

American Agri-Women 2009 Annual Report



We can do it together!

Salem, Oregon
Marcie Williams, President
Cheryl Day, Secretary

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American Agri-Women

Annual Meeting
Salem, OR
November 11-14, 2009

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Foremost Farms USA
Fur Commission USA
Idaho Agri-Women
Idaho Women in Timber
Illinois Agri-Women
Kansas Agri-Women
Kansas Cattle Women
Kansas Sheep Auxiliary
Lake States Women in Timber
Maine Agri-Women
Michigan Agri-Women
Michigan Peach Sponsors
Minnesota Agri-Women
Missouri Agri-Women
Missouri Cattle Women
Montana Agri-Women
Montana Women in Timber
National Shorthorn Lassie Association
Nebraska Agri-Women
New Mexico Cow Belles
New Mexico Wool Growers Auxiliary
New York State Vegetable Growers Association
North Dakota Agri-Women
North Dakota Cattle Women
Ohio Agri-Women
Oklahoma Women for Agriculture
Oregon Women for Agriculture
Oregon Women in Timber
Penn's Agri-Women
Salers Belles
Sigma Alpha National Alumni Association
Sigma Alpha Sorority
Texas Agri-Women
Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers Auxiliary
Texas Produce Association
Texas Vegetable Association
United Agri-business League
Washington State Dairy Women
Washington Women for Agriculture
Wisconsin Women for Agriculture
Women in Kansas Agricultural Aviation Association
Women of National Agricultural Aviation Association

What a wonderful and fulfilling two years have just passed as I wind down my term as President of American Agri-Women. The many challenges and on going opportunities that have been offered to AAW show that our organization is definitely on the path of the future.

We have gained new affiliates, new partners and are trying new adventures. Helping to sponsor a new Trade Show with a long time sponsor of AAW, American Equipment Manufacturers is a wonderful opportunity to have American Agri-Women seen by women from across the country and even across the seas. Our partnership with RFD-TV and Risk Management will allow AAW to show up in your own living room, highlighting some of our own members in the work they do.

Look at our own neighbors, our Canadian friends that have assisted on our convention panels for the last few years, and attended our Syngenta Leadership at it's Best program this year. They have now joined AAW as members. Our networking is branching out in all directions.

I can't express in just a few lines how much the members of AAW have helped me these past two years. When I asked for someone to stand in for secretary, there was no hesitation. When a new editor of the Voice was needed someone jumped at the opportunity and has made giant strides in putting out a quality newsletter for us. Our press releases are being read by more and more women across the country because of the work our VP of Communications has done in reaching out for support.

American Agri-Women is now at the top of many school's list for scholarships for their students interested in agricultural studies. The Resource Center had more applications than ever this year.

I have tried to promote AAW to the best of my ability when I attended the U.S. Census meeting for Community Based Organizations and the World Agriculture Forum. Both meetings were new opportunities to tell others about American Agri-Women and what we do. To have such organizers invite AAW to participate was an honor.

Each and every one of you should be proud of our accomplishments. We were the first adult group to be invited to the White House to tour the First Lady's vegetable garden. Our AAW cookbook now rests in the kitchen of the White House with Chef Sam Kass. Who would have ever believed we could accomplish that?

Our past has been fulfilling; our present is exciting; our future may be a little daunting as we move forward with new ideas and try new opportunities to reach consumers with social media networking.

I have enjoyed my term as president of American Agri-Women. I hope I have led you in the direction you wanted to go, shown you opportunities you might not have known about and allowed you all to grow in ways you might not have tried before. It has been you, the members of AAW that have helped me achieve a dream I had. I can't begin to name all of you that have guided me, mentored me, encouraged me and pushed me along the way. You will have my undying gratitude forever.

The success of AAW is now in the competent hands of our new president and you all must now give her the same willing hands you gave me. Thank you all for being my friends and my sisters. Together we accomplished much more than we would have by ourselves.



American Agri-Women

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Annual Report – First Vice-President

Membership: President Marcie Williams has given me the opportunity to chair the Membership Committee this year. Membership in AAW continues to increase, and 15 state affiliates will receive certificates at the Annual Meeting in recognition of their new members. In addition, we have new members from 8 states without a state affiliate as well as Ontario, Canada and Europe. American National CattleWomen and CERES collegiate national women's fraternity affiliated with AAW this year, and we welcome ANCW and CERES to AAW! Kentucky Women in Agriculture and Iowa Women in Agriculture were also represented at Mid-Year meeting and are considering affiliation. In addition, individual AAW members will be receive awards for their efforts in recruiting new members.

With several new members from Colorado, we are planning an organizational meeting for a Colorado state affiliate early in 2010. We have several organizations interested in affiliating with American Agri-Women, including women in agriculture groups which have formed in Iowa and Kentucky, as well as national organizations.

Membership Services: We continue to work to provide services for our members, with resources added to the web site, including member advantages such as discounts on purchases. Please explore the website – there are areas of the website with resources for members to use that go very deep – especially education, with all the links to agricultural resources. This is something we will continue to add to as much as possible – adding toolkits to help members in their businesses and in their work on behalf of agriculture. Part of our grant from USDA (see below) provides for adding more resources to the website for farm and ranch women, to assist them in managing their agricultural operations.

As we reach out to potential new members and affiliate organizations and work to establish affiliates in other areas of the country, we need to illustrate to them the many benefits of belonging to American Agri-Women. These membership services are important in providing value to their membership.

Membership Outreach: We have been very busy working on the American Agri-Women television show, made possible through a \$175,000 grant from USDA. This grant has provided for AAW to produce a half hour television program for farm and ranch women, which will air on RFD-TV on satellite and cable. This is a great way for us to reach AAW members

and potential members and provide useful tools and resources for them. Thanks to all the AAW members and supporters who have been part of the filming of this series.

Membership outreach has included exhibiting at the FFA Convention, which I attended this year with President Marcie Williams.

American Grown Goodness: Wanda Kinney worked with HyVee grocery stores this year to pilot a program of promoting AGG through HyVee. Other affiliates and chapters are also working with food retailers to promote the program and use our "green" AGG bag.

The USDA grant has provided funding for us to develop outreach databases of grocery manufacturers and other agribusinesses to reach out to concerning the AGG program. I encourage all AAW members to inform others who might be interested in using the AGG logo to inform them about the program and direct them to the AAW website. We will also have the AGG video as well as all the AAW television show video, promoting the American Grown Goodness program, available from the AAW website and YouTube.

In addition, we produced some commodity identification signs for fields this year - to identify growing crops for the public.

Legislation/Fly-In: We had a great Fly-In this year - thanks to all those who participated. Highlights included meeting with USDA Deputy Secretary Merrigan; the new EPA agricultural advisor to the administrator during his first week on the job; and visiting the White House and USDA organic gardens.

AAW worked on numerous legislative issues this year including climate change; immigration reform; energy legislation; horse transportation; retirement annuities; and animal rights legislation (i.e. Ohio's ballot initiative).

Through a new electronic system, we were able to deliver Fly-In invitations and our positions to multiple staff members in each congressional office as well as the scheduler for the Member, which led to a record in attendance by Senators and Congressmen at our congressional reception.

A huge step forward was the ability to add a grassroots feature to the AAW website that allows members to go to the website and from there send letters to their Members of Congress regarding issues of importance to agriculture.

Our Fly-In and Legislative efforts, combined with ever-increasing fundraising efforts, have resulted in more contributions for Fly-In. I was able to attend meetings in Washington for Farm Journal Forum and the USDA Outlook Conference, with Marcie and Yvonne, that gave us the opportunity to both make contacts at the meetings and also to make specific visits to seek out additional sponsors for the Fly-In.

American AgriWomen
Education Report
November 2009

The year has flown by. I can't believe that the weather has cooled and it seems like fall, even in California.

The year began with a complete makeover of the AAW Activity Book. Now I am working on the Answer Guide. Please take a moment this winter and review the book online if you find something that needs correcting please advise me so corrections can be made. Working together is what makes AAW so special.

I traveled to St Louis, MO in June to represent AAW at the National Ag in the Classroom annual meeting. Enjoyed the fellowship of other educators who understand the importance of agriculture. Not only did AAW show up but we were able to get in front of EVERYONE on two occasions!!! I took San Francisco Sourdough bread for a raffle prizes for everyone that came by the booth the first day as it was Italian Night!!! The energy was awesome!!! Then I handed out the "I Love Farmers – They Feed My Soul" tattoos. It was great to see everyone sporting the tattoos on the tour day around St Louis. We had 6 new members PAY DUES at the Conference!!! Was it the organization or the ILF clothing? Doesn't matter, WE ARE GROWING!!!

In the spring I made a trip down to visit with the Sigma Alpha Chapter in San Luis Obispo and am making the rounds to the rest of California Chapters this fall going to Fresno State by the time you read this with UC Davis and Chico State to happen soon. It is so important to keep then young women involved and engaged. THEY ARE OUR FUTURE!!!

I am happy to report that we had over 60 scholarship applications for our scholarships. I am going to make it a focus to get more money to be able to give out more scholarships.

I am presenting to our Executive Board that we send each applicant a year of the VOICE to engage them.

In August I attended the Minnesota State Fair for Consumer education while the days were long I learned just how far from the farm people are. We continue to promote our American Grown Goodness label. This is so important that you look to see where your food is grown. Remember that we vote, say it is ok, with our \$\$\$.

A February Networking event will be taking place in California, we will be starting in the North part of the state and traveling South. Date will be announced soon.



American Agri-Women

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Association

Report from Arlene Kovash, Vice President of Communications:

It has been a privilege to serve American Agri-Women as Vice President of Communications for the past two years. I feel like we got several goals accomplished and are ready to go forward from here.

