

the

VOICE

of the American Agri-Woman



September/October 2008, Volume 35, Issue 4

We can do it together!

## “Red Hot Chili Peppers” Nights and Texas — What Could Be Better!

Everyone pack your bags, confirm your flights and book your hotel rooms for the 33rd Annual American Agri-Women Convention in beautiful San Antonio, Texas, at the historic Menger Hotel just steps from the infamous Alamo!

To begin this unforgettable event, you will not want to miss the opening festivities along the gorgeous San Antonio River Walk. Your first taste of Texas hospitality will be spent cruising through downtown San Antonio under the stars via river barges while dining on authentic Mexican cuisine and delicious Margaritas if you so choose.

If Mexican food is not your preference, then you are in luck! This week San Antonio is also host to the New World Wine & Food Festival allowing you the option of cruising the San Antonio River, sampling premier Texas wines and delicacies such as Ceviche, Texas Quail Bites, Smoked Duck, & Main Lobster to name a few.

Our program will also include an international panel of representatives from Canada, Mexico and the U.S. participating in our second annual summit. Policy-making and leadership roles will be conducted through roundtable discussions on rural public policy and what it takes to excel in today's business and political environment including Immigration, NAFTA Superhighway, Global Warming, and the FairTax.

In addition, Texas Governor Rick Perry has been invited to give the keynote address at the opening session. All of these items are sure to get your adrenaline pumping! So, do not be shy. Get your questions ready!

Then sit back and prepare yourself. Dr. Robert C. Balling, Jr.,

professor in the climatology program in the School of Geographical Sciences at Arizona State University, will be here to speak on climatological issues facing our world today.

Dr. Balling has served as a climate consultant to the United Nations Environment Program, the World Climate Program, the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. He has also written four books on climate change, published over 125 articles, received over \$3,000,000 in research grants, presented lectures throughout the world, and appeared in a number of scientific documentaries and news features.

And, oh my gosh, the hospitality does not end until the last person leaves, so you do not want to miss the closing banquet. Have you ever heard of “Champagne Cowboys?” Doesn't it just make you think back to the hit show “Dallas?” Well, it's going to be a very special opportunity to contribute to AAW in conjunction with a beautiful style show, along with closing awards and officer installations.

Be sure to wear your western duds, or you can buy some here!

## Campaign Season: AAW Membership Campaign

Ready for a fun campaign? AAW is offering prizes for all members who recruit at least one new member prior to the AAW Convention.

Prizes will be awarded at the convention, but you do not need to be present to win. When you recruit someone who joins AAW – or you provide a gift membership for a friend – email Membership Chair Chris Wilson at [membership@americanagriwomen.org](mailto:membership@americanagriwomen.org) with the name(s) of those new member(s).

You'll be glad you have more friends in AAW and know that you are helping to increase AAW membership. Membership matters – The future of our organization and our ability to serve agriculture depend on it.

## AAW gets grant to produce TV program

American Agri-Women has received a grant from USDA to produce a television program for farm and ranch women which is planned to air nationwide in 2009.

Six months of programming is being planned, which will include a 30-minute weekly program to be shown four times each week. The programs are planned to air on RFD-TV, which reaches an audience of over 30 million nationwide.

Each weekly program will include information for women producers on a relevant topic to assist them in managing risk, such as estate planning or farm tax planning. Program topics will also include items such as educating consumers. In addition, each program will include a segment on the farm with an AAW member, addressing the theme for that week.

The grant is provided through the Risk Management Agency's Community Outreach and Partnership Program. The programs will be produced by the Extension Communications Center at Kansas State University. Chris Wilson is the project director. If you are interested in providing an on-farm location or have suggestions for program content, email Chris at [membership@americanagriwomen.org](mailto:membership@americanagriwomen.org).

# Greetings From Your President



**By Marcie Williams  
AAW President**

Oh, what a difference a month makes. After late plantings because of wet soil conditions crops looked healthy and promising in June and early July. With few 1/4 - 1/2 inch rains throughout July and August crops are showing the stress of high temperatures and low rainfall. While corn crops resemble pineapple fields, soybeans have remained healthy but are now showing stress with smaller bean size. Pastures have dried up and a late hay crop doesn't look promising.

One area producer usually plants a huge corn maze and this year did not get it planted due to dry weather conditions resulting in over \$100,000 losses in revenue for the year. Our travels across northern Ohio these past few days were just as heart wrenching. Mile after mile showed the stressed fields of short beans and corn that were drying way too early which will result in much lower yields than expected.

