street or Box) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Phone: (__________) ______________________

Email: ________________________________

Name of Legacy Kid

Name: ____________________________

(First) (Middle) (Last)

Address: ____________________________

(Street or Box) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

Phone: (__________) ______________________

Email: ________________________________

Date of Birth: ________________________

Relationship to Member: ________________________
RUTH JENSEN, FLORIDA AGRI-WOMEN
AAW LEGISLATIVE FLY-IN CHAIR

Ruth was born in Brooklyn, and what a journey it’s been, becoming what she is today. As some of us call her, when referring to her success in organizing the 2023 Fly-In in Washington, DC, she’s “the Beating Heart of the American Agri-Women Fly-In.”

For those of you who didn’t attend, it was a stellar event. There was amazing fellowship, fabulous speakers, and great educational opportunities to prepare us for visiting with our elected officials. Ruth was the moving force behind it.

Given her city background, she never expected to be involved in agriculture. But, as she candidly admits, “I met someone who dragged me to a small town in Kansas, 1700 people.

“We hadn’t been farming long,” she says, “when we found ourselves caught up in the dragnet of the grain embargo.” Ruth looks down, her voice dropping a register. “We lost everything.”

As she worked to recover from this blow, she became consumed with wanting to understand what had happened to her. Putting the pieces of this puzzle together, she learned government policies were behind the catastrophic embargo. “It became my lifelong journey to be part of change,” she states.

In her quest, she volunteered for the Reagan campaign. After Reagan won, the contacts she had made in the campaign led to a job as an assistant to the Colorado State Legislature Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.

With this new position, she changed from being on the outside and in trouble to being on the inside, with influence. It was a change that suited her.

Her boss turned out to be the perfect mentor. He made up business cards for her and told her that her future involved uniting farmers together with policy makers to cut deals. He had her attend an international ag - water conference and gave her some advice that applies to all of us AAW members. He told her, “I don’t want you to return with any of these cards. Your job is to meet everyone there and give him or her your card.”

continued on page 22
Ruth Jensen continued

Up to then, she had been slightly shy and reticent, but she made herself speak with people and learned the exceptionally important skill of networking.

She has advice for each of us on networking. "When, for example, you call on your elected official, have a notebook or three-by-five cards and learn what you can, not just about the official, but also about their staff. Then, when you’re writing your thank you note, include something personal, so he’ll remember you.”

She continues with her advice: “Your job as an influencer is to build relationships, wherever you go. Make friends, shake their hands, keep their information in your database. One day you’ll be glad you did because you’ll be able to go back to them when you need them, and you can say, ‘Remember when…’ You never know when you’ll need these contacts! You just never know!"
JACQUIE COMPSTON, NEVADA AGRI-WOMEN

I don’t know where to begin on all the things Jacquie has taught me throughout the years as a member of AAW, from Property Rights, Water Rights, ESA, and a million other issues and how everything ties to the United Nations Agenda for the 21st Century. At first, I thought she was “nuts,” “tin foil hat,” but as things started progressing and regulations moved east toward me in Minnesota, the pieces fell into place. She made me a believer, she showed me the facts, and she has also helped me deepen my Catholic faith as well. For that, I thank you, Jacquie.

We have worked on many different papers together and news releases along with Natural Resource positions. Lots of research and debate on the translation, approach, and implementation of our final product, but we always came to a consensus. She kept me grounded with her calm, cool demeanor. The last two summers, I attended the Ag in the Classroom Conference with her in Iowa and New York, and we had a great time.

Jacquie has brought so much knowledge to AAW on the issues and has taught me so much. She is a wealth of information and a treasured gem in our organization. I will forever be grateful to her for sharing that knowledge and guiding me along this journey. She is truly a wonderful mentor and friend.

Submitted by: Deb Whalen, Minnesota Agri-Women

Jacquie motivates and inspires. She mentors by supporting, validating, and encouraging her mentees. Her knowledge is a tremendous asset to the organization. I have been very blessed to have her as a mentor and friend.