What I've done as VP:

- Wrote many press releases, with the goal (unreached) of writing one every two weeks. One big accomplishment was being picked up by Warren Clark, CCI Marketing, who helped greatly with distributing our press releases, which ultimately got printed in several national magazines and newsletters and papers. He had wonderful advice on what I needed to do to get maximum publicity for AAW, which made me look really good! And all this he did as a donation, which was greatly appreciated!
- I also arranged for interviews when requested. This is an area that could be expanded, but going out and soliciting the interviews.
- One job was to record the Fly-In Symposium. Each year the technology gets better. This year I used FreeConferenceCall.com to record through the system at the USDA building, and they provided a free RSS feed to put on our website.
- I'm finally getting up to speed with Facebook and Twitter, which Warren Clark helped me with. I put shortened versions of our press releases on Facebook, which then automatically put them on Twitter. We could also break down the press releases and keep putting parts on Facebook afterward. I've also put snippets of them on Twitter and, also tweets supporting the people we partner with.
- As VP of communications, I am also responsible for giving any help I can to our newsletter editor and we've worked very well together on this.

With thanks to all who have helped me communicate the story of agriculture,



American Agri-Women

2010 Report Past President & Finance Chair

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The two major activities of the past president are to serve as finance (fundraiser) chair for AAW and coordinate the Fly-In Symposium. A special thanks goes to members who have provided contacts and suggestions resulting in acquiring some new donors and donor members. You also deserve accolades for your many hours in service to your chapter, affiliate and national work. That is the greatest wealth of AAW.

“A Conversation with the Secretaries” was the highlight of the Farm Journal Forum held in December 2008 in Washington, D.C. The historic gathering of six former Secretaries of Agriculture plus one on video spanned five administrations and 25 years of cabinet experience. Excellent networking opportunities opened some new doors for AAW while Chris Wilson and I attended this event.

Continuing to represent AAW on the Native Pollinators in Agriculture Project, I attended the 1st National Ag Pollinators Forum held in February in Washington, D.C. Again, donor visits were scheduled around this event and following the June Fly-In.

“Energy: The Power to be Affordable and Reliable” headlined the Sixteenth Annual AAW Agricultural Issues Symposium for Fly-In. Speakers from the U.S. Department of Energy, 25x 25 Alliance, National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, American Petroleum Institute, and Nuclear Energy Institute probed their scope and directives of the nation’s energy future.

Thank you for the trust and support you have provided these past six years of serving you through AAW. It has been humbling and an honor to represent this “force for truth” of passionate agricultural leaders working through chapter, affiliate, and national activities.

Yvonne



American Agri-Women

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Annual Report-Secretary

It has been an honor to serve as your secretary. I appreciate everyone for sending in directory updates and annual conference reports this past year. Please note important deadline dates for 2010: Annual Directory February 1; Annual Convention Reports October 1.

The list below outlines the changes to the 2009 AAW Directory. Due to the timing of affiliate's elections of officers some corrections were received after the printing deadline. I sincerely apologize to the Wisconsin Women for Agriculture, Peggy Clark, and Jody Elrod for my typing errors and appreciate all members for their understanding on this matter.

Page #	Corrections
9	Timber Ina Pluid 169 S Division St Moyle Springs, ID 83845 Phone: 208-267-2590 Fax: 208-267-9814
25	Maine Agri-Women Co-Presidents Judy Kenney email change: kenneyj@ainop.com Mary Anne Buck -contact info correct Vice President Sandra Durepo – contact info correct Recording Secretary Roberta LaBrie - contact info correct Corresponding Secretary Martha Lavertu 97 Lavoie Ave Madawaska, ME 04756 Phone: 207-728-4409 Email: marrogg44@mrfairpoint.net Treasurer Diana Hemphill 204 Rte 10 Presque Isle, ME 04769 Phone: 207-762-2761 Email: hemphlfarms@mfx.net
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39, 61	Rosemary Eckardt Email: roseeckardt@hotmail.com
39	Wisconsin Women for Agriculture Recording Secretary Eunice Guell N 2771 County Road K Fond Du Lac, WI 54935 Phone: 920-921-9370
37	Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Auxiliary President Carolyn Trimble 1178 KC 24 Junction, TX 76849
60	Peggy Clark Email: peggy@mikefarms.com

Dairy Report, Ardath DeWall
Foremost Farms USA

REFORMING NUTRITION FOR KIDS IN SCHOOLS

Children and teens need dairy products for health and nutrition.

Today's children are increasingly overweight and undernourished. We know that they are not consuming the recommended amounts of nutrient-rich foods; and that they are getting too many calories from foods and beverages that have little or no nutritional value. In fact, only 2 percent of children meet the recommended number of servings from the five food groups.

Nutrition standards should help children and teens get more nutrients from their calories.

Milk and milk products have long been an integral part of the school meal program, which is built on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. We recognize effective school nutrition standards can encourage the enjoyment of nutrient-rich foods such as milk, fruits and vegetables, and whole grains. If we expect our children and teens to consume the foods and beverages provided to them in school, we must focus on moderation and a balanced diet, as well as make sure they are nutritious and delicious.

Consumption of a wide variety of foods by children, taking care to balance caloric intake and nutrient consumption, is still the most effective way to achieve overall nutritional health. Nutrition guidelines for school meals are constructed to average meals over the course of a week. A similar approach can be effective for foods and beverages served in a la carte programs. Overly restrictive nutrition standards applied to individual foods may put nutrient rich foods such as yogurt cups and cheese sticks, out of reach of our children. That would be unfortunate since the Dietary Guidelines indicate that these types of products are among the "food groups to encourage." These nutritious products, along with the other food choices served as part of the school meals program should be included in the mix of healthy options available to children.

A variety of cheeses are required to meet the needs of food manufacturers who make the pizzas, quesadillas, pasta and many other dishes are served in

schools. The dairy industry has invested in extensive research and development of new ingredients and products that minimize added sugars, sodium, and allow for a variety of fat levels. A growing number of cheese varieties have been able to successfully reduce fat and sodium levels while retaining the good taste.

Decreasing obesity rates – milk is part of the solution.

Milk consumption among children and teens has been in decline for more than three decades. During this same time period, we have seen childhood obesity rates grow to epidemic proportions. Many of our children are living unhealthy lifestyles due to a diet filled with poor food choices and less physical activity. It appears milk and dairy products are a key part of the nutrition solution to that challenge.

The Dietary Guidelines recognize milk is a naturally nutrient-rich food, providing a unique nutrient package. Yet the older children get, the less milk they consume. Recent USDA research shows that 60 percent of preschool children meet their calcium intake recommendations, but only 13 percent of teenage girls meet the requirement.

Despite the unbeatable nutrition it offers, milk must compete with many other beverages in schools especially on the a la carte menu, in vending machines and school stores. Carbonated soft drinks have the largest market share of all beverages, accounting for nearly half of all advertising dollars, with sports drinks being the most heavily marketed of all beverages on a volume basis. As nutrition standards impact the availability of options in these venues, milk must be on a level playing field with other beverages. This means, for example, if sports or diet drinks are available through vending machines in larger container sizes, then milk, too, should be available in competitive sizes and flavors.

Flavored low-fat or fat-free milk is an excellent way to increase milk consumption among children and teens. According to a study in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association, children who drink flavored milk, drink more milk overall and are more likely to meet their calcium needs without consuming more total fat and calories as compared with their peers. In addition, those who consume flavored milk have higher total milk and calcium intakes yet do not have higher intakes of added sugars or total fat, or

have a higher body mass index (BMI) than children who do not consume flavored milk.

A recent report based on USDA data from the School Nutrition Dietary Assessment shows a significant shift in the types of milk consumed in schools from whole- and reduced-fat milk to low-fat or fat free milk. Three-quarters of students now select low-fat or fat-free. A major factor in this shift is the popularity of flavored milk. Approximately 90 percent of flavored milk sold in schools is low-fat or fat-free.

Consistent nutrition standards for all foods and beverages must be grounded in the Dietary Guidelines and emphasize nutrient richness.

The dairy industry is proud of its long history of efforts to help our children meet their nutritional needs through school-based food programs. We know that schools are places of learning and provide an outstanding environment where children can learn healthy nutritional habits that will serve them for the rest of their lives. That is why we support the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which recommends three daily servings of low-fat and fat-free milk and milk products as part of an overall healthful diet. The Dietary Guidelines should form the foundation of all school nutrition policy.

FOOD SAFETY REPORT
By Ruth Jensen, Chair
2009 AAW Food Safety Committee

According to the FDA - 2009 saw over 3900 food related recalls in the United States. Visit www.henrythehand.com for more information and resources on Food Safety.

What is food poisoning?

Food poisoning (also known as food-borne illness) occurs when you eat or drink something that contains harmful germs (bacteria, viruses or parasites). Sometimes bacteria produce a toxin in food and it's the toxin that causes the problem.

What are the symptoms of food poisoning?

Symptoms of food poisoning can begin hours to days after consuming the contaminated food or drink. Timing depends in part on the cause of the food poisoning and the amount of food or drink consumed. Symptoms may include:

- Abdominal pain
- Diarrhea
- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Weakness and fatigue

Food poisoning may affect just one person or a whole group of people exposed to the contaminated food or drink. It depends on how much of the germ or toxin each person consumed and how sensitive they are to it.

What foods are most likely to cause food poisoning?

Raw or undercooked meat or poultry, unpasteurized dairy products, raw shellfish, unwashed fruits and unwashed vegetables most commonly cause food poisoning.

Food poisoning is more common at picnics and buffets, where food (such as the mayonnaise in potato salad) is often left out of the refrigerator for a long time.

How do I avoid food poisoning?

You can take a few simple steps to avoid food poisoning:

- Wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly.
- Clean countertops, cutting boards, knives and utensils before exposing them to different food items.
- Wash your hands and utensils often.
- Don't put raw and cooked meats on the same plate.
- If knives have been used to cut up uncooked chicken, do not use them to cut up other ingredients that will not be cooked.
- Cook meat thoroughly. Use a meat thermometer if needed and make sure beef is cooked to at least 160°F, chicken and other poultry to 180°F and fish to 140°F.
- Don't use packaged food that has expired.
- Throw away food in bulging or dented cans.
- Refrigerate leftover food if it isn't going to be eaten within 4 hours.
- Don't eat wild mushrooms.
- Don't eat soft cheeses (especially imported) if you are pregnant or have a weak immune system.
- When traveling abroad, don't eat raw fruits or vegetables that haven't been washed in an antimicrobial rinse and avoid unfiltered (or unboiled) tap water.
- When at restaurants or social gatherings, avoid foods that have been left out of the refrigerator for long periods of time.