Energy costs continue to stress the agriculture industry. Producers are looking into IRS ramifications of pre-purchasing inputs while others opt to wait for hopefully lower prices after the first of the year. Chemical representatives are in the same situation as they must make decisions on whether to order products now at lower prices and hope producers will be able to pay for them or wait until later and hope they still have clients to purchase products from them.

NCAE (National Council of Agricultural Employers) is asking for agricultural employers to report any labor or work shortages, labor marketing instability, enforcement-related activities, random immigration enforcement and lack of affordable alternatives or any other personal stories of interest. Senator Feinstein is still looking for opportunities to introduce the Emergency Agriculture Relief Act (EARA). Congress is expected to remain in session during

September prior to adjournment for election campaigning so she hopes to be able to share real business-related hardships with her colleagues. If you have any information you wish to share please send it to me and I can forward it on.

The recent announcement that Mexico is halting poultry and beef shipments to the U.S. after country officials raised food safety concerns clearly demonstrates the real dangers of Proposition 2 which will be on California's ballot this fall. Proposition 2 would effectively eliminate the California-grown egg industry, forcing consumers to eat eggs from other countries, like Mexico, and states that don't have California's rigorous food safety standards.

Proposition 2 is NOT about the treatment of animals – it's about housing standards for egg-laying hens. It would ban modern housing systems, threatening food safety and public health. The measure, if passed, would increase the risk of Salmonella contamination in our eggs by putting hens in direct contact with their waste. It would also expose hens to migratory birds, known to be carriers of Avian Influenza, or Bird Flu which is why the California State Firefighter's Association is opposing it. In addition, Proposition 2 harms California's economy, consumers and environment and cuts off the availability of safe, fresh, affordable, local California eggs.

We must be ever diligent in looking at animal welfare propositions that make it onto our ballots as issues for consumers to vote on. Here is more evidence why we must be educating our public about agriculture. American Agri-Women members must always be informed and ready to speak out on these issues.

Annual Meeting time is quickly approaching. Be prepared for some exciting discussions between Canadian, Mexican and U.S. producers on our International Panel, enjoy the President's Reception with the "Champagne Cowboys" and our "Red Hot Chili Peppers" banquet and awards ceremony.

See ya'll in Texas!

*Marcie*

## American Agri-Women Executive Committee

President	Marcie Williams 11404 Appleton Rd Croton, OH 43013 AAW Phone: 740-893-2624 Home Phone: 740-893-4300 Fax: 740-893-4003 president@americanagriwomen.org
1st Vice President Resolutions	Chris Wilson 2103 Zeandale Rd Manhattan, KS 66502 Phone: 785-539-7899 resolutions@americanagriwomen.org
Vice Pres. Communications	Arlene Kovash 11425 Pedee Creek Rd Monmouth, OR 97361 Phone: 503-838-3512 communications@americanagriwomen.org
Vice Pres. Education	Pat Yeagle 4875 W. Winslow Rd Winslow, IL 61089 Phone/Fax: 815-789-4581 Cell Phone: 815-291-4581 education@americanagriwomen.org
Secretary	Alice Dettwyler 5582 75th Ave. NE Salem, OR 97305 Phone: 503-371-1399 Fax: 371-4896 secretary@americanagriwomen.org
Treasurer	Carolyn Kleiber PO Box 111 Hillsboro, KS 67063 Phone: 620-947-3094 Fax: 620-947-2476 treasurer@americanagriwomen.org
Past Pres.	Yvonne Erickson 34115 County Hwy 74 Battle Lake, MN 56515 Phone: 218-495-2867 Fax: 218-495-2659 pastpresident@americanagriwomen.org

### AAW Web Site:

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

### E-mail Address:

[info@americanagriwomen.org](mailto:info@americanagriwomen.org)

The VOICE is published in February, April, June, August, October, and December 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 the VP of Communications:

Arlene Kovash  
11425 Pedee Creek Rd  
Monmouth, OR 97361  
Ph: (503) 838-3512 • Fax (503) 838-6851  
E-mail: [akovash@earthlink.net](mailto:akovash@earthlink.net)

### Please send address changes to:

Carolyn Kleiber, Membership Chair  
PO Box 111  
Hillsboro, KS 67063  
Ph: (620) 947-3094 • Fax: (620) 947-2476  
[carolyn@agpowerinc.net](mailto:carolyn@agpowerinc.net)

## AAW bylaws change to be voted on at convention

As a clarification of the AAW bylaws, the following underlined sentence will be added to the bylaws, if approved at the convention:

### ARTICLE IV OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION

Section 2 All officers shall be members in good standing, active in promoting a better agricultural industry, and insofar as practical, they shall reside in different geographic regions. No officers, except the treasurer, may be elected to the same office for two consecutive terms. The treasurer shall be elected to no more than two consecutive terms without a break in service of at least one term. The nominee for First Vice President must have served on the Board of Directors for at least one year prior to nomination and have attended a national convention within three years prior to her nomination.

