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## Top five reasons to attend AAW Convention

By Abby Amick, AAW Convention Chair

Kansas Agri-Women is planning a convention-not-to-be-missed. Here are our top five reasons why we hope you'll join us in Wichita, Kansas, for "Sharing America's Harvest," November 10-13.

### 1. Get information you need.

Agriculture is dynamic, demanding and constantly changing. The conference will provide the latest information related to farm policy, advocacy, sustainability,

marketing, leadership and more. Our goal is to provide you with tools and strategies to bring back to your operations and businesses.

### Keynote speakers include:

- Dr. Jay Lehr, author, The Heartland Institute science director, and environmental and groundwater expert.
- Kyle Bauer, general manager of KFRM, a leading ag radio station.
- Ted Schroeder, Kansas State University ag economics professor and commodity marketing expert.
- Judge Tommy B. Webb, Kansas District Magistrate Judge and leadership and motivational speaker.

### 2. See and learn from Midwest agriculture.

Agriculture is the #1 industry in Kansas and we couldn't be more proud. About 90 percent of Kansas land is for agricultural use. We plan to show off our skyscrapers of the plains – our grain elevators, tour a cattle feeding operation, and give you

insights on wind energy, natural gas, green building and ethanol.

### 3. Catch up with AAW.

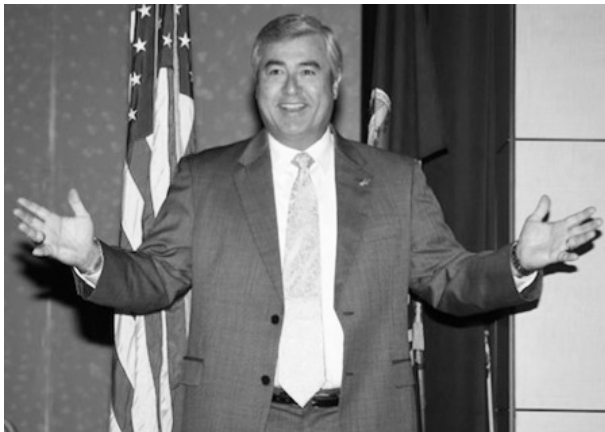
You are part of a tremendous organization that has influence in Washington, D.C. and nationwide. Come and learn more about what AAW is doing for agriculture.

### 4. Energize.

Meet innovative ag women from across the country. Connect with old friends. Make new ones. Draw on the energy of women who share your passion.

### 5. Have fun.

We're planning lots of fun, too. How about dinner 650



Judge Tommy B. Webb

feet below the surface at the Underground Salt Museum, a "Taste of Kansas" reception at the All-American Indian Center, an up-cycle style review and old-fashioned ice cream social? Plus, the convention hotel is located on the Arkansas River and near Wichita's Old Town entertainment district.

View a special welcome from Kansas Agri-Women President Jocelyn Busick: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CaRNunEF9SE>.

Download the registration form at [www.americanagriwomen.org](http://www.americanagriwomen.org). Or, call convention chairs Abby Amick, 620-271-2953, or Carolyn Kleiber, 620-947-3094, with any questions.

**We can't wait to see you all in November!**

## Four nominated for AAW offices

This year we will be electing a new vice president of resolutions, vice president of communications, and treasurer.

### Sue McCrum,

Maine Agri-Women member, has been nominated for vice president of resolutions. Sue has served Maine Agri-Women (MAW) as vice president and president. She was also co-chair of the AAW convention held in Maine in 2002. She is currently serving on the board of directors of MAW. She has also served on the Veritas Award committee and is currently serving her second term as vice president of the Resource Center and has served on other ag-related groups in various offices. Sue has also participated on local boards in her community and has been an active participant in their family farm for 39+ years.



### Abby Amick

of Kansas Agri-Women is the vice president of communications nominee. She is currently serving as AAW website coordinator and co-chair of this

year's AAW national convention. She is a past president of KAW, past secretary, and is serving as chair of their newsletter. Currently serving as a director on her county economic development committee, she has served on many boards, providing leadership, technical assistance and advice

**Continued on page 5.**

## President's Report ►►



### Dear AAW Members,

Dear AAW Members,

Looking back over the past two year term, it has been a great privilege to serve AAW as president. I want to express my deep appreciation to the executive committee, committee chairs, appointees, and members for their service to AAW during this time. It's been a tremendous opportunity to work with all of you.