Q. What is E. Coli

A. *E. coli* is short for *Escherichia coli* -- a bacteria (germ) that causes severe cramps and diarrhea. *E. coli* is a leading cause of bloody diarrhea. The symptoms are worse in children and older people, and especially in people who have another illness. *E. coli* infection is more common during the summer months and in northern states.

Q. How do people get E.Coli?

A. The most common way to get this infection is by eating contaminated food. You can be infected with the *E. coli* germ if you don't use a high temperature to cook your beef, or if you don't cook it long enough. When you eat undercooked beef, the germs go into your stomach and intestines.

The germ can also be passed from person to person in day care centers and nursing homes. If you have this infection and don't wash your hands well with soap after going to the bathroom, you can give the germ to other people when you touch things, especially food.

People who are infected with *E. coli* are very contagious. Children shouldn't go to a day care center until they have 2 negative stool cultures (proof that the infection is gone). Older people in nursing homes should stay in bed until 2 stool cultures are negative.

Q. What is salmonellosis?

A. Salmonellosis is an infection caused by the bacteria *Salmonella*. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), salmonellosis causes an estimated 1.4 million cases of foodborne illness and more than 500 deaths annually in the United States. The *Salmonella* family includes over 2,300 serotypes of bacteria which are one-celled organisms too small to be seen without a microscope. Two types, *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium are the most common in the United States and account for half of all human infections. Strains that cause no symptoms in animals can make people sick, and vice versa. If present in food, it does not usually affect the taste, smell, or appearance of the food. The bacteria live in the intestinal tracts of infected animals and humans.

Q. How do people get salmonellosis?

A. *Salmonella* lives in the intestinal track of humans and other animals, including birds. *Salmonella* is usually transmitted to humans by eating foods contaminated with animal feces. *Salmonella* present on raw meat and poultry could survive if the product is not cooked to a safe minimum internal temperature, as measured with a food thermometer.

Salmonella can also cause foodborne illness (salmonellosis) through cross-contamination, e.g., when juices from raw meat or poultry come in contact with ready-to-eat foods, such as salads.

Food may also become contaminated by the unwashed hands of an infected food handler. *Salmonella* can also be found in the feces of some pets, especially those with diarrhea. People can become infected if they do not wash their hands after contact with these feces. Reptiles are particularly likely to harbor *Salmonella*. People should always wash their hands immediately after handling a reptile, even if the reptile is healthy.



Thank You
for washing your hands
upon entering our facility!

Henry the Hand's 4 Principles of Hand Awareness:

1. **WASH** your hands when they are dirty and **BEFORE** eating.
2. **DO NOT** cough into your hands.
3. **DO NOT** sneeze into your hands.
4. Above all, **DO NOT** put your fingers in your eyes, nose or mouth!

www.henrythehand.com

Dr. William P. Sawyer ®
The 4 Principles of Hand Awareness have been endorsed by the AMA & AAFP

American AgriWomen

Fruits Vegetables and Specialty Crops Report

By Colby Willoughby

October 4, 2009

Summer Acreage Down Slightly

This summer (largely July-September), area for harvest of 12 selected fresh-market vegetables (including nonstorage bulb onions) is forecast to decline 1 percent from a year ago to 282,800 acres. Increased area for snap beans, carrots, and sweet corn was more than offset by reductions for head lettuce, cauliflower, and summer nonstorage onions. Reduced summer area follows declines in both the winter (down 5 percent) and spring (down 4 percent) vegetable seasons. While summer acreage was only down slightly, the cool weather which has persisted in many areas has slowed crop maturity but has generally been beneficial for quality and yields. Assuming average weather, shipping-point prices for fresh-market vegetables (which rose 8 percent last summer), are currently expected to average 2 to 7 percent below a year earlier during the 2009 summer quarter.

Vegetables and Melons Outlook

With a record-large processing tomato crop anticipated and assuming yields for other processing vegetables at least match the average of the past 3 years, output of the five leading processing vegetables could approach the 1999 record high of 19.2 million short tons – about a tenth above last year's strong production. As a result, some easing of processed vegetable wholesale prices is anticipated this fall. In July, wholesale prices for canned vegetables (including juices) were running 13 percent above a year ago, while frozen vegetables were selling for 14 percent more.

The 2009 fall potato crop is expected to remain near the 376 million hundredweight (cwt) of a year earlier. Although supplies will likely tighten going into next year, prices received by U.S. potato growers are expected to average below a year earlier during the 2009/10 season. In 2008/09, the preliminary nominal dollar marketing year average price for all potatoes was a record high \$9.46 per cwt – up 26 percent from the prior year.

Despite prospects for reduced dry bean supplies in the year ahead, continued sluggish foodservice demand, potentially slower export movement, and a general easing of field crop prices will likely place downward pressure on dry bean prices in 2010. Assuming favorable weather, prices for most classes of dry beans are expected to average below the very strong levels of 2008/09.

The weak economy, sluggish foodservice demand, and overall lower discretionary spending has led to declining harvested acreage and stocks of fresh and dried herbs and spices. Economic Research Service estimates that 80,000 acres of herbs and spices will be grown in 2010, a 27-percent decline from the previous year.

This summer, area for harvest of the three leading melon crops was estimated to be 87,900 acres – slightly less than a year earlier. Area is expected to be down for watermelon and honeydews but a bit higher for cantaloupe.

According to USDA estimates, projected harvested area for dry peas is down 1 percent from a year earlier, while lentil harvested area is expected to jump 52 percent. Although carryover stocks are low and export demand good, dry pea and lentil prices are expected to average below their 2008/09 levels.

Mushrooms: Intended agaricus bed and tray production area for the 2009/10 season is forecast to rise slightly from a year earlier to 135 million square feet. Assuming average yields, 2009/10 mushroom output could also increase slightly.

Quantity of Grapes to be Crushed for Wine up Slightly

In light of the forecast higher wine grape production in California and Washington, total grapes crushed for wine in the United States is anticipated to increase in 2009/10, likely putting downward pressure on overall grower prices for grapes sold to wineries this season.

Fruit and Tree Nuts Outlook

The index of prices received by fruit and tree nut growers slipped 7 percent between July and August. Driving down the index from the previous month were grower price declines for fresh-market grapes and pears. The lower prices for fresh-market grapes and pears, along with those for fresh-market apples, strawberries, and lemons were behind the weak August 2009 grower price index relative to the same time last year. Table grape supplies were in abundance in August as harvest in California was well underway.

In August, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Services' (NASS) initial forecast for the 2009 U.S. apple crop was set at 10.1 billion pounds, up 4 percent from last year and the biggest crop of the last 4 years. Pear crop was forecasted to be 1.87 billion pounds, 7 percent larger than in 2008 and bigger than any crop since 2001. The 2009 U.S. grape crop is forecast by NASS at 14.1 billion pounds, 4 percent smaller than a year ago. NASS forecast this year's U.S. cranberry crop to total 709 million pounds, 10 percent below the record crop in 2008. NASS has released its first estimate for the 2009/10 CA navel orange crop, forecasting production at 1.5 million tons, 16 percent higher than last season's crop estimate of 1.3 million tons.

California's 2009 Walnut crop is forecasted down from last year at 415,000 tons, down 5 percent from last year's record crop of 436,000 tons. The preliminary forecast for Oregon's 2009 hazelnut crop is 38,000 tons, 19 percent higher than last year and 3 percent higher than in 2007.
March 27, 2009

Domestic Raisin Production Likely to Decline

Following two back-to-back bumper crops, the California raisin grape crop for the 2009/10 season is forecast to be down 16 percent, strongly suggesting a decline in U.S. raisin production. This season will be the second year of the three-year agreement between the Raisin Bargaining Association and the region's packers for a minimum price growers were to receive for their grapes. **September 29, 2009**

Ample Supplies Boost Exports of U.S. Cherries

Despite a slow start to this year's U.S. cherry export season, export volume in 2009 through July were up 39 percent from the same time last year, reflecting strong shipments in June and July. Quality of this year's crop was reported as very good, in general, thus aiding demand. More than 60 percent of the shipments went to Canada and Japan.

GRAINS REPORT

2009 Annual Convention

ARLENE NOVAK, CHAIR

How many of you know that an amount is withheld from each bushel of wheat (and many other commodities) producers sell? The amount withheld is called a check-off, check-off dollars, or check-off assessment.

When a producer delivers his sold wheat to an elevator in Minnesota (or grain storage facility), a non-refundable amount of \$.01 per bushel is withheld from the producer's payment. The check-off dollars are sent monthly from the elevator to the Minnesota Wheat Research and Promotion Council (Minnesota Wheat Council) where a majority of the funds received are used to develop new wheat varieties, improve production, find new uses, and help promote wheat exports and domestic uses of wheat. Check-off assessments are also withheld from Farm Service Agency loans at the time the producer takes the loan on wheat. A portion of Minnesota's check-off dollars are sent to the U.S. Wheat Associates.

U.S. Wheat Associates, the industry's export market development organization, supplies training and information to customers in more than 90 countries on behalf of America's wheat producers, supporting the use of all U.S. wheat classes. The activities of U.S. Wheat Associates are made possible by producer check-off dollars managed by 18 state wheat commissions and through cost-share funding provided by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. According to the 2008 and 2009 annual audit of Minnesota Wheat Council, ending June 30 of each year, the portion of Minnesota's check-off dollars sent to the U.S. Wheat Associates headquarters in Arlington, Virginia was \$227,590 for 2008 and \$230,670 for 2009.

An example of the use of Minnesota's check-off dollars is the development of Sabin, a new variety of medium-maturity hard red spring wheat, the latest wheat variety released by the University of Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station. The introduction of Sabin closely follows the release of two other hard red spring wheat varieties— RB07 in 2007 and Tom in 2008. All three releases were funded in part by Minnesota producers through their wheat check-off dollars. Both releases are distributed through Minnesota Crop Improvement Association members.

Expanding research and development is necessary to develop higher yielding varieties, funding improved production methods, and ultimately keeping wheat a viable crop, not only in Minnesota, but throughout the United States.

Although this article used Minnesota Wheat Council's check-off program as an example of how producers selling their crop in Minnesota benefit by their contribution to this program, but the other 17 states that are also part of U.S. Wheat Associates have similar programs. To quote from a fellow producer, "Why do we grow the product, nurture it to maturity and not follow it through to the end, the consumer! In all other businesses the promotion is what sells the product, and if we didn't have the check-off to do this, we wouldn't do it ourselves."