## Don't forget Annual Reports

Don't forget to get your Officer and Committee Annual Reports to Alice Dettwyler by October 1. If you have not sent them to her you are responsible for bringing 200 copies to Convention. Send them to 5582 75th Ave. N.E., Salem, OR 97305 or email to [dasfarm@onlinenw.com](mailto:dasfarm@onlinenw.com) (Notice the new email address change.)

## ... and the Resource Center silent auction

Remember to bring a silent auction item to the convention. All proceeds benefit AAW activities. Think of things that represent your state or affiliate. We are looking for items in all price ranges. Think easy to pack or provide packaging or a shipping box to make it easier to get home.

## 2008 Nominating Committee report

By Laura Tower, Chair

These nominees are recommended for the election to be held at the national convention, Nov. 12-15, 2008:

### Vice President for Education (one to be elected)

Judy McClaughery, Oregon

Pamela Sweeten, California

### Secretary (one to be elected)

Cheryl Day, Illinois

### AAW Resource Center Board (three to be elected)

Peggy Clark, Ohio

Rosemary Eckardt, Wisconsin

Trenna Grabowski, Illinois

### 2009 Nominating Committee (four to be elected—Chair to be appointed by President)

Carol Chandler, California

Vicki Coughlin, Wisconsin

Sue McCrum, Maine, (Resource Board Rep.)

Merylnn Verstuyft, Texas (member from 2008 committee)

### NEXT DEADLINE IS 11/15/07

#### Affiliates:

- American Angus Auxiliary
- Salers Belles
- Illinois Agri-Women
- Montana Agri-Women
- Ohio Agri-Women
- American Sheep Industry Women
- Arizona Agri-Women
- Nebraska Agri-Women
- Maine Agri-Women
- Texas Agri-Women
- Lake States Women in Timber
- Kansas Sheep Auxiliary
- Iowa Agri-Women

#### Committees

- Public Understanding & Awareness
- Committees: Ag Chemicals/Food Safety, Ag Research/Biotech, Ag Labor, Religion

## AAW Resource Center

### 2008 PHOTO CONTEST

**Chairs:** Julie Tesch & Dolly Lillis

**Purpose:** To select ag pictures to use as computer screen savers and greeting cards

**Goal:** Raise money for AAW Resource Center

**Theme:** Appealing photographs to represent American agriculture

The primary theme of the photographs MUST be "agriculturally related," and may be 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
- Mood may portray:
  - o Tranquility, serenity
  - o Unrest of nature – wind, lightning
  - o Beginning or 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 cards and general note cards, and available on-line from AAW web site as a screen saver.

#### RULES:

- Photos must be submitted by October 1, 2008. Photographs do not have to be shot during this time period.
- 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 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  
jtesch@umn.edu  
612-624-6249

Dolly Lillis  
dllillis@hotmail.com  
208-762-3497

# 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 Experience the San Antonio Riverwalk, 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 d'oeuvres. (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

7:30 PM – 9:00 PM

Dinner with Speaker – Tim Findley, Investigative Reporter

### Friday, November 7, 2008

- 7:30 AM – 9:00 AM Breakfast with Speaker – Gov. Rick Perry, Invited, & Ag Comm. Todd Staples
- 8:00 AM Silent Auction opens
- 9:00 AM – 12:00 AM Spouses have free time – Info on sight-seeing surrounding area available
- 9:15 AM – 12 NOON Opening Ceremonies – State Flags 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 – All Registrants, 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 registrants
- 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 Texas 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
- 3:15 pm – 6:00 PM Mexico/Canada/U.S. International Panel
- 6:15 pm – 7:00 PM Syngenta Reception for Alumni
- 7:00 pm – 7:30 PM "Taste of Texas" Reception (cash bar)

### Saturday, November 8, 2008

- 7:00 AM Java Walk
- 8:00 AM – 9:15 AM Breakfast – All Registrants
- 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
- 1:45PM – 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 Chili Peppers" Night Banquet (western dress)  
Installation of Officers & Awards Ceremony

### Sunday, November 9, 2008

- 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.

### Three good tours

- Spouses and guests will tour the Lyndon B. Johnson Ranch on Thursday** and includes the ranch and the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park visitor center, which includes a bookstore and gift items.
- The Friday Tour:** AAW will have the opportunity to visit one of two food retailers that originated in the Lone Star State, Central Market and Whole Foods, then shop for Texas products at El Mercado, San Antonio's romantic center of the Mexican culture, with specialty boutiques.
- The Sunday Tour:** take a scenic trip to the Texas Hill Country. Choose to check out Fredricksburg 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. 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.

