

the

VOICE

of the American Agri-Woman



December 2006/January 2007, Volume 34, Issue 1

We can do it together!

Rep. Richard Pombo is Veritas winner



Richard W. Pombo, California rancher and congressman, has received American Agri-Women's 2006 Veritas Award.

Each year AAW presents this award to an individual who gives public witness to "the pursuit of truth" in accordance with the principles enunciated in the AAW Statement of Philosophy. The AAW Call to Power, written by Sister Thomas Moore Bertels states in part, "the constant pursuit of truth must lie at the heart of our purpose and actions." Congressman Pombo exemplifies a person who is dedicated to truth and fairness, particularly in regards to improving the Endangered Species Act. He was nominated for this award by California Women for Agriculture and Illinois Agri-Women voted to second the nomination.

Congressman Pombo represented the 11th District of California and was a member of the House Agriculture Committee as well as Chairman of the House of Resources Committee.

He is also former Chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus, through which he was active in various issues such as private property and water rights.

However, the primary reason for being selected for the AAW Veritas Award has to do with his diligent work to reform the Endangered Species Act. His approach to reforming the 1973 Act is based on sound science, adopting a solid recovery plan for endangered species while protecting private property rights. His bipartisan approach led to passage of the rewrite in the House of Representatives last September on a 229-193 vote.

The Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act of 2005 focuses on the actual recovery of species as well as seeks to correct flaws in the original bill. Specifically, TESRA requires that within two years of a species being listed, a detailed plan be prepared stating specific measures of how to bring the species back from the brink of extinction. It also recognizes the need for cooperation between the service, landowners, and state and local governments.

Unfortunately, now that Pombo has lost his bid for re-election, mainly because of an influx of urban people into his district who don't understand why the ESA and loss of private property rights are a problem, reform of the Act is in danger and will require that the rest of us step up to the plate and let other congressmen know how important it is.

Congressman Pombo was presented the award at the California Women for Agriculture meeting in Modesto, California, on November 4.

Let's tell the true story of American agriculture

American Agri-Women held the organization's 31st convention in Miami, Florida, November 8-11.

The theme of the Convention was "Fresh Ideas, Fresh Outlook, Fresh from Florida," focused on new ideas for working with consumers and others in agriculture, as well as current issues in agriculture. Speakers told participants about consumer and food trends and activist claims about agriculture and the food industry. Several sessions focused on working with consumer organizations and increasing consumer awareness of food production and safety.

Keynote speaker Michele Payn-Knoper told AAW members that many activist groups are attacking the animal agriculture industry. Eric Schlosser's book, "Fast Food Nation," has been adapted into a movie, which just came out November 17. The movie promotion states, "Brutal working conditions, food poisoning, animal cruelty, low wages... Do you really know what's in that burger?"

Discover the true cost of fast food and

Continued on page 3.

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President's Column



By Yvonne Erickson
AAW President

Everyone has his or her own ideas about New Year resolutions. Is it a time to change things after assessing needs? Is it a way to encourage yourself? Is it time to let yourself accomplish a personal goal? Or is it a way to remind yourself to enjoy yourself and what you do? Maybe it's a bit of all of these.

The next year in AAW lets us accomplish all of those resolutions, because as a grassroots organization we can work locally up to nationally. We can partake in opportunities that allow us to grow as a person and better AAW as a whole. It's amazing what we can accomplish when ideas meet action and motivation.

A strategic planning session scheduled in early January will set guidelines for our upcoming years. We are fortunate to have Mr. Chuck Rumbarger of Association Management Group (presenter at several Syngenta "Leadership At Its Best" trainings) as our facilitator. This will provide direction for our members to help reach our organizational goals. We welcome suggestions for implementation methods and ideas.

Consider making a resolution to attend Mid-Year and/or Fly-In. Adding these events to your calendar encourages your involvement in the informative meetings.

The November convention held in warm and sunny Miami provided thoughtful insights to our agricultural arena, organization and leadership skills, and the challenges of reaching our consumers. Katie Edwards and her office staff receive high accolades for the success of the convention. Of course, the 2007

convention November 8-10 should also be on your calendar. We will be in the North Star state of Minnesota.