Go to www.uswheat.org/links , to bring you to a listing of the member states, but this site also has a wealth of information on wheat, resources, media, and much, much more.

Natural Resources Report

This is the information that I wish to share with our members as a report. The University of Nevada in Reno has taken on the Walker River Basin Project and is currently purchasing water rights in our basin. They in turn are turning it over to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. This group works the Department of Interior to make it all look valid. The whole project has been moving forward intensely for the past eight years. It is very difficult for our irrigation district to dispute this science as you can see in the program for the symposium. The \$200 million dollars for the project was originally taken from the 2002 Farm Bill. We were able to insert wording to exclude the purchase and leasing of water rights, but Senator Reid was able to change the law when he added it to the Energy Bill. I have spoken to several members of the Department of the Interior and they are aware of our comments through the Environmental Impact Statement process. It is amazing to me to see how they can steal our water legally. Our system is interrelated and if they purchase one third of the water, then the other two thirds will collapse. This has been an extremely complex process and I don't know what will happen. The state engineer has written a letter to the editor of our newspaper explaining the state's position on the purchase of water rights and then that has to go to the Federal Judge. That is a very simple explanation of our water problems.

Jacquie Compston

Natural Resource Coordinator

AAW 2009 LAND USE REPORT

In July of this year, two of the nation's preeminent property rights organizations merged to become "American Stewards of Liberty." The new association combines the memberships of Stewards of the Range and American Land Foundation, creating a powerful force of property rights and liberty in America.

The Clean Water Restoration Act, passed out of the Senate Environment Committee, may be the most dangerous land use control bill Americans have had to face. S787 increases federal regulatory power broader than it has ever been and far beyond where it was ever intended by the drafters of the Constitution.

Over 300 Colorado Landowners in Colorado signed Conservation Easements, doing everything by the book, guided by Land Trusts and attorneys alike. Now they face IRS back taxes and penalties and the real threat of losing their land.

While the result of zoning is to regulate, restrict and prohibit land use, thus diminishing the private property rights of owners, Smart Growth is taking zoning to a new level, violating the substantive due process rights of the landowner.

Denver, Colorado will be the site for the annual property rights convention, Call America 2009 – Coordinating America's Local Leaders. This will be the fourth year the conference focuses on training local leaders how to use the coordination process to protect the local economy and property rights. The conference takes place Nov. 5-7.

The first leg of the NAFTA Superhighway, Trans-Texas Corridor, is at a standstill after the transportation department failed to win any new legislative proposals in the 2009 Texas Legislature, including failing to find a way around coordination with the 391 local government Commissions. The Eastern Central Texas Commission has petitioned the Federal Highway Administration to reject the environmental study on the quarter-of-a-mile superhighway corridors.

Landowners and local governments across the nation are beginning to recognize what a key role the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) can play in protecting productive use, the local economy and the safety and welfare of the citizens, primarily through the coordination process. Every federal agency must comply with this law whenever they take any major federal action giving America's landowners, who recognize the intent of the Act, an opportunity to once again find protection.

Respectfully submitted

Eleanor Zimmerlein, Land Use Chair

Water Resource News

Fall 2009



Volume 2, Issue 2

Endangered Smelt Curtails Water Supply to California Delta

As a result of 2006 lawsuit filed by the Natural Resources Defense Council and environmental activists groups, farmers in the San Joaquin Valley are not producing agriculture products due to lack of water in Delta. Radical environmentalists demanded for the pumps to be shut off to protect a small minnow-smelt. Protectors of the Smelt claim the small minnow can be sucked into the pumps that distribute water to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This lawsuit has sparked a series of bad decisions that has resulted in awful consequences for agriculture producers and the general public.

In March 2006, The Center for Biological Diversity, Bay Institute, and Natural Resources Defense Council jointly petitioned to have the smelt declared an endangered species. After the Federal Government failed to respond within the 90 day window, the Council for Endangered Species Act Reliability (CESAR) - a nonprofit public interest group— filed suit on behalf of the smelt with the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California. CESAR declares that the current actions of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service have inadequately protected the species from vanishing.

On December 2008, U.S. District Judge Oliver Wanger ordered curtailing the pumping of water that supplies the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. San Joaquin Valley water agencies challenged the ruling. As a result Wanger in May 2009 agreed the original restrictions on pumping needs to be revisited. The water agencies' compelling argument that people are being harmed by unreasonable concern over the welfare of a fish. Wanger instructed the federal authorities to calculate the effect that reduced water supply will have on Californians dependent on the delta for

Continued on page 4

Kansas and Colorado end Arkansas River Case

TOPEKA, Kan. — Kansas and Colorado announced they've ended a long-running lawsuit over the Arkansas River.

The two states filed an agreement with the U.S. Supreme Court to resolve the final technical issues about monitoring Colorado's use of water from the river. The agreement is designed to prevent the river's depletion as it flows into southwest Kansas.

Disputes over the river date back more than a century, and Kansas sued Colorado in 1985, claiming Colorado was improperly diverting millions of gallons of water. The Supreme Court ruled a decade later that groundwater pumping took water rightfully belonging to Kansas, and Colorado paid its neighbor more than \$34 mil-

lion in damages.

The lawsuit continued because of other issues, including the monitoring of water use, and in March, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decree spelling out how future disputes would be resolved. The agreement filed recently was the last step toward closing the case.

Kansas Attorney General Steve Six said the agreement should avoid litigation and save both states money. David Barfield, Kansas' chief water official, said the two states are working better together than in the past but acknowledged continued monitoring of Colorado's water use — and development in that state — make future conflict possible.

Source: U.S. Water News Online

Continued on page 3

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Water Resources Legislation Out of Balance in Washington, D.C.

A numerous of legislative and policy proposals being considered on the National level. Two clear objectives have surfaced:

1. Expanded Federal control over water resources
2. The primacy of environmental considerations at the expense of economic and human uses.

Here is a summary of proposals currently on the table:

Track Federal Legislation

<http://thomas.loc.gov>

Sustainable Watershed Planning Act has been drafted to create a White House water resources "czar", a new water resources council and over all Federally dominated regional watershed planning board. Economic well-being is not even recognized as an objective. Under the drafted act, all water resources decisions should be based on increasing water efficiency, improving water quality, and improving ecological health.

Clean Water Restoration Act (CWRA) is back on the table. Senator Russell Feingold (WI) reintroduced S.787, amending the CWRA. The proposed legis-

lation would delete the work "navigable" from Clean Water Act (CWA). The simple word change could have hefty repercussion for agriculture. Senate Bill 787 expands federal authority beyond waterways. Language changes to the CWA gives federal agencies an open license to rewrite rules. S. 787 remains in committee.

The American Clean Energy And Security Act of 2009, H.R. 2454 requires Federal agencies to develop and implement climate adaptation plans. The goal of the drafted bill is "to use all practicable means and measures to protect, restore, and conserve natural resources..." The proposed legislation would require agencies like the U.S. EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineer to consider the impacts of climate change on natural resources in every decision made by the agencies. H.R. 2454 passed the U.S. House on June 26, 2009.

The National Transportation Act of 2009, H.R. 2355, would establish a "National Goods Movement Improvement fund" to provide funding for infrastructures projects, designed to improve the movement of goods, mitigate environmental damage caused by the movement of goods, and enhance the security of transported goods. The proposed legislation would redirect the use of, and more than triple the harbor maintenance tax to fund projects near the ports of facilities. This could cause an adverse reaction form the World Trade Organization. H.R. 2355 has been referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

FEMA map modernization, Levee inspections, and certifications: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has begun enforcing its 1995 criteria for periodic inspections of levees., resulting in decertification of may miles of levees. In addition, FEMA is going ahead with its map

modernization program which is producing new digital flood insurance rate maps.

Lock Usage Fees: President Obama's administration has sent a legislative proposal to the Congress recommending that a lock usage fee be enacted to replace the current fuel tax an correct funding shortfalls in the Inland Waterway Trust Fund. The proposed legislation would institute lock use fees; replace, over time, the fuel tax; permit the Secretary of the Corps to make periodic adjustments to the lock usage fee amounts; and expand lock fees to current non-taxed waterways.

FEMA issued a unilateral policy in February stating it would withhold financial support for expenses incurred by levee and drainage districts in fighting and recovering from future catastrophic flooding. The new policy -- implemented without public input -- eliminates reimbursement for flood fighting, dewatering, debris removal and other emergency work incurred by levee and drainage districts in the course of defending residents and their property during flood events. It specifically affects federal levees managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Despite promises that the policy would be revised, it remains in effect
Source: National Waterways Conference
###

House approves funds for Illinois, Mississippi River Projects for fiscal year 2010, Energy and Water Development Act. Lawmakers voted 308-114 to provide \$33.5 billion for programs including renewable energy research, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water projects, nuclear weapons safety and security, and environmental cleanup.

The proposed legislation contains funding for the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program, money to design the modernization of the locks on the rivers, and the Upper Mississippi River Comprehensive Plan.
Source: Illinois FarmWeek

Biofuels Unravel Efforts to Shrink Gulf Dead Zone

By Steve Baragona, Voanews.com
Washington, DC— Every growing season, excess nitrogen fertilizer running off croplands in the American Midwest washes into the Mississippi River, and from there, into the Gulf of Mexico. It triggers a biological chain reaction that strips the water of oxygen, killing fish, shrimp, crabs, and other sea life. The dead zone in the Gulf each year grows to about 15,000 square kilometers. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants to shrink it by two-thirds over the next six years.

But the U.S. Congress might have made that goal harder to achieve. In a bid to reduce dependence on foreign oil, Congress passed a law requiring refiners to include more and more biofuels in their gasoline each year, reaching 140 billion liters by 2022. Mike Griffin, a biologist at Carnegie Mellon University, says if farmers grew enough corn and other biofuel crops to meet that target, "Nitrogen loading would actually increase, and we would certainly not be able to meet the goals of the EPA."

Griffin says that Congress's

goal of increasing energy independence is obviously at cross purposes with the EPA's goal of shrinking the Gulf of Mexico dead zone, a condition scientists call hypoxia.