## Affiliate Reports

### Oregon Women in Timber busy this Fall

*By Diann Washburn, President*

Oregon Women in Timber will be busy this fall with many projects! On Saturday September 27th we will hold our 31st Annual Membership Meeting in Salem, Oregon.

We will elect new officers, listen to informative speakers, have a great lunch and then enjoy our fellowship and surroundings.

October 16-18 we will be participating as an exhibitor in the 15th National Tree Farmer Convention that will be held at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower in Portland, Oregon. The event is sponsored by the American Tree Farm System, (ATFS) a program of American Forest Foundation's Center for Family Forests, and is committed to sustaining forests, watersheds and healthy habitats through the power of private stewardship.

Oregon Women in Timber's goal is to promote our organization and showcase our successful forest education program, Talk About Trees. Our Program Director, Joan Mason Ruud, will be on hand to answer specific questions about our education program. We will also have a representative from Federated Women in Timber on hand to show support of our similar forest issues amongst the federated states.

November will be spent gearing up for our annual benefit auction which will be held in conjunction with the Oregon Logging Conference on Friday February 20th, 2009, in Eugene, Oregon, at the Eugene Hilton. We will also hold equipment tours & Talk About Trees education programs for Lane County on Thursday February 19th at the Lane County Fairgrounds. For more information about any of these events, please contact Diann Washburn at [diann@washburnservices.com](mailto:diann@washburnservices.com).

Oregon Women in Timber's forest education program, Talk About Trees, has just completed another successful year! We have taught 174,008 people about Oregon trees

and forests over the 2007/2008 school year! We currently have twenty-four program facilitators throughout Oregon teaching our programs. For more information about Talk About Trees and how to get a program in your school, please email [Talkabouttrees@att.net](mailto:Talkabouttrees@att.net) and to view our web site go to: <http://tat.orwit.org>.

### Michigan Agri-Women "tells it like it is"

*By Sharon Schmuhl, President*

The Michigan Agri-Women affiliate has been actively working on the labor situation regarding the latest activity by our government and border patrol. We can report at this time and in our state that we have more labor and less problems this year than last. That is the report from the southwest area of the state, which has the most labor-intensive crops.

Our Michigan Senators have not been up to speed on this issue, but with outside influences in Washington, DC, and elsewhere, they're getting there! It is sad to have the crops and not have the help.

Other issues are the high cost of inputs this year, fuel topping that list. Michigan is on the bandwagon for fuel efficiency and have alternative energy plants in progress and some that are up and running. This is good for the grain growers of Michigan.

Michigan Agri-Women hosted the information booth and the Glad-Peach Festival again this year. This festival draws a lot of interest from the Chicago area and gives us a chance to tell the story of agriculture and to sell peaches. It is a money-maker for our organization. Those affiliates that do festivals know that this endeavor takes a lot of time and work from the members to make a go if it.

We are now making plans to attend the AAW convention in San Antonio in November.

### New Mexico wool promoted

*By Joan Kincaid, President, New Mexico Woolgrowers Auxiliary*

#### Question:

What do you get when you have energetic, patriotic women working hard throughout New Mexico promoting the good qualities of lamb and wool?

#### Answer:

The New Mexico Woolgrowers Auxiliary!

Our organization is made up of individuals who share their valuable knowledge of New Mexico's diverse agricultural heritage.

The Auxiliary helps financially with Lead Classes through our state, the Zia Classic which showcases the outstanding wool breed lambs at the State Fair, New Mexico State University's wool judging team, and the 4-H Foundation, where we give a scholarship to a deserving incoming freshman at NMSU. This year we also donated wool wax creme to a New Mexico soldier and his fellow troop members serving our country in Iraq.

We sponsor the Sheep to Shawl exhibit at the State Fair each year. Here, along with the Los Aranas Spinning and Weaving Guild, sheep are shorn and the fleece is dyed, spun into yarn, and woven into a finished product.

We give Range magazines to colleges and universities throughout New Mexico.

The New Mexico agriculture community has an Ag Fest in Santa Fe for the state legislators each year, and a Capitol Ag Dinner for the Governor, legislators, and their staff. Our New Mexico lamb is always the crowd favorite!

Nationally the New Mexico Woolgrowers Auxiliary helps sponsor the Make It With Wool contest.

We are also members of the American Land Rights Foundation.

