

the

VOICE

of the American Agri-Woman



June/July 2008, Volume 35, Issue 3

We can do it together!

## American Agri-Women urges Congress to act on ag labor

Agriculture is uniquely in crisis regarding the need for a legal workforce is the message American Agri-Women conveyed at meetings with their congressional delegates during Fly-In in the nation's capital.

Congress must act. The Emergency Agriculture Relief Act (EARA) was proposed as an amendment to the supplemental spending bill to fund military activities in Iraq and Afghanistan, but was removed, so now agriculture organizations are working hard to get the EARA moved forward on its own.

"The cost of waiting is to lose production and our food stability and security. The EARA is a solution within reach that avoids controversy and effectively addresses the problem on an emergency basis," stated AAW president Marcie Williams, and is the message these ag leaders want their legislators to understand. "Our crops are rotting

in the field and farming operations are moving to Mexico and we need relief now."

This legislation is not amnesty. It does not provide a path to citizenship or a green card but would grant temporary, limited immigration status for experienced farm workers who would be required to continue to work in American agriculture for the next five years. The bill also reforms and streamlines the H-2A program.

AAW appreciates the work of several members of the Senate Appropriations Committee who showed their strong bipartisan majority support: Democratic Senators Inouye (HI), Leahy (VT), Harkin (IA), Kohl (WI), Murray (WA), Mikulski (MD), Feinstein (CA), Durbin (IL), and Johnson (SD), and Republican Senators Stevens (AK), Specter (PA), Domenici (NM), Bond (MO), Bennett (UT), Craig (ID), and Brownback (KS).



Eldon Gould, Illinois farmer and current Administrator of the Risk Management Agency (left) and former Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block (right) celebrate with Jean at her birthday party.

## AITC founder Jean Ibendahl celebrates 90th birthday at AAW reception in DC

Agriculture In The Classroom founder and charter AAW member Jean Ibendahl of DuQuoin, Illinois, turned 90 years old during her trip to the American Agri-Women (AAW) conference in Washington, DC, on June 10. A reception was held in her honor at the USDA where over 100 AAW members and guests honored her with a cake and book of remembrances.

Jean is a former school teacher and author who was married to Calvin Ibendahl. Their historic farm, established in 1850 near Tamoaroa, was an underground railroad station during the Civil War. They grew corn, wheat, and soybeans on the farm for 44 years, then donated it to Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

Jean is a tireless supporter of agriculture. In 1977 when she learned that Illinois schools had a mandate to include lessons on agriculture in their schools, she developed Agriculture In The Classroom to teach agriculture's place in the U.S. economy. She also attended the organizational meeting of AAW in 1974 in Milwaukee, WI, and served as vice president under Carolyn Leavens in 1984-85.

Jean and Calvin also initiated the Daughters of American Agriculture Scholarship in 1991, which they have generously supported through the years. This scholarship is available to any farm, ranch or agribusiness woman or her daughter between the ages of 18-23 to pursue accredited courses in ag leadership, communications, rural sociology, medicine, or any other courses directly benefiting agriculture.



**Three good tours**

Tours will revolve around the value of agribusiness and agritourism, a treasure for the urban population.

**Spouses and guests will tour the LBJ Ranch on Thursday.**

The Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park is located on the north side of the Pedernales River in Stonewall, Texas. A park ranger will board the bus for a guided tour as we travel Ranch Road 1 to the 36th President and Lady Bird Johnson's, "Texas White House," the family cemetery, and views of Central Texas ranchlands. The Johnsons' love of the land is plain to see in a short film in the visitor center. The center also includes a bookstore and gift items.

We will meander west on Hwy 290 to Woodrose Winery in Stonewall, Texas and enjoy wine tasting in a laid-back atmosphere and lunch under the Live Oak trees.

Returning to The Menger we will drive by the LBJ Boyhood Home in Johnson City, Texas.

**The Friday Tour: It's all about being a "Foodie" and asking, "Is this a grocery store"?**

AAW will have the opportunity to visit one of two food retailers that originated in the Lone Star State, Central Market and Whole Foods. A retailer guide explains their award winning and unique style.

Don't worry. There will be time for you to shop for Texas products. The tour takes AAW to Market Square (aka) El Mercado, San Antonio's romantic center of the Mexican culture, with specialty boutiques. The tour includes a drive-by of the San Fernando Cathedral, the oldest cathedral sanctuary in the United States before returning to the Menger.