"We certainly need to get the people that are doing the hypoxia mitigation strategies and the biofuels strategies together, so that if we are going to go down the road of increasing biofuels that we take these indirect effects of that production into account," he says.

But Griffin says the problem is not just biofuels. He and his colleagues also considered how much nitrogen fertilizer will be used to raise crops to meet growing food demands.

"If we did no biofuels, and we just allowed for food production to increase," he says, "you still can't meet the hypoxia goals in the Gulf of Mexico. You still need to take mitigation actions even if we didn't produce biofuels."

Griffin says planting buffer zones between crops and rivers or streams is one way to mitigate the fertilizer runoff problem. But his study shows buffer zones alone

won't be enough to reach EPA's goal of reducing the dead zone by two-thirds. Other strategies will be needed.

That's partly because agricultural runoff is not the only source of nitrogen pollution. Wastewater, industry and transportation all contribute too and Griffin says steps will need to be taken to reduce their effects as well.

The study was published in the journal *Environmental Science and Technology*.

*Biofuel law is
at odds
with EPA goal*

Solar Projects will Intensify the Battle Over Water

The Pacific Gas and Electric announced that it would buy 500 megawatts of electricity from two solar power plant projects, Genesis Solar Energy and Mojave Solar Project, to be built in the California desert.

According to applications filed with the California Energy Commission, the Genesis Solar Energy Project would consume an estimated 536 million gallons of water and the



Mojave Solar Project would pump 705 million gallons annually for power-plant cooling.

The battle over water in California will continue with 35 solar projects undergoing licensing and planning.

Source: *New York Times*

Smelt continued

residential, industrial, and agricultural water.

On March 2009, the California Fish and Game Commission, after a series of petitions, court rulings, and studies, determined the smelt should be listed as a threatened species. The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) prohibits the taking of any species that the Commission determines to be a candidate, endangered, or threatened species.

Unfortunately during

San-Joaquin Valley normally grows about half of the U.S. fruits, nuts, and vegetables. Consequently, the U.S. Consumer will be forced to rely on produce imported from overseas.

this struggle over the pumps, California farmers have been suffering from lack of rain fall and battle over who gets the water. Currently acres of farmland are left idle in order to provide water in the Los Angeles basin.

Agriculture is not the only industry being hit hard by the court decision. Commercial salmon fishing closed for the second year in California and most of Oregon.

In October, the California's Water Crisis received the attention of the Obama's administration. The office of the Interior and Commerce Departments asked the National Academy of Sciences to conduct an analysis of factors affecting the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. As a result the Academy is expected to release a report outlining alternatives beyond shutting down the water transfer pumps.

At a hearing in Washington D.C., California Farm Bureau Federation President Doug Mosebar told Interior officials that agriculture producers support the request for the National Academy of Science Review.

In written remarks submitted to the federal agencies, Mosebar

stressed, "Without reliable water supplies, we risk eroding our ability to grow food for our nation and the world. Farm water shortages in California have thus far resulted in \$1.5 billion to \$2.2 billion in lost revenue; half a million fertile acres lie idle; 40,000 jobs have been lost; and we are seeing unemployment rates of 40 percent or higher in some rural communities."

The U.S. House of Representatives in October approved a conference report for the Fiscal Year 2010 Energy and Water Appropriation Bill. The bill proposed, by Rep. Dennis Cardoza and Rep. Jim Costa, included two measures to increase the availability of water for the Delta.

The first provision will make it easier for water to be transferred from one county to another. Currently the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation restricts such transfers. The second provision provides \$10 million in increased funding for the California Bay-Delta Restoration Program.

Some California lawmakers argue the residents of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta cannot wait for another study. Action needs to be taken now. *Sources: California Farm Bureau, The Sacramento Bee, California Fish and Game Commission*

**The Scoop on the Longfin Smelt**

The longfin smelt, *Spirinchus thaleichthys*, is an anadromous smelt (family Osmeridae) found in California's bay, estuary, and near shore coastal environments from San Francisco Bay north to Lake Earl, near the Oregon border.

The Smelt have a short lifespan. Most reach maturity at two years of age, and can grow from 124mm to 140mm in length.

Spawning occurs primarily from January to March, after which most adults die.

Longfin smelt encounter a wide variety of water temperatures and salinities (freshwater to saltwater) during their life cycle but are rarely found in water temperatures greater than 22 degrees C. They are mostly found in mid-water or near the bottom and are known to migrate up and down in the water column

following prey at night.

Smelts reassemble salmon in appearance and serve as a feeding source for both salmon and trout. They live in the sea but travel to freshwater to breed.

Judge Rules on Tri-State Water War

For over two decades Georgia, Alabama, and Florida have been battling over water.

On July 17, U.S. District Judge Paul Magnuson ruled that Congress never intended for Lake Lanier to be used for drinking water purposes. According to the ruling, the Georgia region (near Atlanta) has three years to resolve water conflicts between Alabama and Florida. Judge Magnuson also ruled that Atlanta's water withdrawal must revert back to 1970's levels.

Like other metro areas in the United States, Atlanta's population has exploded. Statistics show that in 1970s Gwinnett County withdrawal 13 million gallons a day from the Chattahoochee River in the mid 70's and today the same geographic area averages 88 million gallons a day in withdrawals.

The Georgia General Assembly created the Southern Fulton Municipal Regional Water and Sewer Authority to ensure future water supply for Fulton County. Construction new reservoirs is the key component to an

overall strategy to address adequate water supplies.

In October, Georgia's congressional delegation has called for a water meeting with fellow congressmen from Alabama and Florida. This will be the first step in discussing a resolution to the tri-state water dispute.



Gulf of Mexico Dead Zone Surprisingly Small in Area, but Severe

Scientists from the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium (LUMCON) and Louisiana State University (LSU) found the size of this year's Gulf of Mexico dead zone to be 8,000 square kilometers (just over 3,000 square miles). "This was surprisingly small given the forecast to be among the largest ever and the expanse of the dead zone earlier this summer," reported Dr. Nancy Rabalais, Chief Scientist for the mapping expedition.

The dead zone is an area of oxygen-starved water, also known as hypoxia, and is fueled by nitrogen and phosphorus runoff, principally from agricultural activity in the Mississippi River watershed, which stimulates an overgrowth of algae that sinks, decomposes, and consumes most of the life-giving oxygen supply in the water.

NOAA-sponsored forecast models developed by Dr. R. Eugene Turner of Louisiana State University and Dr. Donald Scavia of the University of Michigan had predicted a larger than normal dead zone area of between 22,000 and 25,000 square kilo-

meters (7,500 – 8,500 square miles) for this summer. The forecast was driven primarily by the high nitrate-nitrogen load and high freshwater flows from the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers in May and June.

What contributed to the smaller than predicted and average size of the dead zone this summer?

First, the high flow of the Mississippi River fell below average for July depriving the Gulf of Mexico of the nutrients that stimulate phytoplankton growth and the fresh water that forms a physical barrier (stratification) to the re-oxygenation of the bottom layer.

Second, the timing of the single cruise in late July does not always capture the maximum extent, e.g., following hurricanes or variable weather conditions, thus pointing out the need for multiple measurements during the summer.

Third, persistent winds from the west and southwest in the few weeks preceding the mapping cruise likely pushed the low oxygen water mass to the east and 'piled' it up along the southeastern Louisiana shelf. .

Fourth, the winds and waves were high in the last half of the cruise in the area to the west of the Atchafalaya River delta and likely mixed oxygen into these shallower waters and reduced the hypoxia in that region.

Fifth, although current models used to predict hypoxia in the northern Gulf of Mexico are robust for long-term management purposes, they are not optimized to predict the area for years where short-term weather patterns move water masses or mix up the water column. Field measurements, thus, remain imperative for understanding the dynamics of hypoxia and contributing to modeling studies.

Source: NOAA, Dr. Nancy Rablais

NOAA Gulf of Mexico
Hypoxia Watch

[http://
ecowatch.ncddc.noaa.
gov/hypoxia](http://ecowatch.ncddc.noaa.gov/hypoxia)

American Agri Women

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The Newsletter was created by AAW Water Resource Management Chair, Cheryl Day, to better inform AAW members on water issues. The articles in the newsletter is based from media outlets and information submitted to Cheryl Day. All AAW members are invited to submit information on water issues to Cheryl. If your Affiliate has a Water Resource Chair or a member who follows water issues please have them contact Cheryl Day. In order to best serve AAW, it is important to establish a network across the membership.

If you have any questions about the information appearing in this newsletter or on AAW Water Policies in general please feel free to contact Cheryl Day.

We're on the web!

www.americanagriwomen.org

Nevada Water Report

submitted by Jacquie Compston, Natural Resource Coordinator



The University of Nevada in Reno has taken on the Walker River Basin Project and is currently purchasing water rights in our basin. They in turn are turning it over to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. This group works the Department of Interior to make it all look valid.

The whole project has been moving forward intensely for the past eight years. It is very difficult for our irrigation district to dispute this science as you can see in the program for the symposium. The \$200 million dollars for the project was originally taken from the 2002 Farm Bill. We were able to insert wording to exclude the purchase and leasing of water rights, but Senator Reid was able to change the law when he added it to the Energy Bill.

I have spoken to several mem-

bers of the Department of the Interior and they are aware of our comments through the Environmental Impact Statement process. It is amazing to me to see how they can steal our water legally. Our system is interrelated and if they purchase one third of the water, then the other two thirds will collapse.

This has been an extremely complex process and I don't know what will happen. The state engineer has written a letter to the editor of our newspaper explaining the state's position on the purchase of water rights and then that has to go to the Federal Judge. That is a very simple explanation of our water problems.

AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN
HISTORIAN'S REPORT
2009

This report is more of a thank you letter than a report. I have many AAW members to thank for helping me do my job of AAW Historian in the past year.

Although I do not actually know, I make a strong guess that this is the first time in AAW History that the president of the hosting affiliate was not present for convention. I thank all TAW members for working diligently to host (my informants tell me) a great convention. I know some of you had to double up responsibilities to cover for me. I do appreciate it.

I, also, thank Arlene Kovash and Deb Whalen for providing me with pictures of convention and Fly-In for our AAW History book.