Eunice Guell, our lay chaplain, compiled a third volume of "Inspirations and Devotions" released at convention. The collection of past readings, prayers, and devotions used at AAW events plus other selected readings is now available through the Country Store. Our heartfelt thanks goes to Eunice for accomplishing this.

National Ag Day and Week is a natural time to accomplish another resolution of telling our message to consumers. Plans are now being set for many of your affiliates and chapters. The National Ag Day and Week are a great way to be nudged into the local agricultural arena.

Wishing you the best in your New Year and AAW work. I raise a toast to you!

Yvonne

FEBRUARY/MARCH DEADLINE 2/1/07

Unknown to most AAW affiliates, the *Voice* has a schedule of when your group is supposed to have a report in to the editor for printing—a great way to advertise your organization. Please send your articles to the editor at akovash@earthlink.net. If you aren't on this list and haven't sent an article in 2006, please feel free to send it now!

Affiliates:

- Missouri Agri-Women
- Florida Agri-Women
- Farm Safety 4 Just Kids
- Foremost Farms USA
- New Mexico Cowbelles
- New York State Vegetable Growers
- Sigma Alpha Nat'l Alumni Assn
- United Agricultural League
- **Anyone who hasn't sent a report yet!**

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Tell the true story, continued.

how you can change the system, one bite at a time.” She said that Forbes Magazine recently reported vegetarian food sales doubled since 1998 in the U.S., hitting \$1.6 billion in 2003. The market is forecast to grow another 61% by 2008. She encouraged AAW members who are involved in farming and ranching and knowledgeable about their products to reach out to consumers and provide the true story of American agriculture and food production.

Other key issues considered at the meeting included Endangered Species Act (ESA) reform, immigration reform, and Supreme Court cases regarding agriculture, especially the use of eminent domain. AAW has long been a strong advocate for ESA reform and an effective agricultural labor system for foreign-born workers.

The Convention agenda included several sessions providing leadership training and networking opportunities for those in attendance and also opportunities to explore and learn about the agriculture of South Florida.

New executive committee

Installed as the Executive Committee to lead AAW for the coming year were Yvonne Erickson, President, Battle Lake, Minnesota; Marcie Williams First Vice-President/ Resolutions and Vital Issues, Croton, Ohio; Chris Wilson, Vice-President/ Communications, Wamego, Kansas; Pat Yeagle, Vice-President/ Education, Winslow, Illinois; Lynn Figone-Gallagher, Secretary, Middletown, California; Kathy Rhoads, Treasurer, Circleville, Ohio; and Carol Marx, Past President, Rickreall, Oregon. Elected to the AAW Resource Center were Ina Pluid, Bonners Ferry, Idaho; Mary Ann Graff, Visalia, California; and Julie Tesch, St. Paul, Minnesota.

LEAVEN award winners

Receiving the organization's highest award for a member, the LEAVEN Award, were Shirley Bartelt, Polo, Illinois; Pat Leimbach, Vermillion, Ohio; Gwen Mulkey, Monmouth, Oregon, and Katie Edwards, Homestead, Florida.

AAW calls on Congress to pass immigration reform for agriculture

At the AAW convention in Miami on November 10th, delegates signed a petition to demand that Congress do something about immigration reform. The petition is as follows:

“We, as American Agri-Women, are the voice of hard working farm families across America. We know through personal experience about America's broken immigration system. Farms that need labor to survive are struggling and even selling out. The whole infrastructure of our farming communities and rural America is being undermined and in places, it is beginning to unravel.

“Farms need labor, and in an economy that offers so many opportunities, few American children aspire to be farm workers. We need your help to get and keep adequate and legal labor so that our farms can survive, and we can continue to feed America. We can do better than simply punishing hardworking farmers and farm workers with fines, penalties, and deportation.

“After years of excuses, Congress needs to act, now, to provide a workable agricultural labor program now and for the future. While the current broken system is a reflection of years of Congressional neglect, the solution is no mystery. Bipartisan legislation that creates a workable agricultural labor program has been pending in Congress since 2003. Last May the Senate passed comprehensive reform for agriculture known as AgJOBS. These provisions have been discussed and debated and fine-tuned for years.

“It is time, as Congress returns for a post election “lame duck” session, for the fair and balanced agricultural worker program known as AgJOBS to be enacted and sent to President Bush for signature.”