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**Yee Haw — AAW convention to be in beautiful, historic San Antonio, Texas!**

The American Agri-Women convention will be in San Antonio, Texas at the historic Menger Hotel this year and what a place to go!

The Menger Hotel was constructed in 1859 and occupies a prominent location in downtown San Antonio, only 100 yards from the site of the Alamo. The Menger has housed personalities such as Theodore Roosevelt, Babe Ruth, Mae West, Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, and Sarah Bernhardt, just to name a few.

Some of the amenities include an outdoor pool, fitness center, player piano, the famous Menger Bar and courtyard garden. There is free high speed internet access in all guest rooms.

The hotel is adjacent to Rivercenter Mall, the IMAX Theater, River Walk and much more. When you make your reservations, be sure to tell them whether you prefer a Victorian-styled room or one of the more modern ones.

On your first night, Wednesday, you can experience a leisurely Mexican dinner (margaritas are possible!) floating on the river barges enjoying the sights and sounds of San Antonio. OR sail the San Antonio River as you sample Texas tapas paired with wine. After dining, you can continue your evening enjoying the sights, music and night clubs all along the River walk.

But don't party too hardy as we start bright and early Thursday morning with a JAVA Walk that can be as energetic as you want it to be, depending on how many calories you want to burn!

Meetings (gotta have them!) will be most of the day, and at noon the Town Hall Meeting will be held. The International Panel will add another country from last year's convention. Mexico will be included along with Canada and the United States (that's us!) so bring your questions and

comments for all to discuss.

That evening at dinner we have invited Tim Findley, an investigative reporter, who writes for Range Magazine and can probably tell you anything you want to know about the American cowboy and his life in the West.

Friday morning we have invited Texas Governor Rick Perry and Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples to briefly speak to us. This will also be the day all registrants will take a tour highlighting the treasures of agriculture, San Antonio and Texas. See Tours PR for more information.

Saturday will be a busy day – we have a lot planned for you! We have invited several speakers to bring you up to date on many issues affecting U. S. farmers and ranchers, including immigration, Trans-Texas Corridor/ NAFTA Highway and global warming. You won't want to miss this.

The Invitation to our 2009 Convention will be given at our Noon Luncheon. You will never guess where it is going to be! These ladies ALWAYS put on a good show.

Saturday afternoon and evening is jam-packed with action. Have you ever seen a "Champagne Cowboy"? Well, you will tonight. And there's a style show too – and we just might have another little surprise for you. But you will have to wait until Saturday night to find out what it is.

Oh! And don't forget to dress western at our banquet. As a fitting end to this wonderful night, we will install officers and acknowledge many hard-working and deserving individuals with awards. Will you be one of them?!

So, come on down to Texas. Experience and enjoy our Texas hospitality and you'll have some good 'ole' memories to take home. Hope to see YOU'AL in November!

## 2008 American Agri-Women Fly-In

### Symposium speakers stress importance of adapting agriculture's message

Misconceptions about agriculture and food abound, as American Agri-Women (AAW) symposium speakers pointed out at the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual AAW Symposium in Washington, DC.

Most people do not know the importance of biotech foods, or how much \$6 a bushel corn costs to produce, or that without the preventive use of antibiotics our animals are at risk for disease and yet advocates for agriculture are not getting their message out to the public in a meaningful or relevant manner, such as by using the Internet to their advantage or by continually repeating their message.

As Sharon Bomer Lauritsen, Executive Vice President of the Food and Agriculture Section, Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) pointed out, adapting agriculture's message

is critical and needs to focus on environmental concerns such as water and land conservation and the importance of food independence and safety, as BIO has learned.



Each speaker gave vital information about advances in productivity, food safety, costs, and how biofuels actually lower our energy costs, plus several misconceptions propagated by animal activists. Educating the public continually is critical to staying ahead on issues.

Speakers included Joel Neuman, President and CEO, American Feed Industry Association; Amy Philpott, Vice President Marketing and Industry Relations, United Fresh Produce and Steve Kopperud, Senior Vice President, Policy Directions, Inc., a government affairs company specializing in production agriculture, food and research/health related issues.



Sixteen AAW members took advantage of the opportunity to go to the USDA's National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) Lock Up, where we got our picture taken with Acting Secretary of Agriculture, Charles F. Conner.