Fortunately I was able to attend Mid-Year so I could take my own photos.

I, also, appreciate all periodical articles and state newsletters that different AAW members have sent for our records.

Shirley Wilde
AAW Historian



AAW Leaven Award

LEAVEN AWARD

The AAW Leaven Award is one of the highest honors the organization bestows on its members. The LEAVEN Award is presented annually during the national convention of American Agri-Women. Recipients are nominated by AAW affiliates. In 1977 an awards committee came up with the word "Leaven" as a means of evaluating the candidates. "Leaven" (yeast) is a small element that can interact and influence everything around it. It permeates and raises the elements it's mixed with. Leaven multiples its effectiveness for good. AAW presents the LEAVEN AWARD to those persons who, to an outstanding degree, have acted as "leaven", a truly feminine concept since "lady" means giver of bread.

- (L) Loyalty to the mission of American Agri-Women
- (E) Enthusiasm
- (A) Anticipatory (thinks and plans ahead; does not react to crises only)
- (V) Valiant (has courage; overcomes any natural timidity)
- (E) Effectiveness (exhibits ability to produce intended effects)
- (N) Nurturing (encourages and helps develop talents and skills of others)

The Leaven Award Committee is made up of past Leaven Award winners and as in the past was provided with some outstanding AAW member nominees to evaluate in 2009. We are happy to present Leaven Awards to those nominees who truly exemplify the meaning of the award you will find out who our deserving winners are during the AAW Banquet.

The Leaven Committee encourages affiliates to take a little time out of your hectic schedules to nominate an outstanding member. If you need some hints on how to complete the nomination form or the nomination process, do not hesitate to ask, we are always happy to help!

Sincerely

AAW Leaven Chair



American Agri-Women

Christina Wilson, First Vice-President
Resolutions and Vital Issues
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Annual Report – Legislation

Fly-In: We had a great Fly-In this year - thanks to all those who participated. Highlights included meeting with USDA Deputy Secretary Merrigan; the new EPA agricultural advisor to the administrator during his first week on the job; and visiting the White House and USDA organic gardens.

Through a new electronic system, we were able to deliver Fly-In invitations and our positions to multiple staff members in each congressional office as well as the scheduler for the Member, which led to a record in attendance by Senators and Congressmen at our congressional reception.

Our Fly-In and Legislative efforts, combined with ever-increasing fundraising efforts, have resulted in more contributions for Fly-In. I was able to attend meetings in Washington for Farm Journal Forum and the USDA Outlook Conference, with Marcie and Yvonne, that gave us the opportunity to both make contacts at the meetings and also to make specific visits to seek out additional sponsors for the Fly-In.

Legislation: AAW worked on numerous legislative issues this year including climate change; Clean Water Act; Ag Jobs; card check; death tax; energy legislation; horse transportation; retirement annuities; and animal rights legislation (i.e. Ohio's ballot initiative). We also worked on EPA issues including the regulation of greenhouse gases and supported the Rural Broadband Coalition.

A huge step forward was the ability to add a grassroots feature to the AAW website that allows members to go to the website and from there send letters to their Members of Congress regarding issues of importance to agriculture. This system also allows us to send an issues action alert to members' email addresses to direct them to the website when action is needed on an issue.



AAW Networking

The networking committee is working on setting up a variety of networking opportunities both within AAW and with organizations outside of AAW. These networking opportunities are efforts to build better relationships both within in our organization and outside of our organization in accordance with our strategic plan. Plus it should be fun and interesting to learn from others!

AAW Affiliate Exchange Pilot Program

Two basic types of exchanges will take place either an Open Exchange or a Limited Exchange. An Open Exchange is when an affiliate announces that they are having an exchange and anyone from AAW may attend. A Limited Exchange is when one affiliate invites another affiliate to exchange with them.

The hosting affiliate is responsible for providing information to potential guests as to what the affiliate will be provide and what will be the responsibility of their guests.

In the future we are hoping to have an exchange following Mid-Year given that members have already paid to get to the Mid-Year destination.

Affiliates are encouraged to organize their own exchanges highlighting the interesting and unique things that they have to offer.

In 2010 look for exchanges in California and Minnesota. The Minnesota exchange is being rescheduled from the exchange postponed from this year.

Online Networking

AAW has expanded the online networking opportunities that we do. In association with the Risk Management project that Chris Wilson has been coordinating the Networking committee has become involved in two avenues that help expand AAW Network in many ways.

AAW Asking an Expert

Did you know that AAW has an area on our website where people can e-mail questions related to a wide range of agricultural topics and get answers and resources forwarded to them? AAW Asking the Expert helps connect both internal and external agricultural experts with people needing answers to specific questions. This area has been up since Mid-Year and so far AAW has had experts answer questions from taxes, to raising beef cattle, to AAW's dairy policy, to how to get elected to a board of directors position in an agricultural organization. Wide ranging questions and wide ranging expertise.

AAW Online Mentoring

There is also an area on the AAW website where people may request a mentor or sign up to be a mentor. We have been able to do some mentoring matches and look forward to doing more in the future.

Convention only Mentoring

We will again be matching first time convention attendees with seasoned convention veterans to help them network and gain a better appreciation for AAW and the convention process. Please look for new faces at convention and do your part to network with them.

Other areas in progress.

The Networking Committee is working on exchanges with other businesses or organizations.

Finding opportunities for AAW members to serve on advisory boards and other committees of influence.

Additional Networking opportunities will be announced via the various AAW communication methods, so keep your eyes open for other networking opportunities coming your way soon.

Beyond the Committee

AAW Networking extends well past the Networking Committee. We all do it when we participate in AAW and affiliate activities; when we represent AAW or our affiliates at events; and when we ensure that AAW or our affiliates are involved in outside activities that make a difference to agriculture. I have highlighted some of these types of activities in *The Voice*. For instance, in "Undercover Networking" I outlined my findings of an undercover networking activity at an animal rights conference and how it is important for us to research what other organizations are doing and how it might impact us. In Fair Time Networking the focus was on how AAW and affiliates may be represented at Fairs by either doing a stand-alone exhibit or activity or by supporting a larger effort. For example Minnesota and American Agri-Women were well represented by a number of members participating in everything from the Moo Booth, to the Barn Tours, to Little Farmhands to training youth animal mentors and more.

Finally...

The committee is always interested in your ideas. In particular we would like to hear from members who are interested in participating in the exchanges whether you are interested in those within or outside of the organization, or perhaps both. If you, your chapter or affiliate would like to be involved in the exchanges we would appreciate hearing from you, as well. Also, if you have suggestions of organizations or individuals who should be involved in the exchanges we would also like to hear from you. Please contact Doris Mold, Networking Chair if you have an interest or information in any of these areas: P.O. Box 8192, St. Paul, MN, phone 715-822-6347 or e-mail: doris@sunriseag.net.

We look forward to continuing to expand AAW Networking!

Sincerely



AAW Networking Chair

California Women for Agriculture Annual Report 2009

Convention 2008

California Women for Agriculture kicked off 2009 in Chico, California. The theme of the convention was "Step up to Leadership." The 2009 State Convention opened with a day tour of Butte County which included a visit to Oroville Dam and Lake Oroville, an olive oil tasting at Lodestar Olive Oil and an informational talk at the California Cooperative Rice Research Foundation (CCRRF) and spectacular views of the Llano Seco Rancho, an 18,000 acre ranch that is one of the last Mexican land grants not broken into smaller parcels. The day ended at the historic Patrick Ranch with a "Taste of the North State" event hosted by local Butte County specialty purveyors and included a wonderful BBQ. They provided the group with delicious samples of their products all grown or made in the North State. During the course of the convention, several personal development workshops were also held during the morning session. Grace Brooks founder of Your Efficiency Specialist (Y.E.S) shared her passion for helping people organize their lives. Kevin Spafford owner of Legacy by Design provided the group with a valuable session with tips for succession planning for agribusiness owners. The luncheon featured a presentation on "functional foods" by Clare Hasler, executive director of the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science at the University of California, Davis. CWA President Diana Westmoreland Pedrozo reflected upon the past year and challenged the membership to "Step up to Leadership" in the coming year.

Statewide Meetings (SWM)

CWA held membership meetings in Chico, Concord, Sacramento, Paso Robles/Santa Maria, Fresno and we are headed to Stockton in November. State meetings are used to showcase our vast areas of California with tours, inspire participation regionally, update members on CWA business new and old, and have speakers from all areas of agriculture. Our meetings are a chance to not only conduct pertinent business, but give our members a chance to reconnect with old friends while making new ones too. CWA's September SWM concludes with our annual fundraiser, the Ag Boosters BBQ, in partnership with California State University, Fresno's Ag One Foundation.

CWA New Chapter

The San Luis Obispo County Chapter officially formed on July 23rd, 2009 at the Cattleman and Farmer's Day Event held in Paso Robles at the Mid-State Fair. As of September, the SLO Chapter had 117 members and continues to grow. This is the first new chapter that CWA has introduced in many years.

CWA Partner with "I Love Farmers"

At the September SWM, CWA membership voted to form a partnership with "I Love Farmers". "I Love Farmers" was created to help the Millennial generation understand the importance of knowing where their food comes from and who produces it. It is an effort to create conversations among peers about food and farmers and the future. Within the coming year CWA will assist with the distribution of "I Love Farmer" stickers that will go to all FFA Chapters within California- these chapters will be able to sell the stickers that will be used on vehicles, trailers, tackboxes and more! CWA is also working on a custom "I Love Farmer"/ CWA t-shirts that will be sold through CWA in the near future.

CWA Tackles Social Media

CWA is using Facebook and Twitter to reach new and existing members. CWA has been "twittering" through the last two SWMs which has been met with excitement and positive feedback. By sending out "tweets" we are able to give the meat of the discussion and keep our members informed. CWA has also tackled the Facebook realm with our Fan Page! This is a great place for chapters to announce upcoming events and meetings, along with reaching out to non CWA members. As of October 8th, the CWA Facebook page had over 1900 fans. Check CWA out at: Twitter. Go to www.twitter.com/CWA4you ; Facebook. www.facebook.com/Californiawomenforagriculture. And don't forget..... for more information go to CWA's website www.cawomen4ag.com.