Nothing drew more attention to the work of AAW and generated more media attention and interviews over the past two years than our efforts to provide facts in response to anti-agriculture information in the media, such as the "documentary," Food, Inc. Our response document has been used by many other organizations and individuals outside AAW as well. I learned from Sigma Alpha about "Farm to Fridge" and went to watch the video. It is a portrayal of animal cruelty, and I could not watch it in its entirety. This is what is stated with the video on the goveg.com website: "Life on the farm isn't what it used to be. The green pastures and idyllic barnyard scenes portrayed in children's books have been replaced by windowless sheds, tiny crates, wire cages, and other confinement systems integral to what is now known as 'factory farming.' Today the majority of farmed animals are: confined to the point that they can barely move, denied veterinary care, mutilated without painkillers, and finally slaughtered — often while fully conscious. Fortunately, each one of us has the power to help end this suffering by simply choosing to eat vegetarian."

Technology tools have enabled us to respond through social media, livestreaming of our meetings, and having the AAW television show on RFD-TV. Technology has given members a great forum to inform others about their farming and ranching operations and facts about food production through

Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, blogs and many more social media outlets. AAW needs to continue to be a source for factual information about how food is produced.

The issues have changed and intensified, but the reasons AAW was started 37 years ago are much the same. Our objectives are to be a force for truth for agriculture by educating ourselves about the issues impacting agriculture, educating others, affecting policy and legislation, providing networking among women in agriculture, and supporting agricultural education efforts. Over the past two years, the term "ag advocacy" has become part of the industry conversation, and numerous coalitions have formed to advance the cause of advocating for agriculture. AAW has been a part of the conversation, by networking and coalition building. AAW members are doing a wonderful job of reaching out to inform others through opening their farms and ranches to visitors and through social media, as well as many affiliate programs and projects.

I'm very happy that nine new affiliate organizations joined AAW over the past two years and hope we will have some more by Convention. There is tremendous interest on the part of women in agriculture to join with other women in support of agriculture. The need for women in agriculture to be involved has never been greater, and the interest on the part of the public in learning about what we do has never been greater. There is interest in several other states in starting Agri-Women affiliates at this time, and we need to develop the financial and human resources to assist them.

The AAW Affiliate Handbook is now on the website at <http://americanagriwomen.org/files/AAW%20Affiliate%20Handbook%209.11.pdf> — under For Members/Member Toolkits. This includes many resources for new affiliates as well as existing affiliates.

Best wishes for success in all your endeavors and God bless you always,

Chris

## American Agri-Women Executive Committee

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**AAW Web Site:** [www.americanagriwomen.org](http://www.americanagriwomen.org)  
**AAW Email:** [info@americanagriwomen.org](mailto:info@americanagriwomen.org)

*The Voice* is published in January, March, May, July and October by American Agri-Women as a service to members. Deadline is the 15th of the month before each issue is published. Articles and suggestions are always welcomed by:

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**Please send address changes to:**

Carolyn Kleiber, Membership Database Chair  
(contact info listed above)  
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# Sharing America's Harvest

## 2011 AAW National Convention Agenda

### Wichita, Kansas

# November 9-13

### Wednesday, November 9, 2011

**Noon - 2:00 pm** Executive Committee Meeting, Board Room  
**1:00 pm - 5:00 pm** EPD Track #1 Optional Training Session - Leadership, AAW Leadership Chair, Kris Zilliox, Trail Rooms  
**3:00 pm - 6:00 pm** Registration Open  
**6:00 - 8:00 pm** Dinner/Drinks - Local Taste on your own in Wichita  
**8:15 - 10:00 pm** Executive Meeting, cont.