### USDA Lock-Up a fascinating experience

By Jody Elrod, Texas Agri-Women

Tuesday, June 10, 2008, American Agri Women once again had the distinct privilege, allowed only to a select few, to attend the USDA's National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) Lock Up.

Lock up refers to a series of measures taken to protect market sensitive data before it is released to the public. These measures have been in place for over 100 years and are taken very seriously.

Once through very thorough security, our group was met by an excited Carol House, Agriculture Statistics Board (ASB) Chairman. She was eager to address us knowing that when visitors arrived it meant it was daylight. Her day began around midnight and ends after the Secretary or Acting Secretary of Agriculture signs the crop report – this usually take place around 8:30AM. Also at that time, the information is released to the public.

Statisticians briefed Acting Secretary of Agriculture, Charles F. Conner, not only of market conditions for crops, but also production forecast and weather conditions. The statistics used for the crop report are derived from several different avenues, one being the Agriculture Census Report. The next time a census report arrives in your mailbox . . . remember its importance.

All NASS reports are available free of charge on the internet at [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

If you would like to receive the Voice via e-mail instead of by mail, please send your request to Carolyn Kleiber at [Carolyn @agpowerinc.net](mailto:Carolyn@agpowerinc.net).

## 2008 American Agri-Women Fly-In Photos



Jean hopped on this lime green motorcycle at the Fertilizer Institute while Dayna looked on enviously.

AAW members gather for fun and friendship, as well as education and advocacy, when they attend AAW's three main events each year. This year 55 members and friends attended the Fly-In to Washington, DC, and ranged in age from nine-year-old Dayna McCrum, a Legacy Kid and granddaughter of Maine Agri-Women member Sue McCrum, to Illinois Agri-Women member Jean Ibendahl, who turned 90 during the Fly-In.



AAW President Marcie Williams (OH) visits with Rep. John Salazar (CO), who is one of the few farmers in Congress and is on the House Agriculture Committee.



The Congressional reception is attended by Congressional delegates, staff, and AAW members alike, for the good food and networking.

You can always count on some laughs with Jody Elrod (TX) and Peggy Clark (OH).



Good friends Buena Berger (IL) and Carolyn Kleiber (KS) catch up on each other's lives at Fly-In.



# 2008 American Agri-Women Convention Information



## American Agri-Women 2008 ANNUAL MEETING AND CONVENTION



November 5-9, 2008

Menger Hotel – San Antonio, Texas

### Wednesday, November 5, 2008

3:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Executive Committee Meeting in President's Suite
3:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Registration opens
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Optional Mexican Dinner & Drinks OR Texas Wine Tasting with heavy hor'douvres both on San Antonio River Barges "Experience the San Antonio River-walk", with either a leisurely dinner floating on the river barges with the sounds of mariachis in the air OR stopping at hotels along the river with their expert chefs preparing exquisite hors'doeuvres. (Not included in registration.)
Evening	You can continue your evening enjoying the sights, music and nightclubs all along the Riverwalk.
8:15 pm – 10:00 PM	Executive Committee Mtg continues

3:15 pm – 6:15 pm	Mexico/Canada/U.S. International Panel
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm	Syngenta reception for alumni (??)
7:00 pm – 7:30 pm	"Taste of Texas" Reception (cash bar)
7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Dinner with Speaker – Tim Findley, Invited

### Friday, November 7, 2008

7:30 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast with Speaker – Gov. Rick Perry & Ag Comm. Todd Staples, Invited
9:00 am – 12:00 am	Spouses have free time-Info on sight-seeing surrounding area available
9:15 am – 12 Noon	Opening Ceremonies – States' Flag Presentation AAW Business Meeting
12:15 pm	Tours for all registrants depart – Box lunch provided
Evening	Dinner on your own