Submitted by: Laura Hart, AAW VP of Communications
WHY MITZI PERDUE DECIDED TO AUCTION HER EMERALD ENGAGEMENT RING TO SUPPORT UKRAINE

The gem was salvaged from the 1622 Atocha shipwreck, and proceeds from the sale supported humanitarian efforts in the war-torn nation. On December 7, 2022, Mitzi Perdue’s emerald engagement ring was sold at auction at Sotheby’s for $1.2 million.

Mitzi Perdue wanted to do something special to help Ukraine.

So, in a remarkable decision, she is auctioning off her beloved emerald engagement ring, which was given to her by her late husband Frank Perdue. But it’s no ordinary ring—the stone was found by treasure hunters off the coast of Florida, centuries after the Nuestra Señora de Atocha, a Spanish treasure galleon, sunk in 1622.

In the 1960s, diver Mel Fisher and his team uncovered the Santa Margarita shipwreck off the coast of Florida, and in 1985, Fisher and the divers uncovered the main hull of the Atocha—and its remarkable treasure. Per Smithsonian Magazine, “In addition to 70 pounds of Colombian emeralds, the ship contained 180,000 silver coins, 24 tons of Bolivian silver, 125 gold bars and a collection of Venezuelan pearls.” Other emeralds from the shipwreck were put up for auction in 2017.

The state of Florida tried to claim the valuables, but the Supreme Court ruled that the findings would remain with the treasure hunters. Frank Perdue had funded the exhibition, and had first claim to what was recovered. He donated many of the treasures to the Smithsonian Institution and Delaware Tech, but he turned one emerald into an engagement ring, which he used to propose to Mitzi with in 1988.

“My late husband was the most philanthropic person I ever knew, and I was certain that he’d be pleased with this use of his gift,” Perdue tells Town & Country.

When she was thinking about putting the ring up for auction, Perdue considered her emotional connection to the gem. “The sentimentality reaches to the outer galaxies,” she says, “but when I was deciding whether to do it or not, I was thinking, ‘Oh, this ring has the possibility of saving people from a lot of suffering. ’In the grand scale of weighing things, which counts for more, really doing some good for a lot of people, or having it benefiting one person?”

The choice she made is clear: Sotheby’s will auction the ring on December 7, and it will be a landmark moment for the New York City-based auction house. Sotheby’s confirmed to T&C that this is the first piece of jewelry offered at Sotheby’s where a consignor has chosen to donate proceeds to humanitarian efforts in Ukraine.

Perdue has seen the need for support in Ukraine firsthand. After she wrote an article about the region earlier this year, Andriy Nebytov, of the Kyiv Regional Police, invited her to come see Ukraine up close.

“I spent five days there,” she recalls. "My first night was in a bomb shelter, so it was eventful, but I came away with just infinite admiration for the people of Ukraine and their strength, their backbone, and courage.”
Mitzi Perdue continued

Perdue credits her interest in philanthropy to her father, Ernest Henderson, who co-founded the Sheraton Hotel Chain. When she was just 10 years old, he offered her some wisdom that she says influenced the rest of her life: "The greatest pleasure that my money ever gave me has been in giving it away," he said.

Still, to auction off one's own engagement ring, and one with such a rich history, is a big decision.

"When one considers that this emerald is part of one of the richest discoveries of sunken treasure in all of history, the appeal to collectors in search of superlatives is extraordinary," Alexander Eblen, Senior Specialist of Sotheby's Jewelry Department in New York, tells Town & Country over e-mail. "A collection of emerald gems and rough crystals known to have been mined prior to 1622, at a time when the fabled Colombian mines of Muzo and Chivor were producing some of their most historically important gems, sitting unperturbed at the bottom of the ocean for over 350 years is a unique occurrence indeed."

Eblen continues, "For discerning collectors seeking a gem of great beauty without compromise as well as a story of unparalleled romance and determination, it is difficult to imagine anything more desirable."