### Thursday, November 10, 2011 - "Meat, Greet & Wheat"

**7:00 am - 8:45 am** Breakfast - Light Continental, Hospitality Room  
**7:30 am - 8:30 am** StART Chair, Coordinators and Committee Chairs Mtg, Harvest Restaurant - curtained area rsv'd  
**7:45 am - 3:45 pm** Spouse/Guest Tours depart: Sharing Kansas Heritage Bus Tour  
**7:45 am - 5:00 pm** Registration Open  
**9:00 - 12 noon** EPD Track #1 Workshops, Eagle E Meeting Room: Self Development Session Orientation for First Time Attendees Social Media Training by Arwen McGilvra  
**9:00 AM** MIP Track #2 Resource Center Meeting, Osage Meeting Room (207)  
**9:00 AM** MIP Track #2 Affiliate Presidents' Caucus, Oak Meeting Room (206)  
**10:15 AM** MIP Track #2 Resource Center Board meets w/AAW Exec Committee, Eagle F Meeting Room  
**11:00 AM** MIP Track #2 Standing Committee - Education (Lisa), Eagle F MIP Track #2 Standing Committee - Membership (Karen), Board Room  
**11:45 am - 12 noon** Silent Auction Opens, Eagle ABCD

**Noon Lunch Buffet** - Eagle ABCD

**1:00 pm - 3:45 pm** EPD Track #1 Workshops, Walnut Meeting Room (208)  
**1:00 pm - 2:45 pm** MIP Track #2 Affiliate & Committee Reports, Eagle F Mtg Rm  
**3:00 PM** MIP Track #2 AAW Board of Directors Meeting (only voting delegates may vote), Trail Meeting Room

**4:00 pm - 5:00 pm** MIP Track #2 First Time Attendees/Mentoring Meeting, Eagle G  
**7:00 pm - 9:00 pm** "Taste of Kansas" Reception, Mid-America All-Indian Center Affiliate Presidents' Caucus - Dinner together  
**8:00 pm** Hot Cocoa Bar - Mug & T-Shirt Exchange, Hospitality Room

### Friday, November 11, 2011 - "Food, Fuel & Flight" (Veteran's Day)

**7:30 am - Noon** Registration Open, Registration Desk  
**7:30 am - Noon** Silent Auction Open  
**7:30 am - 9:00 am** Breakfast, Eagle ABCD  
**9:00 am - 12:00 am** Free time for spouses  
**9:15 am - 10:45 am** AAW Business Meeting, Eagle ABCD  
**7:30 am** Opening Ceremonies with flag presentation by McConnell Air Force Base, and welcome by KS Sec of Ag Rodman.  
**7:45 am** Ted Schroeder, KSU - Ag Econ. Professor and Marketing Expert  
**11:00 am** Tours Depart, registraion area  
 Option #1: Explore Heaven and Earth  
 Option #2: Maxwell Wildlife Refuge  
 Option #3: KS Skyscrapers and Top Grains  
**7:00 pm** Evening Dinner provided on tour, Underground Salt Museum: Hog Wild BBQ (It is 68 degrees in the mine, so bring appropriate clothing)  
**Evening Speaker:** Dr. Jay Lehr, Heartland Institute - Policy/Science Advisor  
**Live Auction:** Two Photos, Three Vacation Packages, Fur Bear, Bobbi's Item (Antique)  
**After Dinner** Hospitality Room open till 11 Evening Shuttle available to and from Old Town Shopping and Dining District - driver works off tips

### Saturday, November 12, 2011 - "AAW County Fair"

**7:30 am - 5:00 pm** Registration Open  
**8:00 am - Noon** Silent Auction Open  
**8:00 am - 6:00 pm** Trade Show Open  
**8:00 am - 9:15 am** "Breakfast of Champions,"  
**Speaker:** Judge Tommy Webb