### Thursday, November 6, 2008

7:00 am	Java Walk – Judy Newman
7:00 am – 7:45 am	Breakfast Tacos & Refreshments – General Membership, Hospitality Room
7:30 am – 8:30 am	StART Chair, Coordinators and Committee Chairs meeting
7:45 am – 3:45 pm	Spouse/Guest Tours depart (Breakfast tacos & refreshments provided)
7:45 am – 12 noon	Registration
8:00 am – 10:00 am	Resource Center Board Meeting – Open to all members
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Affiliate Presidents' Caucus First time Attendees/Mentoring meeting
10:00 am – 11:45 am	Resource Center Board meets with AAW Executive Committee
11:45 am – 12 noon	Break
12:00 pm – 1:45 pm	Lunch with Town Hall Meeting – Welcome by TX State President Shirley Wilde Speaker
1:45 pm – 2:00 pm	Break
2:00 pm – 3:15 pm	AAW Board of Directors meeting – Open to any member interested but only voting delegates may vote

### Saturday, November 8, 2008

7:00 am	Java Walk
8:00 am	Silent Auction opens
8:00 am – 9:15 am	Breakfast – General membership
9:30 am – 12 noon	StART Panel with speakers AITC Hands-On Meeting; Leadership meeting
12 noon	Silent Auction closes
12:15 pm – 1:45 pm	General Membership Luncheon - Invitation to 2009 Convention
1:45 pm – 2:00 pm	Break – Pick up and pay for silent auction items
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	AAW Business Meeting continues
6:00 pm – 6:30 pm	President's Reception with "Champagne Cowboys"
6:45 pm – 9:30 pm	Style Show and Texas' "Red Hot Chile Peppers" Night Banquet (western dress) Installation of Officers & Awards Ceremony

### Sunday, November 11, 2007

8:30-9:00 AM	Prayer Service
9:30 – 11 AM	Executive Committee Meeting
9:45 AM	Post Convention Tour Departs

# 2008 American Agri-Women Convention Registration Form



## American Agri-Women 33rd Annual Meeting

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

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

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

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

Are you a voting member of AAW? \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a 1st time conference attendee? \_\_\_\_\_

Conference Registration	Cost	# Attending	Amount
Early Registration (Postmarked by October 1, 2008)	\$225.00	_____	_____
Late Registration (Postmarked after October 1, 2008)	\$275.00	_____	_____
Early Student Registration (Postmarked by October 1, 2008)	\$125.00	_____	_____
Late Student Registration (Postmarked by October 1, 2008)	\$175.00	_____	_____
Day-Only Registration - Please mark the days attending:			
_____ Thursday _____ Friday _____ Saturday	\$100.00 per day	_____	_____
Student Day-Only Registration - Please mark the days attending:			
_____ Thursday _____ Friday _____ Saturday	\$50.00 per day	_____	_____
<b>Optional Events (Please indicate if attending and how many)</b>			
Wednesday Evening Mexican Dinner on River Barge <b>OR</b>	\$50.00	_____	_____
Wednesday Evening Wine Tour+ on River Barge	\$50.00	_____	_____
Thursday Spouse/Guest Tour	Comp	_____	_____
Sunday Post Convention Tour	\$50.00	_____	_____
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			_____

**Cancellation Policy:** Cancellations need to be made in writing and sent before October 10, 2008 for a full refund.

**Hotel Accommodations:** A block of rooms has been reserved under American Agri-Women at the historic Menger Hotel in San Antonio. **Reservations must be made prior to October 5th.** Call the hotel directly at 1-800-345-9285 or 1-210-223-4361.

**Payments & Inquiries:** Make checks payable to 2008 AAW Convention and mail with registration to 5910 N. Shary Road, Mission, TX 78574. Any inquiries, contact Kathy Reavis at 956-585-8128, Email JReavis163@aol.com or Merlynn Verstuyft at 210-287-5703, email verstuyft@aciglobal.com.

**Tours, continued from page 3.**

### Sunday Post Convention Tour

On Sunday, take a scenic trip to the Texas Hill Country. Gillespie County was named one of the Top 10 Rural Areas to live in within the U.S. by the February 2005 edition of Progressive Farmer. Find yourself in Fredericksburg's beautiful historic architecture and deep German Heritage.

Choose to stroll Main Street for over 150 specialty shops, antique stores, art galleries and wine tasting or visit the National Museum of the Pacific War. Our day will include a stop at the Wildseed Farms, the largest working and producing wildflower seeds farm in the U.S. Wildseed Farms was selected a Top 10 Destination by Country Woman Magazine.

Texas Hospitality continues when you are the guest of honor at a private dinner at JIMBAR Ranch. Relax to country music and catch a view of whitetail deer, black buck antelope and the Texas sunset. It will be a leisurely return bus ride to the hotel while you enjoy the memories you have made in Texas.