The emerald itself, separate from its provenance, is also rare. "Any emerald over perhaps three carats enters into a rarified level of value when it has an even, strongly saturated and relatively pure green hue with a tone that is neither too light nor too dark," Eblen shares. "This gem embodies those criteria, possessing a superb color. Considering that this stone is also over five carats in size, has been expertly cut and faceted to produce lively internal reflections, and exhibits a high degree of clarity without extensive use of clarity enhancement (so common in emeralds), the rarity becomes even more significant. The fact that this stone is of Colombian origin adds a level of distinction that is unequaled in emeralds from any other global source."

Perdue shared that she has a "pipe dream" for what she hopes comes out of the sale: That others will part with their valuables for a good cause.

"I've gotten a lot of personal satisfaction out of putting up this stone for auction," she says. "It occurred to me that there are other people who have either jewelry, or possibly works of art, that they would put up to help Ukraine. Very often, wealthy people have things that are in storage—they have things of great value that could be used to benefit Ukraine. I would personally adore it if other people got the chance to have the same satisfaction that I'm getting from knowing that this ring will have humanitarian help."

She adds, "I've never regretted offering this stone for auction."

The original article can be found by clicking Mitzi Perdue, Town & Country.
The New York State Legislature recently passed S1856A (The Birds and Bees Protection Act), a bill that bans neonicotinoid use on agricultural crops. In addition to other crops, the ban prevents corn, soybean, and wheat seeds from being treated with neonicotinoid pesticides including clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam starting in 2027. One Senator, John Mannion, D-Onondaga from New York stated in support of the ban, “Farmers are pro-pollinators. There is no other way to create a soybean if you eliminate the bee from the equation.” The bee in question, Apis mellifera, naturally occurs in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa and is an invasive exotic here in the United States. It was introduced in 1622.

Seeds pre-treated with neonicotinoid pesticides are safer than conventional application of pesticides via sprayers. The benefit of using seed treatments is the insecticide is taken up by the plant and transported systemically throughout the plant. This is a closed system where the exposure is limited to pests that feed directly on the plant. It is a targeted approach that limits the amount of pesticide used and eliminates exposure outside of the crop plant. The coating is applied to the seed and when planted it protects the seed from target pests that feed directly on it in the ground during germination. As the plant grows, the systemic moves into the plant. There is a concern with dust from seed coatings, but they are related to planting and loading of seed. Protocols have been evaluated to control off dusting of chemical and seed coatings improvements to minimize this source of exposure.

The ban on the use of neonicotinoids on corn and wheat seed should be dismissed outright because corn and wheat are both grasses which are wind pollinated. There are no pollinators needed or involved in the process. Only pests that feed on these crops are impacted by the systemic insecticide. There is no benefit to pollinators with this ban of neonicotinoid use on corn and wheat due to the nature of the contained systemic insecticide and lack of pollinators visiting the plants. Without systemic neonicotinoids, alternative methods of insecticide application would revert to open spraying of higher concentrations of chemicals released freely into the environment. Pollinators would be exposed directly during the application process in the field as well as by drift. All insects within the spray zone would be impacted in and around the treatment area compared to no exposure with the systemic system.

With soybeans, pollination is different. The flowers self-pollinate; thus, pollinators are not required. However, pollinators do forage for nectar from soybean flowers, but it varies by soybean variety. Some varieties do not see much insect pollination activity, and it is not clear why. Some studies have shown that the volume of nectar in the flowers is significant, but there are significant differences in bee visits to soybean flowers by variety. When pollinators do visit soybean flowers, they supplement pollination and can produce a significant bump in production. There are studies that show variations of neonicotinoids levels in flower nectar.

