



2006-07

American Agri-Women Mentor Program

In 2006-07 we are again piloting a year-long mentoring program for AAW members and affiliates. There is no requirement as to age, background, or years of experience in AAW to apply.

Purpose of the program:

To offer American Agri-Women (AAW) members a meaningful exchange of professional and organizational thoughts and ideas with other American Agri-Women members.

How will this work?

All potential participants must fill out an application. After the application deadline we will match mentors and mentees. All mentoring program participants will receive a written notice of who their partner is. In some cases we may not have a match for everyone (it all depends on program sign-up). If we do not have a match for individuals at the beginning of the program we will continue to work on finding them a match. We will notify participants if this happens. We will make every attempt to match mentors with mentees who have similar interests, however, there may be instances where participants will be matched with someone who does not follow your interests as closely. This will offer an opportunity for additional growth on the both part of the mentor and mentee.

It is expected that most program participants will not be able to meet face-to-face unless they come to one of the AAW national functions (Convention, Mid-Year or Fly-In), however, if participants are so inclined they may certainly set-up meetings with their partner. While it would be nice for all pairs to meet one another, it is not feasible for all pairs to do this. We are expecting that the majority, if not all of participant contact will occur via the various modes of communication currently available: telephone, fax, e-mails and of course U.S. mail. All costs of communicating between pairs will be borne by program participants.

The program will last for one year. Particular partner matches may be requested. All participants must complete an application.

Participants are asked to communicate with their partner on a minimum of a quarterly basis.

Communications may be on anything that the pairs mutually agree to communicate on, however, it is anticipated that pairs will spend part of their time communicating on AAW and agriculture.

The mentoring program coordinator will check in with partners during the year to find out how things are progressing.

Mentors

Mentors may be anyone who has indicated a desire and willingness to be a mentor on the AAW mentoring application form. It is anticipated that the mentors will be AAW members that have had some national experience, as well as experience in their affiliates.

Mentees

Mentees may be anyone who has indicated a desire and willingness to be a mentee on the AAW mentoring application form. Even those people with experience on the national level might desire a mentor for the exchange of ideas. A mentee could also be a mentor to another person.

Responsibilities of Participants

- Communicate on a minimum of a quarterly basis with your partner.
- Respond to written communications or phone messages in a timely manner.
- If you are going to be unable to communicate for an extended period of time and you know this in advance, let your partner know.
- Respect confidences of your partner.
- Participate in the program for a full year. If you are unable to complete your full year, you must notify the mentoring program coordinator and your partner.
- If you have differences with your partner, try and work them out. If this is not successful please notify the mentoring program coordinator.

Please contact Doris Mold with your questions, 715-822-6347 or e-mail doris@sunriseag.net