# AAW Resource Center Photo Contest

## Guidelines and rules for AAW Resource Center 2008 photo contest

- Chairs:** Julie Tesch & Dolly Lillis  
**Purpose:** To select agricultural pictures to use as computer screensavers and greeting cards  
**Goal:** Raise money for AAW Resource Center  
**Theme:** Appealing photographs to represent American agriculture

Here are the rules for the Resource Center photography contest. The primary theme of the photographs MUST be “agriculturally related,” whether it is a photo of scenery, a close-up, a record or pictorial photo. Judging points are based on composition and content.

Primary theme of photos maybe scenery of a farm/ranch in the different seasons, stages of production of different agricultural commodities, a close-up of a particular agricultural product, portrait, or collage.

- There will be two categories: 1) Christmas, and 2) Other
- Mode may be of traditional or modernistic style
- Mood may portray:
  - o Tranquility, serenity
  - o Unrest of nature-wind, lightning
  - o Beginning of the day, ending of a day
  - o Action – horseback riding, moving cattle, farming, transportation

Winning photographs will be published on the 3rd annual American Agri-Women Christmas card and general note cards, available on-line from AAW website as a screensaver.

### RULES:

- Photos must be submitted by October 1, 2008. Photographs do not have to be shot during this time period. They can be from the past or present.
- Contestant must be an AAW member.
- Photos submitted must be the original work of the contestant.
- No more than two photos may be entered by each contestant.
- Photos may be taken with any type of camera: digital, 35 mm, etc.
- Each photo may be submitted in an electronic tif. Or jpg. file format.
- Each photo entered must be labeled with the contestant’s name, address, and description of the photograph.
- Photos must not have a date or number on the front.
- A panel of judges will select the winners.
- All photographs become the property of the AAW Resource Center for any and all uses determined by the entity. Photos will not be returned.
- Each photo must be submitted to both:

Julie Tesch  
1954 Buford Ave., Room 320  
St. Paul, MN 55108  
jtesch@umn.edu  
612-624-6249

Dolly Lillis  
1823 E Wilbur Ave  
Dalton Gardens, ID 83815  
dllillis@hotmail.com  
208-762-3497

## Applications due for AAW positions

*By Laura Tower, Nominating Committee Chair*

The nominating committee is working on the 2009 slate of officers. Elections will be held at the San Antonio Convention for the following positions:

- Vice President of Education
- Secretary
- Three members for the AAW Resource Center Board
- Four members for the nominating committee.

The deadline for submitting an application for any of these positions has been extended to August 1, 2008. Full information and forms are located on the AAW Website, or you may contact the chair, Laura Tower, ltowerfarm@aol.com or phone 209-465-4840.

Applications may be sent via e-mail, or if using the postal service, they must arrive by the deadline. Send them to Laura at 17265 East Hwy 4, Stockton, CA 95215.

Serving on the nominating committee are Peggy Clark, Dana Peterson, Sarah Tesmer and Merlynn Verstuyft. We are looking for qualified, committed applicants who are ready to share their gifts and talents in a leadership position. Please encourage members who meet the qualifications to apply prior to the deadline.

## Resolutions due August 15

All resolutions to be considered at the annual meeting are due August 15.

Resolutions originating with individual members or affiliates shall be signed by at least 10 members and be accompanied by support data and rationale. Send them to the resolutions committee by August 15 so it can prepare them for consideration and publication in the VOICE.

Send your resolutions to Chris Wilson, Vice President of Resolutions and Vital Issues, fax 785-537-9727, or e-mail resolutions@americanagriwomen.org.

## AAW issues taken to Congress

### 1. Immigration reform

**Position:** AAW supports the Emergency Ag Relief Act. Please support the Emergency Agriculture Relief Act for farms and farmworkers.

Agriculture is uniquely in crisis regarding the need for a legal workforce. Congress must act. The cost of waiting to act is to lose production and our food stability and security. EARA is a solution within reach that avoids controversy and effectively addresses the problem on an emergency basis.

The legislation is not amnesty. It's an emergency agricultural worker bill which will give protected status to those workers who have worked in agriculture within the last 48 months. Workers must work at least 100 days a year in agriculture for the next five years, and a five-year sunset is included. The bill also reforms and streamlines the H-2A program.