**Back by Popular Demand:** KSU CAW Skit to close the morning session.

**9:30 am - 3:00 pm** Spouse Tour Departs: Tall Grass Treasures, Registration Area  
**9:30 AM** Youth Tour Departs: Harvest of Imagination! Registration Area  
**9:30 am - 12 noon** AAW Business Meeting  
**12 noon** Silent Auction closes  
**12:15 pm - 1:45 pm** General Membership Luncheon, Eagle ABCD  
**Speaker:** Kyle Bauer - Impressions of Agriculture  
 Invitation to 2012 Convention - Colorado  
**1:45 pm - 3:30 pm** Pick up and pay for silent auction items at registration desk  
**2:00 pm - 3:00 pm** EPD Track #1 Breakout sessions (can split into multiple rooms) Leadership Session - Judge Tommy Webb  
**3:30 pm - 5:00 pm** EPD Track #1 Breakout sessions (can split into multiple rooms)  
**2:00 pm - 5:00 pm** MIP Track #2 StART Committee Meetings, Eagle F Mtg Rm Water Session - Dr. Jay Lehr (Heartland Institute)  
 MIP Track #2 StART Committee Meetings Eagle G Meeting Room  
 MIP Track #2 StART Committee Meetings Eagle H Meeting Room  
**5:30 pm - 6:00 pm** Leadership At It's Best - Syngenta Alumni Reception, Santa Fe Trail Rm  
**6:00 pm - 6:45 pm** President's Reception - Sponsored by KAW, Chisholm & Stimson Trail Rooms  
**7:00 pm - 9:00 pm** Kansas Night Banquet with the Headliners Pop Choir, Eagle ABCDE  
 Up Cycle Fashion Review, Veritas & Leaven Awards, Presidents Awards, Installation of Officers  
**9:00 pm - 11:00 pm** Hospitality Rm Open

### Sunday, November 13, 2011

**8:30-9:30 am** Prayer Service with live music, Eagle E Meeting Room  
**9:30 -10:30 am** Executive Committee Meeting, Board Room  
**10:30 am** Post Convention Tour departs from registration area



# 2011 American Agri-Women Convention Registration Form November 9-13, 2011 • Wichita, KS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliate: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Voting Member of AAW?  Yes  No      Are you a first time attendee?  Yes  No

What date and time do you plan to arrive in Wichita? \_\_\_\_\_

## Registration

	<b>Cost</b>	<b># Attending</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>14</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Registration (Postmarked by October 7, 2011)	\$225	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Registration (Postmarked after October 7, 2011)	\$275	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Registration: <i>School</i> _____ <i>Grad Year</i> _____	\$225	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Day Only Registration, please indicate day: <input type="checkbox"/> Thurs <input type="checkbox"/> Fri <input type="checkbox"/> Sat	\$125	_____	_____

### Optional Events (please indicate if attending and how many)

<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday, Nov 9 <sup>th</sup> - Leadership Session		_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday, Nov 10 <sup>th</sup> – Reception <i>Mid-America All-Indian Center</i>		_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Spouse/Guest Tour – <i>Harvesting KS Heritage</i>		_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday, Nov 11 <sup>th</sup> - Option #1 Tour & Dinner – <i>Heaven and Earth</i>		_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday, Nov 11 <sup>th</sup> - Option #2 Tour & Dinner – <i>Maxwell Wildlife</i>		_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday, Nov 11 <sup>th</sup> - Option #3 Tour & Dinner – <i>Kansas Skyscrapers &amp; Top Crops in KS</i>		_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, Nov 12 <sup>th</sup> - Spouse/Guest Tour – <i>Tall Grass Treasures</i>		_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, Nov 12 <sup>th</sup> – Youth/Children’s Tour – <i>Harvest of Imagination!</i>	\$ 30	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday, Nov 13 <sup>th</sup> - Post Convention Tour – <i>Harvest of Energy</i>	\$ 50	_____	_____

**Grand Total** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hotel Accommodations:** A block of rooms are reserved under American Agri-Women at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita, KS. If reservations are made prior to September 15, 2011, you will receive free internet and parking at the hotel. Call the hotel directly at (888) 421-1442. Group rates will be offered for November 9-13.

The hotel is located on the Arkansas River and is just minutes from Wichita’s Old Town shopping and restaurant district.

**Payment & Inquiries:** Make checks payable to: AAW 2011 Convention. Mail registration form and check to: Carolyn Kleiber, PO Box 111, Hillsboro KS 67063. Inquiries, contact Carolyn at 620-877-7204.