Legislative Days

Legislative outreach is a cornerstone of CWA. Each May CWA members embark upon the State Capitol in Sacramento and spend the entire day educating legislators on the importance of various bills that are currently making their way through the legislature. CWA membership is briefed on the issues and equipped with talking points. In turn, our members visit every office in the Capitol providing them with a face to face experience, as well as provided a packet of our policy papers on the subjects we have chosen to discuss with legislators for that year. After the day is complete CWA then hosts a legislative reception at a restaurant adjacent to the Capitol for all to attend with a bounty of California fruits and vegetables incorporated into our wonderful appetizers and fine wines from around the region. This past May CWA hosted a fabulous Legislative Reception at Spataros Bistro in downtown Sacramento for all California legislators. The evening was filled with great food, wine and lively conversations. This is a great opportunity for us to visit with our legislators and other industry leaders in a more comfortable setting. CWA had a great turn out this year and are looking forward to the year ahead. Each year CWA visits the Capitol to discuss issues impacting California agriculture with all assembly and senate members.

Agricultural Awareness and Literacy Foundation (AAL)

CWA's nonprofit affiliate, AAL, is continuing to make strides towards providing educational tools for children and families. In just over one year, AAL has distributed 100,000 of the Farmology activity booklets! It has been so successful that AAL is now undertaking reprinting more booklets for continued use by restaurants, schools, fairs and other community groups. AAL is using the reprint as an opportunity to review the content and possibly update information. In doing so, AAL wants to ensure they are providing the most current and timely information regarding California's agricultural industry.

The Farmology Traveling Exhibit coalition – comprised of AAL, California Grown and Western Fairs Association – continues to develop relationships with other organizations in an effort to increase the momentum for this project. AAL is looking at ways to creatively fundraise while being mindful of the state of the economy. AAL's website is www.farmology.com.

A Look Ahead.....

CWA is excited for the balance of 2008. Our November statewide meeting is right around the corner in our northern district in Stockton and will be focusing on water. Water has been a main issue of focus this past summer for CWA with participation in many water rallies and letter writing to elected officials. Resolution to the water issues and balance with endangered species is an unresolved, pivotal issue that is instrumental in determining California's agricultural sustainability.

Our 2010 Annual Convention will be held in San Juan Baptista, CA. Incoming CWA President-elect Celeste Settrini is really looking forward to her presidency. Celeste is excited for a new year and new opportunities for CWA and AAW. Her main focus will be on perfecting CWA internally - hoping to make it a "well oiled" machine. A revision of bylaws, website and social networking will be some of the projects she will be working on. Partnerships with AAW and other agriculture affiliates will also be important as we all strive to work towards a common goal and messaging.

Respectfully submitted: Karri Hammerstrom, 2nd Vice President CWA



2009 Report to American Agri-Women

www.illinoisagriwomen.org
IAW President, Penny Lauritzen, 815-493-2498

Membership

Member Incentives, ongoing – We continued to recruit members through the Annie’s Project educational seminars by encouraging participants to submit an Annie’s Project rebate form with her membership application for a Voting Membership (\$50 a year) in IAW to receive a \$25 rebate.

Regional Coordinators – IAW officers set a goal to secure regional coordinators not currently serving as a state officer. The officers also encourage the regions to establish two meetings for the IAW calendar by December 2009 to increase membership involvement and reach potential new members. Three regions are currently meeting on a regular basis.

Annual Meeting – IAW held its 2009 annual meeting February 26-27 in Springfield, IL. Members participated in reviewing position statements and hosting state legislators at a morning coffee. Guest Speaker, Val Farmer lead a discussion on what makes volunteer organizations click. The public was invited for dinner and his presentation on the Psychology of Farm Transition (some guests became members). The annual meeting finished with a discussion of variable leases and grain marketing.

Farm Progress Attendance – IAW held their fall quarterly board meeting at the 2009 Farm Progress Show in Decatur, IL. Members met in the AM and then toured the Show Site and attended Vice-President Ruth Hambleton’s presentation on variable leases and visited her booth displaying Annie’s Project activities.

Educate Consumers

Special Projects Committee – The purpose of the 5-member committee is to seek, develop and approve funding projects that further IAW goals, several of which center around educating or informing consumers of the importance of agriculture. Support of the Vision for Illinois Agriculture has been approved and provided. A \$1000 scholarship for a college junior studying agriculture education has been presented. A \$500 scholarship was presented to Christine Finigan of New Zealand to cover travel expenses to attend the International Farm Management Congress in Bloomington Illinois in exchange for a presentation at the July Board Meeting. The formation of the Illinois Agricultural Resource Council - IARC – (501(c-)3 designation) has been completed to allow for securing tax deductible funding for educational projects.

Collegiate Outreach – President created an opportunity to connect with local chapters of Sigma Alpha in the fall with a discussion of assisting with the upcoming Career Day. Vice-President presented information at the State FFA organization on opportunities for women in agriculture. The new collegiate chair is coordinating with FFA for the upcoming Career Day.

Public Service Announcements – Members recorded segments for the AAW Consumer Understanding Project that WAND taped for television programming.

Vision of Illinois Agriculture – Representatives from various Illinois Agriculture Organizations identified the need for Illinois agriculture industry to develop a Vision for Illinois Agriculture to enhance the competitiveness of our industry. Past President, Heather Hampton+Knodle, is currently serving as IAW representative to this important statewide project.

Science Fair – IAW with the support of the Illinois Corn Growers and Illinois Soybean Association has secured special prize for high school science projects that find a new use for corn or soybeans. Members of IAW served as judges for the event.

Scholarships

Memorial Fund – established in 2004, these funds have been used to reimburse partially or to pay registration expenses to IAW and AAW events.

Influence Policy

Illinois Agricultural Roundtable, Jan, June. – IAW President serves on the Steering Committee. Members continued to take an active role and IAW is the lead organization on several federal and state legislation efforts.

Illinois Agricultural Leg. Day, March – IAW Past President currently serving as past chair of the planning committee and legislative coordinator for the event; members visited 2 senators and 3 representatives; included microwave popcorn with descriptive stickers in the commodity basket. Representatives discussed the positions that the participating organizations have developed consensus on for current legislative issues.

Position Statements to Federal Representatives – IAW Past President addressed issues related to support of modernizing locks and dams through the Water Resources Development Act; communicating opposition of H.R.2421 Clean Water Restoration Act with Congressmen and media.

Improve Business Skills

Sponsor of Annie's Project, Ongoing – IAW was the original partner with the University of Illinois Extension Service to launch the Annie's Project to give farm women a support network and more hands on training in computers and computerized bookkeeping.

C-FAR, Ongoing – IAW representatives attended the annual meeting in February and research proposal review and ranking sessions in March. We have active representation in all five working groups; Heather Hampton+Knodle is serving in leadership role for her working group. Several research projects lead to information and methods to increase on-farm and agribusiness profitability and to improve consumer health and safety.

Bi-State Conference – IAW members participated in the Overall Women Conference to be held in Davenport, Iowa in January 2009 following their winter Board Meeting. The planning was a collaborated effort between Iowa and Illinois Extension. The conference focused on educating women on business skills, risk management, and leadership skills.

Recognition

Ag Affairs Council – Cheryl Day representing IAW and Ruth Hambleton representing University of Illinois Extension serve on the Illinois State Treasurer's Ag Affairs Council.

Kansas Agri-Women



2009 Annual Report to American Agri-Women

“From Producer to Consumer With Understanding”

www.kansasagriwomen.org
KAW President, Abby Dechant, 620-271-2953

Membership Enhancement

Women Managing the Farm Conference and Annual Meeting – Kansas Agri-Women has continued to contribute and sponsor the Women Managing the Farm Conference in February. This conference is an opportunity for women involved in every aspect of agriculture from new farm wives to full time operator to network and share experiences. The KAW annual meeting has been held in February following the Women Managing the Farm Conference for the last few years. This provides attendees with the opportunity to join our organization and get involved immediately.

Kansas State University Collegiate Chapter – KAW has supported a Collegiate Chapter for several years. Collegiate Agri-Women has been keeping busy this past year! Activity meetings were held once a month, with a favorite being a tour to a buffalo farm. During AgFest, Collegiate Agri-Women placed 3rd in the women’s division in Cowboy Olympics. At the all university open house, we had a booth explaining where different products such as money and jeans come from. This fall, a display board to be used at promotional and informative events has been designed. It was used at the All-University Activities Carnival and College of Ag Watermelon Feed to recruit new members. We are ready for another exciting year of CAW!

Consumer Awareness

HYVEE Grocery Store Project – Wanda Kinney took the lead in developing this project from the ground up. She made arrangements with a local grocer to allow KAW to set up in the entrance of the store to pass out literature, reusable grocery sacks and loaves of bread. Wanda contacted the manager of a local grocery store, the manager agreed to work with Kansas Agri-Women to spread our message, as well as ‘treat’ his customers. Hy-Vee agreed to contribute loaves of bread for Kansas Agri-Women to give out to customers as they shopped on May 9th, 2009. The loaves were labeled with a sticker stating: “A loaf of Kansas Bread, A gift from Kansas Agri-Women” and “Please remember: If you ate a meal today, thank a farmer.” The loaves were given with a cloth shopping bag with the "American Grown Goodness" logo on the side.

Symbols of Agriculture Highway Sign Project – KAW has also maintained highway signs for a number of years. This year the project is working on a new look. As signs deteriorate, the group is trying to replace them with newly painted, visually appealing signs. The grocery sack sign is the most popular; it currently states “A Kansas Farmer feeds 128 people, Plus You!” We are very proud of the visibility that this project has provided along the Kansas Highways!

Kansas State Fair, Agri-Land – KAW partners with the Kansas Dept of Agriculture, Ag in the Classroom and several commodity groups to set up, man and provide displays for an interactive educational display every day of the Kansas State Fair. Approximately 200 teachers signed up to win a free classroom pizza party and 4,000 children were weighed and received a printed ‘scale ticket’ comparing their weight to items on the farm. Ag in the Classroom provides 5 winning teachers with an educational pizza party, teaching the children about where the ingredients come from.