### 2. Climate change legislation

**Position:** AAW is concerned about legislation that would impose costly regulations on Americans, with no real benefit to the climate.

U.S. farmers' cost of doing business could increase by 6 to 12 billion dollars as a result of new climate change regulations and rising energy prices according to a study conducted recently by Doane Advisory Services (Doane). The study, which was conducted by Doane for The Fertilizer Institute (TFI), analyzed the energy price impacts of S.3036 (formerly S.2191), "America's Climate Security Act" (Lieberman-Warner) on eight major U.S. crops and indicates that if enacted, the legislation will lead to a significant decline in farm income.

### 3. Secure retirement

**Position:** AAW supports the Security for Life Act, S. 1010 and H.R. 2205.

Senators Hillary Clinton (D-NY), Susan Collins (R-ME), Kent

## StART committees are the backbone of AAW

Our Strategic Action Response Team (StART) Committees are contributing factors to the success of American Agri-Women. Without them it would be impossible for our members to receive all the timely information they need on issues of importance to their business.

Through the years AAW has added, deleted and changed our committees to better serve our members. Technically speaking, at the end of each year committees are ended and at the beginning of the next they are appointed as needed, although AAW continues to keep committees for the two years of the current president's term.

**At the present two very important committees are without chairmen: Food Safety and Crop Protectants (previously Ag Chemicals).** With the amount of national coverage on food-borne illnesses, AAW needs someone to step up and take over monitoring these events. The other committee of Crop Protectants is just as important with activists' attempts to remove these tools from our hands. If there is someone who is interested in chairing either of these committees please contact president Marcie Williams.

These two committees require little additional work than what most of us are already doing: watch for media coverage and report any false statements to the appropriate sources, provide critical information to our members when you find sources of accurate materials, attend our Mid Year meeting to give a report, and assist in policy making and attend our annual meeting, if possible. A small amount of expenses are covered for your time and supplies.

Please consider being a StART Committee chairman. Contact President Marcie Williams at president@americanagriwomen.org or call her at 740-893-2624. The success of AAW is only as great as it's members and their volunteerism.

### News Briefs

## What comes after the rains?

Sources said as much as 1-3 million acres could be lost across the Midwest due to this season's heavy flooding, and perhaps another 2 million acres will see significant yield reductions. To be sure, thousands of acres across Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Missouri are either under water or expected to be under water as levees break and overflowing rivers from several states start their natural progression into the mighty Mississippi River.

Iowa is the hardest-hit of the Midwestern states, but farmers there are not alone. In Indiana, state officials said it was the worst disaster in 100 years. According to the Iowa Department of Agriculture, the extreme weather had either prevented planting or drowned out 9% of the state's corn crop (1.5 million acres) and 20% (about 2 million acres) of the soybean crop.

But with corn and soybean futures hitting record highs, will some farmers venture to replant? We've seen other reports estimating that as many as four million acres will be replanted. Even USDA's widely anticipated June 30th crop report may not be able to accurately assess the damages. Surveys for that report began on May 30 and ran through the first two weeks of June.

## Plant on CRP now?

Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA) wants the Bush administration to allow farmers to plant crops now on CRP acres to hold down skyrocketing corn and soybean prices. In a letter sent Friday to Secretary Ed Schafer, Grassley asked USDA to allow landowners to remove land from the program without penalty and plant soybeans, sorghum, milo or hay. This will allow new feedstocks to be grown this year, relieving pressure from our already strained row crop acres planted or still under water.

*Continued on page 11.*

# Will greens sacrifice their “sacred cows”?

by Dennis T. Avery, Director, Center for Global Food Issues

Wired Magazine has published a list of “Green sacred cows” it says must be sacrificed to save the planet. Wired’s founding editor, Kevin Kelly, formerly edited the Whole Earth Catalog, so he has credentials for rethinking what it means to be Green.

“Today, one ecological problem outweighs all others: global warming,” says Wired’s May 19 issue. “Restoring the Everglades, protecting the Headwaters redwoods, or saving the Illinois mud turtle won’t matter if climate change plunges the planet into chaos... Winning the war on global warming requires slaughtering some of environmentalism’s sacred cows. We can’t afford to ignore either the carbon-free electricity supplied by nuclear energy or the transformational potential of genetic engineering...”