## Social Media Beyond the Choir

By Arwen McGilvra, Oregon Women for Agriculture, AAW Convention Presenter

Social media is everywhere these days, and most Americans are using some form of social media to connect with friends and family. Business and non-profits have realized the impact that social media has and have begun their own social media efforts. AAW has had a presence on Facebook and Twitter for about three years, yet many times it can feel like we're preaching to the choir because those who "like" our page are involved in ag, or have an ag background. You are the key to expanding the reach of AAW as we share about modern ag.

### How we can reach beyond the choir:

#### #1 – Follow/Like

If you don't already, Follow us on twitter @Women4Ag and Like us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/AgriWomen>. We not only post fun ag facts, but also information on AAW happenings like convention, mid-year, and fly-in. We also share posts from other pages about ag events on the web and elsewhere.

#### #2 – Retweet/Share

Most of our followers may be connected to ag, but it could be that you are not. You may have friends and family who have little or no experience with agriculture. When we post fun ag facts

or pictures, use Twitter's "Retweet" button or Facebook's "Share" link so it will appear on your wall or in your newsfeed for your friends to see.

#### #3 – Mention

Use the @ symbol in both Facebook and twitter to mention AAW and add a tag (or link in Facebook) right into your posts. In twitter just use @Women4Ag on Facebook, type the @ and the Begin entering American Agri-Women. You should see a drop down menu that will let you select our page.

#### #4 – Like/Comment

Finally, on Facebook, like and comment on our statuses when you can. The more likes/comments a post has, the more likely it is to be chosen as a Top Story, and then the more likely it is to be seen by the most people. Plus with Facebook's new ticker, your friends will see your comments to our page, increasing the reach even further. Social Media is supposed to be a conversation, so don't hesitate to jump in and share your thoughts.

Be a part of all the happenings for our 2011 convention in Wichita on Twitter with Hashtag #AAW2011.

Arwen McGilvra, aka "The Tech Chef"  
Tel: 541-791-4568 | @TheTechChef  
[thetechchef@gmail.com](mailto:thetechchef@gmail.com) | [thetechchef.com](http://thetechchef.com)

## Let Better Homes and Gardens Magazine know!

In their October issue, Better Homes and Gardens recommends several charities to donate to — including the Humane Society of the U.S. (HSUS)! Please email the editor at [BHGEEditor@meredith.com](mailto:BHGEEditor@meredith.com) to let them know how HSUS affects the ag community.

Go to [humanewatch.org/images/uploads/CCF\\_7Things\\_HSUS.pdf](http://humanewatch.org/images/uploads/CCF_7Things_HSUS.pdf) for documented information about the group.

Among other things, it isn't affiliated with any hands-on "humane society" organizations, and it doesn't operate a single pet shelter or pet adoption facility anywhere. During 2008, HSUS contributed barely \$450,000— less than one-half of one percent of its budget— in grants to dog and cat shelters. By comparison, that same year it gave \$2.25 million to a political campaign committee behind an anti-meat ballot initiative in California, and put \$2.5 million into HSUS's executive pension plan. HSUS is the wealthiest animal-rights lobbying organization on earth. It agitates for the same goals as PETA and other radical groups.

In another instance, HSUS raised \$34 million after Hurricane Trina, supposedly to help reunite lost pets with their owners, but Atlanta ABC affiliate WSB-TV reported that public disclosures of the dispensation of the \$34 million in Katrina-related donations added up to less than \$7 million.

## Don't Forget —

### Annual convention auction

Kansas is challenging each affiliate to contribute an item, basket, or prize package that represents its state or product. Other donations are welcome, too. Please contact Rosy Hansen-Crubel to make arrangements for your items: [rosyhansen@yahoo.com](mailto:rosyhansen@yahoo.com) or 785-243-4914.

### Mug and t-shirt exchange

Participants will exchange their t-shirt or mug for a new one brought by another attendee. T-shirts and mugs do not need to be wrapped or packaged -- simply bring them with you to Wichita!