Topeka Farm Show – KAW continues to promote Kansas Agriculture with a booth at the Topeka Farm show each January. The show is a staple for our organization; annually attendees share their admiration of farmers and ranchers and comment that they look for our booth each year. For several years the booth has featured a quilt raffle.

2011 AAW National Convention

Kansas Agri-Women has submitted the bid for the 2011 National Convention to be held in Wichita, Kansas. As we proceed with planning the convention, we have kicked off a membership drive and are actively using this opportunity to grow our organization! Wish us luck, and consider hosting a convention in your state! It really brings the borders together!

Maine Agri-Women Annual Report 2009

The 17th annual meeting of Maine Agri Women was held on April 17, 2009 at the Caribou Inn & Convention Center. We enjoyed a delicious meal. Past honorees of Ag Women of the Year were in attendance. Brenda Jepson, a film producer and educator, talked about her recent movie, Tater Raisin Folks – Old Style Farming Around Aroostook. Door prizes and officer gifts were awarded.

Results of the 2009 election were:

Judy Kenney & Mary Anne Buck co-presidents
Sandra Durepo vice president
Diane Hemphill treasurer
Roberta Labrie secretary
Martha Lavertu corresponding secretary

Potato Lovers' Month was observed with Mary Anne and Judy passing out free bags of chips at the mall along with potato recipes and potato coloring books. A thank you note was sent to Frito Lay and Cape Cod chips for their donations.

Scholarships were awarded to 2 Aroostook County youth who had participated in the potato harvest. Winners were Joshua Buck and Laura Schools. The awards will be presented upon completion of first semester studies.

Ag Day in the Legislature – Mary Anne and Judy traveled to Augusta to help the Maine Potato Board with their booth. Literature and potato chips were passed out to visitors and legislators. They had a chance to interact with many state legislators.

Ag Awareness Week – Many Ag Women were able to read a book promoting agriculture in their town schools during the month of March. The book was chosen by First Lady, Karen Baldacci, and presented to each classroom. Funds were partially granted by the Maine Potato Board and distributed by Maine Ag in the Classroom. All enjoyed entering the classrooms and interacting with the children. This is the second year we have been involved and we hope to be involved in the project again next year.

MAW Woman of the Year – At the annual meeting of the Maine Potato Board, Judy and Mary Anne presented Jackie Lundeen with the Woman of the Year Award. Jackie is very actively involved in her family farm as well as having served in the State Legislature for many years. She was very humbled by the award and was very surprised. We strive to make this a secret, only alerting family members.

Trade Fairs – This year we worked booths at two trade fairs, selling French fries donated by McCain Foods, LTD to fund our scholarships. We had a good time selling the fries and visiting. We worked at the Ag Trade Fair Forum in Presque Isle and Top of Maine Trade Fair in Madawaska.

Ag Women Annual Meeting – Four members attended the annual meeting in San Antonio, TX. We had a wonderful time learning from other attendees.

Michigan Agri-Women Report

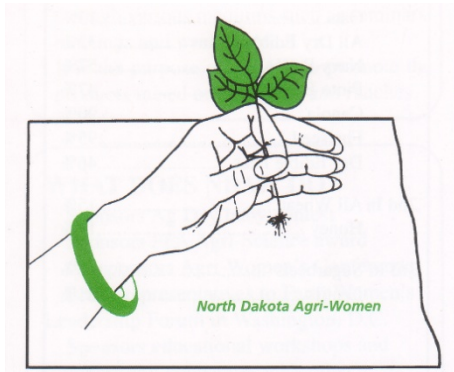
Michigan Agri-Women experienced a decline in our membership list when we began charging yearly dues. But, we experienced an increase in dual membership when this change occurred. We have also increased interest in our organization by having a website. We are www.michiganagriwomen.org.

Many of our members are attending other organization's events that are agriculture oriented and finding that we share common ground. Michigan Farm Women's Symposium hosts a three day event at various sites across Michigan and that is the only meet during the year. Guest speakers presented topics ranging from personal to the farm sector fills the agenda, with tours, silent auction, dinner, and informational seminars rounding out the symposium. Indiana extension and farm women host a similar event to which we are issued invites.

Michigan Agri-Women held their annual meeting in March and was well attended with legislative, land use, and conservation as the main topics. In August the group hosted the Information Booth at a local festival that draws thousands from the Chicago area to the rural area. That is our money making project with the opportunity for public awareness of local grown produce.

Michigan Agri-Women has new brochures that are being distributed throughout the state at various ag related functions and to other consumers. Our annual picnic in July was well attended and members are looking forward to convention in Oregon.

Sharon Schmuhl, President



Reaching Out and Working Together For Agriculture

North Dakota Agri-Women 2009 Convention Report

North Dakota Agri-Women was organized on Ag Day 1983 as an affiliate of AAW. NDAW's purpose, "Reaching Out and Working Together for Agriculture," is expressed in its motto—"Knowledge-Education-Promotion."

Our Fiscal Year runs from March 1 through February 28. We currently have two organized chapters: (1) Lake Region and (2) North Valley, covering the northeastern part of ND. There are at-large memberships as well.

Chapters have their own meetings and projects in addition to taking part in on-going programming by the state. State projects include—National Ag Week activities; Sponsorship of the ND FFA AgriScience Award; Membership in North Dakota Ag Coalition; a Green Ribbon Support of Agriculture campaign; and Co-sponsorship with MN Agri-Women of the "Harvest of Knowledge" Agri-Women's Conference in Grand Forks, ND, each fall. We had five members present at the 2008 AAW Convention in San Antonio, TX, last November which was a great experience made even more exciting in that our Jean Meyer was one of those honored with the L.E.A.V.E.N. Award.

2009 National Ag Week activities started on March 18th with the sixty enthusiastic fourth-graders visited by North Valley Chapter members with "What Do You Know about Agriculture?" activities; March 19th was Ag Day at the ND Capital during which we had an informational display; The first phone call on March 20 to the NDAW Ag Baby Chair determined this year's Ag Baby who was presented a basket of gifts & savings bond; and on March 21st the NDAW 2008-09 Annual Meeting was held in Devils Lake. Speaker there presented information on "Eating for Your Eye Health."

In addition to the chapter quarterly meetings with local speakers and tour opportunities, there has been additional assistance provided by our members during special hands-on learning events for area children: (1) Experience Agriculture: Special Assignment Pizza Project in Devils Lake and Grand Forks; and (2) *Progressive Farmer* Farm Safety Day Camp at Stump Lake Park. Included in this year's Chapter meetings have been speakers on (1) Changes & Developments in the Farm Bill; (2) *Facts about Women and Cardiovascular Diseases*; and (3) *1970's Boom – to – 1980's Bust – to – 2008 and Beyond*. This "boom-bust-boom" pattern illustrates the ups and downs experienced by grain farmers in dealing with commodity prices, input costs, as well as many factors over which they have no control.

Right now we still use the President's Letter as our way of keeping in touch with our membership. E-mail is also used to help distribute vital information on issues. We need to find a state editor so we can resume our *Reaching Out* newsletters. We are working on updating our by-laws and expanding our efforts to Reach Out for Agriculture in North Dakota.

Janice Moen, NDAW president

Oregon Women for Agriculture 2009 Affiliate Report

Over the last year, Oregon Women for Agriculture has been active with our annual auction, state convention, state and county fairs plus planning the 2009 National Convention which is being held in our own backyard!

Planning for our annual auction starts in September of the previous year which is well before the AAW National Convention takes place. We get started by reviewing the previous year's wrap up notes, choosing a theme for the auction and brainstorming about new donor ideas. The auction is held in April and hosts over 900 guests. The evening includes appetizers, oysters, a live band, over 800 auction items, and a full dinner. Many volunteers pull together to make the evening a success – and a success it was! We grossed over a \$100,000 for the evening!

Our annual State Convention was held in March and hosted by our Linn-Benton Chapter. We had approximately 40 attendees plus spouses. The event hosted several interesting speakers and tours. The speakers included: Allison Clarke from Dale Carnegie Institute who discussed “The influence of Leadership”, Michael Stolp from Farm Credit Services who discussed “Succession Planning & Generation Gaps”, and Stella Coakley from Oregon State University's College of Ag Science who updated us on the college's activities. We also had a panel who talked about recruitment and member retention in a volunteer organization. During the tours we visited a local grass seed cleaning and pellet operation plus one of the Oregon State Extension Research Stations.

While planning for the state events, counties are also busy working on their own fundraisers and county fairs. Several of the chapters have booths at their county fairs or help with the 4-H/FFA Livestock Auctions.

In addition to all these events, we have been busy planning the 2009 National Convention. We are excited to host this annual event & we are anticipating the agenda to be full of useful and entertaining information for all. We hope you enjoy the northwestern hospitality!



Texas Agri Women (TAW) began 2009 on a high note after hosting, what we believe was, a successful American Agri Women (AAW) National Convention in San Antonio.

In February, during our annual meeting new officers were installed. This group has vowed to work hard and ensure all of our efforts stay within our mission statement...“we are a force for truth, a reasoned, non-partisan voice for the agricultural community to the public”.

We were pleased to have several members attend Mid-Year and Fly-In. Several members also have plans to attend this years' exciting AAW convention hosted by Oregon Women for Agriculture.

This spring, we once again hosted Ag Fair in Uvalde County. We use this opportunity to educate elementary students to the importance of agriculture in their daily lives and that of their family, community and region where they live. It is our goal, ambition, and obligation to pass to the next generation the heritage of agriculture. We as agricultural people by our very nature and livelihood are and must be the best stewards of the land and water we depend on to survive.

Once again, TAW and the Uvalde Chapter are involved within the Uvalde Community with a joint fundraiser to be held this November at Hunter's Round Up. Our hope, while selling raffle tickets, is to bring agriculture awareness to all attendees. Agriculture is the only industry that touches all either directly or indirectly.

Our highlight for the year is working on plans for our 25th Anniversary. One item already on the agenda is to present AAW with a \$2,500.00 check in honor of our milestone. Other items are also in the planning stages will be to work with Texas Commissioner of Agriculture to promote our industry and to set up a scholarship fund for current and future TAW members to utilize. Our objective is for this scholarship account to send at least 3 members to Mid-Year, Fly-In, and the Annual Convention. Our minimum pledge will benefit 27 members over the course of 3 years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jody Elrod
President