## Here, then, are some Wired’s new eco-heresies:

**Air conditioning is good:** “As a symbol of American profligacy, the air conditioner may rank second only to the automobile... But this stereotype gets it wrong. When it’s 0 degrees outside, you’ve got to raise the indoor thermometer to 70 degrees. In 110-degree weather, you need to change the temperature by only 40 degrees to achieve the same comfort level... In the Northeast, a typical house heated by fuel oil emits 13,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> annually. Cooling a similar dwelling in Phoenix produced only 900 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> a year.”

## Organics are not the answer:

Wired notes that organic farms yield less food per acre. Actually, the organic yields are only about half as high as conventional because the world has an urgent shortage of manure. So all-organic farming would give up half the current world food output, threatening hunger for billions and extinction

for species whose wild forests get cleared to plant more low-yield crops. Additionally, organic steers are on pasture much longer, burping up twice as much methane per pound as a feedlot steer, according to the UN’s FAO—and needing three times as much of the world’s scarce land.

**Farm the forests like fields:** Old-growth forests have a problem. “A tree absorbs roughly 1,500 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> in its first 55 years. After that, its’ growth slows and it takes in less carbon. Left untouched, it ultimately rots or burns and all that CO<sub>2</sub> gets released... The most climate-friendly policy is to continually cut down trees and plant new ones. Lots of them.” Use the wood to build durables such as furniture and houses, says the magazine.

**Accept biotechnology:** New nitrogen-efficient genetically engineered crops need only half as much nitrogen fertilizer—which Wired says could save a whopping 50 million tons worth of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year, with almost no leftover fertilizer to leach into streams. An organic dairy cow, with no boost from biotech growth hormone, gives eight percent less milk. That means more cows, eating more feed, and emitting more methane, to produce organic milk that contains identical growth hormones.

**Embrace nuclear power:** “Nukes are the most climate-friendly industrial-scale form of energy.” A recent British government white paper says that from uranium mining to decommissioning, a nuclear power plant emits only 2 to 6 percent of the carbon per kilowatt-hour as natural gas. “Embracing the atom is key to winning the war on warming... One of the Kyoto Protocol’s worst features is a sop to greens that denies carbon credits to

power-starved developing countries that build nukes—thereby ensuring they’ll continue to depend on filthy coal.”

We commend Wired for indeed focusing on environmental first principles. Now, if some additional warming actually occurs after our ten-years-and-counting vacation from higher temperatures . . .

*DENNIS T. AVERY is a senior fellow for the Hudson Institute in Washington, DC and is the Director for the Center for Global Food Issues. (www.cgfi.org) He was formerly a senior analyst for the Department of State. He is co-author, with S. Fred Singer, of Unstoppable Global Warming Every 1500 Hundred Years. Readers may write him at PO Box 202, Churchville, VA 2442 or email to cgfi@hughes.net.*

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please Print – This membership application form will be used for direct computer input to produce your newsletter mailing labels.

Dues may be paid through your commodity/state affiliate or mailed to: American Agri-Women, PO Box 111, Hillsboro, KS 67063.

Please check one:  New  Renew

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

AAW Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

AAW National Dues (\$20 for both affiliate and at-large or single member), or \$10 if a collegiate member) is enclosed:

Yes  No

YES! We take Visa or Mastercard!

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## AAW issues, continued from page 9.

Conrad (D-ND), Gordon Smith (R-OR), and Olympia Snowe (R-ME), and Representatives Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-OH) and Phil English (R-PA) and a host of co-sponsors reintroduced the Retirement Security for Life Act. The bipartisan legislation seeks to provide an incentive that would encourage Americans to invest in retirement vehicles that provide steady income for life, such as lifetime annuities. We appreciate the support of the co-sponsors and encourage other members to co-sponsor these bills.

This is an important measure for self-employed individuals, such as many farmers and ranchers, and for women.

### 4. Ethanol and food prices

**Position:** AAW believes American agriculture can effectively produce to meet the demand for food, feed and fuel.

There are many factors that have increased the cost of corn prices, and ethanol is just one of those, accounting to perhaps 10-30% of the increase. Rising energy costs, the value of the dollar and its impact on exports, and speculative trading by outside investors are other factors.

Ethanol provides a positive energy balance, benefits the environment and serves to limit the increase in gasoline prices. If not for ethanol, world oil demand would cost the consumer more than \$50 billion in additional fuel costs.