### Up-cycle Style Review

To participate in the Up-cycled Style Review, you need to up-cycle a garment/outfit and be willing to model it during the banquet. The thriftier, the better, and heirlooms are welcome. Once you have selected a garment/outfit to up-cycle, then 1) write up your (very brief) story of how/where you found your entry 2) explain what you did to up-cycle the item for current use/wear, and 3) provide a description of the entry (as you would for a 4-H entry at a style review). Please e-mail these to Jean Goslin ([dbrokenbar@msn.com](mailto:dbrokenbar@msn.com)) by October 15, or ASAP. All submissions will be accepted.

### Nominees, continued from page 1.

whenever possible.

Nominee for treasurer will be announced later.

Resource Center Board of Directors nominees are Katie Yost, Montana Agri-Women and Rose Tryon, California Women for Agriculture. Katie is currently serving AAW as our Feed Industry Issues Chair and is also on our Affiliate Extension committee. She is also MT Agri-Women's secretary and has been since 2009. She is a Syngenta Leadership training graduate and has attended several AAW conventions. Rose is California Women for Agriculture's State Adopt A Legislator Director and North Valley Chapter 2nd Vice President.

Nominating Committee nominees are Carolyn Kleiber (KAW), Rosemary Eckardt (WWA), Alice Dettwyler (OWA), and Jody Elrod (TAW).

## Portrait of an Agri-Woman — Chris Wilson

by Linda Swiercinsky

Christina Jo Mosher was reared on a 640-acre grain and livestock farm on the banks of the meandering Spoon River in western Illinois. (Think Andy Williams and hum “Moon River” to set the scene, if you’re old enough to remember!) Her family’s large red brick house on Highway 97, just south of Maquon (population 350), was 100 years old when she was born and local legend says that it was a stop on the underground railroad.

Chris’ mother was a city gal from Peoria who married a farmer, a typical story in the lives of many agri-women. But Barbara Mosher instilled in Chris a drive and devotion to her country that resulted years later in a trip to Pennsylvania to search their roots and confirm that Chris was a Daughter of the American Revolution. Barb’s sister was president of the Illinois American Legion Auxiliary and Chris grew up active in Job’s Daughters and 4-H.

As young girls Chris and her sister, Mary, would ride in a pony cart and Grandpa Mosher rode his amazing American Saddlebred horse named “Huck Finn” who pranced and led the parades with a flag. Her favorite memories center on 4-H activities and showing sheep was a big part of her life. Her dad admired the sheep superintendent at State Fair, Keith McMillan, so her mother put a sign out in front “You’re in McMillan Country” when Kenny McMillan was running for the state legislature and Congress.

Chris was class valedictorian from Yates City High School in 1972 and then earned her agronomy degree from Western Illinois University at Macomb. After graduating this small town girl became a traveling collegiate consultant for her sorority, Alpha Omicron Pi, in what was to be a lifetime of juggling events and speaking engagements for the things she held dear. She has been to every state but Alaska plus Europe, North Africa

and North America.

It was Kenny McMillan who suggested that Chris might want to interview for a job with the Illinois Department of Agriculture because John Block had just been named director and he also came from Knox County. So, in August 1977, Chris Mosher took an important step in her life and three years later, when President Reagan appointed John Block U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, she was one of three people Block took with him to Washington, D.C.



**American Agri-Women President Chris Wilson with former Secretary of Agriculture John Block and Maine Agri-Women member Sue McCrum at AAW’s Washington, D.C. Fly-In.**

Her title was Assistant to the Secretary for Public Liaison but, as Jack Block tells it, her special role was working with farm groups. “The story I got was that the American Agriculture Movement, which was very powerful in those days, had been hard on my predecessor, Bob Bergland. Chris would meet with them first for about an hour, tell them what we’re doing and ask their problems, describe my background as a farmer, and they loved her! She charmed them! Phenomenal!” Secretary Block added that they were always very civil. “They had mellowed, were happy” by the time they got to him. “She was my right-hand man,” he concluded.