The honeybee is considered livestock that is used for honey and wax production as well as pollination of agronomic crops like almonds in California. The honeybee has displaced and negatively impacted native species of pollinators since its arrival. While some claim that 40% of the bees in New York died due to the use of neonicotinoids, the primary cause of honeybee loss is the impact of a parasitic mite, Varroa destructor, that was introduced in the mid-1980s. The mite is parasitic on honeybee larvae and is a vector for many viruses detrimental to bees. If colonies are not managed to control Varroa destructor, they will not survive. The secondary cause of honeybee loss is poor nutrition. A poor diet is tied to limited suitable habitat and a lack of diversity of plants within that habitat. Without a suitable habitat and diversity of floral sources of pollen as a protein source, bees do not get the full complex of amino acids needed to sustain themselves. Without the floral diversity throughout the year, there may not be consistent nectar sources to sustain bees.

The ramifications of banning the use of the effective and safe insecticides when applied per label is significantly more detrimental than the alternatives that will follow. More insects and birds will have greater exposure to more chemicals with this ban. The negative impact of replacing systemic neonicotinoids will be much more harmful to a larger group of organisms than the effects of the systemic system itself.

Michael Mason has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Botany and Chemistry from Eastern Illinois University, a Master of Science Degree in Horticulture with an emphasis in Plant Physiology from the University of Arizona, and he studied mineral nutrition in plants at North Carolina State University. He is a small-scale beekeeper in central Illinois and has team-taught a six-week beekeeping course for twenty years through the Sangamon County University of Illinois Extension Office. He is a former board member of the American Beekeeping Federation and former President of the Illinois Beekeeping Association.
AAW HISTORY

Next year, American Agri-Women will celebrate 50 years of advocating for agriculture; educating legislators, regulators, and consumers; and empowering its members.

American Agri-Women officially began on November 14, 1974, founded by four state women’s agriculture groups: Women for the Survival of Agriculture in Michigan; Wisconsin Women for Agriculture; Oregon Women for Agriculture; and the Washington Women for the Survival of Agriculture. Kansas Agri-Women (then United Farm Wives of Kansas) and Illinois Agri-Women (then Illinois Women for Agriculture) joined soon after that.

Today, state and commodity affiliate organizations and individual members throughout the country represent tens of thousands of women in agriculture. Throughout the history of AAW, our members have been actively engaged and made a difference in legislative and regulatory matters at the local, state, and national levels. We are also instrumental in providing student and consumer education about agriculture, having initiated the National Ag in the Classroom program in 1981 under then USDA Secretary John Block at the national level. We continue to be integrally involved in national and state Ag in the Classroom programs.

You can learn more about our history and early years from a book about our first 20 years, “A Proud Heritage – A Precious Legacy.” Here is an excerpt: "Beset with many serious problems, American Agriculture, as a fragmented industry, lacked a single voice through which to speak to bring about effective change. Many felt agriculture needed to develop a voice to speak for the entire industry. Women were to play an important role in developing a united voice for agriculture. In 1969, a group of women in Oregon organized as a result of government regulations banning farmers from burning fields. Oregon Women for Agriculture (OWA) stood alone, for their husbands were too busy farming to respond and fight the forces that were determining the course of American Agriculture.”

If you want to read about our history and the early years click "A Proud Heritage - A Proud Legacy".

Mark your calendar to be in Wisconsin November 2024 as American Agri-Women celebrates 50 years Convention date and city coming soon.
THE PRIME TRUTH
The Prime Truth is that the family farm system must be preserved as the bulwark of the private enterprise system.

CALL TO POWER
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 goodwill 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 philosophies that troubles 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 power gained in these efforts is the force which has mobilized mankind.

The use of the 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 expression of truth with violence.
Rejecting the idea that it is necessary to foster hate, we are called to this responsibility in the spirit of goodwill.
We affirm our responsibility for the generations yet unborn.
POWER IS A NEUTRAL CONCEPT, one that is neither good nor bad. Philosopher Bertrand Russell defined it as “the production of 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, too few people find fault with those who neglect or refuse to use power, which can also be an abuse. “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing” said Edmund 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 Chairers.

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?

Sister Thomas More Bertels, OSF, Wisconsin Women for Agriculture