### 5. Oceans policy

**Position:** AAW opposes H.R. 21, the "Ocean Conservation, Education, and National Strategy for the 21st Century Act" (OCEANS-21).

First and foremost, H.R. 21 has the potential to alter significantly the nation's regulatory landscape and to do so in ways that are unpredictable and that may go well beyond Congressional intent. Specifically:

- The bill establishes a national ocean policy (NOP), which must be implemented according to specified principles. The policy and the principles are vague, in some cases controversial, and fail to allow for a genuine balancing of competing needs and interests.
- The authorities granted and the actions compelled could well elevate national ocean policy above many, if not all, other considerations that should be weighed and balanced when making land and resource use decisions.
- If enacted, H.R. 21 would almost certainly open a floodgate of litigation, as federal agencies are challenged on their interpretation and application of the NOP across their respective programs, their consistency determinations, and ultimately their issuance of permits, licenses and other individual actions taken by the agencies. Because the courts will be the ultimate arbiter of the scope and application of the new oceans policy, its full implications will probably not soon be known or fully understood for years.

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If you would like to be an AAW sponsor please contact Past President Yvonne Erickson at [pastpresident@americanagriwomen.org](mailto:pastpresident@americanagriwomen.org) for additional information.

### 6. Horse slaughter

**Position:** AAW opposes legislation to ban horse slaughter in the United States.

The elimination of horse slaughter facilities in the United States has had the opposite effect of protecting horses – a great example of unintended consequences. Instead of being processed at USDA regulated plants and transported under regulations the horse industry helped formulate, horses destined for processing endure longer truck rides and an uncertain fate at Mexican processing plants. Additionally, thousands of horses that otherwise would be processed are neglected and many are abandoned. Because the processing market has been closed off, these horses are being placed on the active market, causing a drop in horse prices across the board.



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**See inside this newsletter or the AAW web site for 2008 Convention details!**

**If you would like to receive the Voice via e-mail instead of by mail send your request to Carolyn Kleiber at Carolyn@agpowerinc.net**

### **AAW IS LOOKING FOR AN EDITOR FOR THIS NEWSLETTER, THE VOICE**

*American Agri-Women is seeking an editor for this newsletter. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Arlene Kovash by phone, 503-838-3512, or by email at [communications@americanagriwomen.org](mailto:communications@americanagriwomen.org). This is a 2-year paid position and may be renewed. Job description is as follows:*

The editor prepares five to six 8-12 page newsletters for publication per year and works under the direction of the President and the Vice-President for Communications.

It is the responsibility of the editor to solicit articles for the *Voice* from affiliate organizations, officers and committees. The editor also writes articles as needed. The editor is responsible for page layout and design.

All articles and priority of articles must be approved by the President and Vice-President for Communications. The draft newsletter is to be presented to them and any others designated by the President to serve as an editorial committee for the purposes of proof-reading the *Voice*, at least three days prior to sending the *Voice* for printing.

The editor makes all edits as directed by the President and Vice-President for Communications and delivers the final proof for printing. The editor emails a PDF version of the *Voice* to those members who choose to receive it by email and to the web master for uploading to the website.

The editor also attends the AAW annual meeting and mid-year meeting and takes pictures and reports on those meetings for the *Voice*.

If there are any questions about the position or on making a bid for this position, please contact Vice President of Communications Arlene Kovash, [akovash@earthlink.net](mailto:akovash@earthlink.net), or 503-838-3512.

American Agri-Women

### **Calendar of Events**

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| August 1  | Officer & LEAVEN Award nominations due  |
| August 15 | Resolutions for consideration at annual meeting due<br>Helen Whitmore Convention Scholarship applications due |
| Nov. 8-10 | AAW Convention, San Antonio, Texas  |

#### **AAW Web site**

[www.americanagriwomen.org](http://www.americanagriwomen.org)

#### **AAW Phone & Fax Numbers**

Phone: 218-495-2867

Fax: 218-495-2659

American Agri-Women is a national coalition of women's farm, ranch, and agri-business organizations and individuals formed in 1974. We, as women's agricultural organizations and individuals, unite together to communicate with one another and with other consumers to promote agriculture for the benefit of the American people and the world.

To contact AAW about our positions go to our web site at [www.americanagriwomen.org](http://www.americanagriwomen.org).