Among the programs created by USDA under Block’s tenure, Chris was involved in several: Ag in the Classroom, Farm Women’s

Forum, and “Stand Up—Speak Out for Agriculture” are a few that come to mind. Regional meetings were held to introduce Ag in the Classroom in 1982 and then each state picked its own task force or foundation to continue. Even now, Block said, there is hope that USDA will bring back a national coordinator for Ag in the Classroom.

While Chris was in Washington, she met her future husband, Ron Wilson, who worked on the Senate Ag Committee and staff of Kansas Senator Nancy Kassebaum. Ron had been a state and national FFA officer, an organization Chris had always admired but was not allowed to join because her high school didn’t allow students in college prep courses to take ag classes.

In 1985 Ron and Chris moved back to Kansas and lived in Wichita where Ron was public information officer for the Farm Credit Bank. Chris was hired as Director of Governmental Relations for the Kansas Fertilizer and Chemical/Grain and Feed Associations, eventually moving to Wamego, which is about 40 minutes from the capitol in Topeka.

Ron was the first director of the Huck Boyd Institute for Rural Development, headquartered at Kansas State University in Manhattan.

All of this time (since the late ‘70’s) Chris had been volunteering her time with American Agri-Women and Jeanne Mertz had been watching. When she was national president Mertz persuaded Chris to chair a “Fly-In” to D.C. for AAW, now in its 26th consecutive year. She also piloted Chris into the presidency of Kansas Agri-Women. It should be mentioned that Chris was awarded the LEAVEN in 1992 and many President’s Awards for her contributions to our organization.

As Chris’ talents became known in Topeka, she lobbied and served as association executive for other groups — Kansas Dairy Assn, Kansas Seed Industry Assn, Kansas Agricultural Aviation Assn and Kansas Home Builders, now called the Kansas Building Industry Assn. One of her peers, Martha

Neu Smith, executive director of the Kansas Manufactured Housing Assn, talked about how well respected Chris is in the legislature and that she is true to her causes. “She has so many wonderful qualities that it’s difficult to pick one or two, but what I adored and admired about her is that Chris is a real team player. She is open-minded. She never blocks out a suggestion or another team worker. I think that is why she can solve so many problems . . . because she is open.”

We laughed when we were talking about another of Chris’ attributes. Martha said that AAW member Leslie Kaufman, a lobbyist with Kansas Cooperatives, once told her, “Chris always finds the best speakers!” Martha added, “and she flies by the seat of her pants!” Those of us who know Chris well are constantly surprised at how she can come through at the last minute!

How she can balance so many jobs is a near miracle. That she is the consummate multi-tasker is obvious. As when she went to Law School with her daughter, Joanna, barely in elementary school and finished while pregnant with triplets! True, she manages her time efficiently by talking on the cell phone while she commutes and puts on make up where she knows there are no bumps in the road. But in my humble opinion, it is her enormous energy that is the key. And, last but not least, Chris is one of the two smartest women I have ever known and both were educated in Knox County.

Family is important to Chris and she has always wanted her children to embrace the same love of living on a farm and raising animals that she enjoyed. Like her “open” attitude with work, she has encouraged her kids to pick whatever they want and she and Ron will support them. Thus, the kids have chosen a menagerie of rabbits, goats, sheep, chickens, llamas, horses, pigs, both dairy and beef cattle, cats, and an Australian sheep dog. Talk about diversified!

The Lazy T Ranch is now headlong into agri-tourism and hosts group and family visits in summer and fall. Ron does his cowboy poetry and Chris and the kids set up their pumpkin stand just as the Moshers did along Highway 97 every October for the Knox County Scenic Drive.

With the announcement in January 2011 that Chris Wilson would be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture for the Kansas Department of Agriculture, AAW members realized that she would have less time for us. But Chris, we have been so lucky to have your leadership. Thank you!

*AAW members, help yourself and your fellow farmers now —*

## Submit atrazine comments by Nov. 14

EPA received a May 6, 2011, petition from the group Save the Frogs, requesting the agency to ban the use and production of atrazine. EPA has posted the petition for public comment, which is consistent with its stated goal to be open and transparent in scientific and regulatory processes.