# Oregon Women for Agriculture participates in Literacy Event

By Tami Kerr, Education Chair, OWA

“My students loved the presentation! It was an awesome way to kick off our plant unit,” wrote Jill McAllister, an appreciative and enthusiastic Salem teacher. McAllister was talking about a presentation by Sandra Norman, Oregon Women for Agriculture member and volunteer with the Agriculture in the Classroom (AIRC) Literacy Event. Norman and over 130 volunteers from around the state donated their time to read to students in kindergarten through third grade classrooms.

Accolades like McAllister’s have been flooding the office of Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation, the organizer of the agriculture literacy project. This is the first year the event has been held and over 7,300 children around the state participated. Volunteers for the project went to classrooms, read to students, and did a plant science activity.

The book that launched the literacy project was *Oh Say Can You Seed? All About Flowering Plants*. This book is part of the Cat in the Hat Learning Library. It uses the familiar characters of Cat in the Hat, Thing One and Thing Two and the boy and girl from the original Dr. Seuss story to tell children how seeds germinate, grow, flower and produce fruits and vegetables. The book illustrates in simple and easy to understand language the marvelous role plants play in our world.

Volunteers from agriculture groups such as Oregon Women for Agriculture, FFA high school students, 4-H Ambassadors, Master Gardeners, Sigma Alpha, Collegiate 4-H, and agriculture producers played a vital role in the success of this project. They were all enthusiastic to spread their love of reading and agriculture to Oregon’s young learners.

Oregon’s AIRC Executive Director, Tami Kerr, feels this year’s success was due to a combination of a good book and great volunteers. “First, the Oregon Association of Nurseries and the



Agri-Business Council of Oregon stepped up and provided the funds to make this event happen. Then we had a huge outpouring of interest from Oregon Women for Agriculture and other agriculture groups whose members volunteered their time and talents. They have been instrumental in the success of the literacy project and our program as a whole. We couldn’t do it without them.”

**OWA member Kristi Miller read *Oh Say Can You Seed? All About Flowering Plants* at Adams Elementary in Corvallis, Oregon, then helped the kids make a “living necklace.” Directions are on the AAW web site.**

## Thank You to our Corporate Sponsors!

### Platinum

CCI Marketing  
Syngenta Corporation

### Gold

Monsanto  
Nationwide Agribusiness  
New Holland

### Silver

American Council of Life Insurers  
American Petroleum Institute  
American Sugar Alliance  
Carnival Cruiseline  
Council for Biotechnology  
Bayer Crop Science  
Crop Life America  
Deere & Company  
Farm Credit Council  
Frontier Farm Credit  
J. R. Simplot Company  
The Fertilizer Institute

### Bronze

Americans for Secure Retirement  
Ass’n of Equipment Manufacturers

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.



**American Agri-Women**  
11425 Pedee Creek Rd  
Monmouth OR 97361

**FIRST-CLASS MAIL**  
**AUTO**  
U.S. Postage Paid  
TOPEKA, KS  
Permit No. 9

(P) (F).

**Not too late to head for San Antonio for the AAW Convention in November! See inside this newsletter or the AAW web site for 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**

## **Tim Findley, Investigative Reporter, is AAW's convention keynote speaker**

Tim Findley made a name for himself during the most liberal decade in the nation's most liberal metropolis. He was the leftist journalist covering the Left. He is a 25-year veteran of the media industry who wrote for the San Francisco Chronicle — he broke the stories on Patty Hearst while working there. Rolling Stone, UPI, KPIX-TV and KGO-TV also grace his resumé. In reality, he was never that far above the underground press and antiestablishment politics he reported on.

Back then he operated out of San Francisco. Now headquarters is Fallon, Nevada, and he's covering issues dear to America's rural people as a mainstay writer for *Range Magazine*. Now he fights urban media bias with good independent journalism. Now

he tells the stories of these people . . . cattlemen, ranchers, farmers.

As America's rural citizens face pressure from government bureaucrats to stop grazing their animals or severely restrict their water usage — or to simply go away — most urban dwellers remain oblivious due to an almost universal black-out of news coverage. That is where Tim Findley comes into the picture. He has helped unveil some of the more intriguing political and economic trends that face us today. His 2003 report, "This Land is OUR Land: Untamed Nature and the Removal of Humans," exposed the Wildlands Project for what it is: an attempt to rid nature of all human presence.

You won't want to miss him speaking Thursday evening!

## **American Agri-Women Calendar of Events**

- October 1 Officer and Committee Annual Reports Due
- Nov. 8-10 AAW Convention, San Antonio, Texas
- Nov. 21-28 National Farm City Week

### **AAW Web site**

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

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

Phone: 740-893-2624

Fax: 740-893-4003

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).