**Atrazine passes the most stringent, up-to-date safety requirements in the world.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority have concluded atrazine is safe at levels found in the environment. In addition, the World Health Organization has also favorably reviewed atrazine (2007, 2010).

EPA’s April 2010 update on atrazine contained the following statement on amphibians “...atrazine does not adversely affect amphibian gonadal development based on a review of laboratory and field studies, including studies submitted by the registrant and studies published in the scientific literature. At this time, EPA believes that no additional testing is warranted to address this issue.” [http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/atrazine/atrazine\\_update.htm#amphibian](http://www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/reregistration/atrazine/atrazine_update.htm#amphibian)

None of the information submitted in the Save the Frogs’ petition justifies a change in EPA’s 2010 conclusions or a need for regulatory action.

Unrelated to this petition, EPA had already planned to update its atrazine review on ecological and aquatic systems, including any recent publications and data on amphibians. This review will also include a Scientific Advisory Panel meeting in 2012.

**SUBMITTING YOUR COMMENTS TO EPA (due Nov. 14, 2011):**

**Your comments may be submitted to EPA docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0586 by one of the following methods on or before Nov. 14, 2011:**

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** <http://www.regulations.gov>. Type in keyword “EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0586.” Then open the docket folder and follow the on-line instructions.
- **Mail:** Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) Regulatory Public Docket (7502P), Environmental Protection

Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460-0001. Be sure to include docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0586.

- **Delivery:** OPP Regulatory Public Docket (7502P), Environmental Protection Agency, Rm. S-4400, One Potomac Yard (South Bldg.), 2777 S. Crystal Dr., Arlington, VA. Be sure to include docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0586. Deliveries are only accepted during the Docket Facility’s normal hours of operation (8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays). Special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information. The telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

**It is imperative to include docket number EPA-HQ-OPP-2011-0586 with your comments.**

### Highlights of talking points

Here are talking points that you can point to, but remember, your personal stories on why you need atrazine are important. Contact Marcie Williams, [wmsfarms@gmail.com](mailto:wmsfarms@gmail.com), for a more extensive list.

### Atrazine is supported by extensive science and regulator reviews

- One of the most closely examined pesticide in the world, atrazine’s safety has been established in more than 6,000 scientific studies over the past 50 years.
- The regulatory standards in place for atrazine include wide margins of safety.
- In 2010, the World Health Organization raised its recommended safe level of atrazine in drinking water from 2 parts per billion to 100 parts per billion.

### Atrazine is safe for frogs & the environment

- EPA concluded in 2007 “that atrazine does not adversely affect amphibian gonadal development based on a review of laboratory and field studies, including studies submitted by the registrant and studies published in the scientific literature.”

### Atrazine is vital to farming & the economy

- The use of atrazine supports good environmental practices such as no-till farming, which helps reduce soil erosion and protect wildlife habitats. In fact, frogs continue to thrive in areas where atrazine is used, including in irrigation ditches and ponds next to corn fields.



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If you would like to receive *The Voice* via email, PLUS our new "AAW E-News," please email Carolyn Kleiber at [Carolyn@agpowerinc.net](mailto:Carolyn@agpowerinc.net).



Illinois Agri-Women, in an effort to recognize the growing number of women succeeding in a predominately male field, has initiated new awards for women involved in farming and agribusiness. We inducted our first member to the IAW Hall of Fame, Jean Ibendahl (center), who has led IAW through her tireless work and initiative. At 92, she continues to keep abreast of all things concerning agriculture. Joanie Schone (left) was selected as the 2011 Outstanding Illinois Woman Farmer for her outstanding leadership and dedication to the family farm and community. Evelyn Brandt Thomas (right) was named Outstanding Woman in Agribusiness for her dedication to agriculture, the future of farming, and community projects.

## AAW Convention 2011 Registration Discount Extended to October 14!

Yes, we know AAW members don't like to register early — and often see how harvest is going before registering for Convention! So — we have discounted registration to entice you to get your registrations in — we have extended the early registration date to October 14! Actually, registrations are coming in well, but we want YOU there and we want you to get that lower registration rate. So don't delay. You can register online or by faxing or mailing the form.