If you did not get a chance to sign this petition and nothing has been done in Congress yet, please use this information to contact your senator or representative and ask that something be done. This is critical for many of our AAW farmers and an important way to support them.

A CELEBRATION OF AGRICULTURE

National Ag Day is March 21, 2007 and National Ag Week is March 18-24, 2007. The 2007 National Ag Day materials are now available.

Because of your role in American agriculture, you know just how important our industry is to the world. Agriculture is responsible for providing food, fiber and shelter; the very essentials of life. But too few people recognize this vital contribution. That's what National Ag Day is all about, reminding Americans of the role of agriculture in their daily lives. Widespread national awareness efforts are planned to call attention to Ag Day 2007, but we need your help to bring this message to all of our communities!

To order Ag Day Materials, visit www.agday.org or Ag Day, 11020 King Street, Suite 205, Overland Park, KS 66210, Phone 913-491-6502.

Mid-Year Schedule & Registration

2007 AAW Mid-Year Meeting Agenda

Friday, March 31

- 8-11 a.m. Resource Center Board Meeting
- 11:15-12 Joint AAW Executive Committee/
Resource Center Board Meeting
- Noon Lunch (included in registration)
- 1-3 p.m. Board of Directors Business Meeting (everyone invited)
Strategic Action Response Team (StART) reports
- 3-3:30 p.m. Break – Resource Center Silent Auction starts
- 3:30-5:30 StART committees break out to work on position
statements (all members encouraged to attend)
- 5:30-7:30 Affiliate Presidents' Meeting and Dinner (Dutch treat)
- Evening Dinner on your own

Saturday, April 1

- 8:30-12 Strategic Plan Implementation
- Noon Lunch (included in registration)
- 1:15-3 p.m. Reconvene Business Meeting
2007 Minnesota Convention
Approve strategic plan direction
Review 2006 Policy Position revisions
- 3:30-5:30 p.m. Continue Policy Position review
- Evening Open

Sunday, April 2

- 8:30 –9 am Devotional Service
- 9-11 am Business Meeting – Adopt 2006 Position Statements
- 11-1 Executive Meeting- or start quickly after meeting
adjourns

AAW MID-YEAR MEETING REGISTRATION

- _____ \$75 registration fee for full meeting
- _____ Yes, lunch for Friday noon
- _____ No, lunch for Friday noon
- _____ \$50 registration fee, includes one lunch and one break,
Saturday only
- _____ \$35 collegiate only full registration, includes meals and breaks
- _____ \$10 collegiate partial registration/breaks only, Saturday

Name _____

Affiliate _____

Address/City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Mail to Kathy Rhoads, American Agri-Women, 26669 Kingston Pike, Circleville, OH 43113, e-mail treasurer@americanagriwomen.org and call 740-474-2028, Ext. 6 for credit card registration information. Register online at <http://www.americanagriwomen.org>

Registration deadline is March 15, 2006. Late registration: add \$10.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION FOR MID-YEAR BY MARCH 8

This year we will be at the Embassy Suites Kansas City - International Airport 7640 NW Tiffany Springs Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64153.

Rate of \$109 for a single or double room plus tax (totalling nearly \$128) and includes an evening Manager's Reception and a daily cooked-to-order breakfast. The hotel provides shuttle service from the airport.

Make reservations by March 8 by calling 1-800-362-2779 and asking for the American Agri-Women rate. All reservations must be cancelled 24 hours prior to arrival to avoid a fee.

SILENT AUCTION A TRADITION OF AAW MEETINGS

At the Mid-Year meeting AAW sponsors a silent auction to benefit the Resource Center. We accept items to auction from both affiliates and individuals, so if you have an item you would like to donate, please bring it to the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

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

Please check one: New Renew

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Spouse _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone () _____

Fax () _____

E-Mail _____

AAW Affiliation _____

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

Yes No

YES! We take Visa or Mastercard!

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Thank you to our AAW and AAW Resource Center donors!

American Agri-Women would not have a program without our donors to both AAW and the AAW Resource Center and we appreciate each one! Please support them as well as they support us.

PLATINUM – OVER \$5,000

Syngenta

GOLD – UP TO \$5,000

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Joan Reily Burke
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Women for Agriculture
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Jacquie Compston
Wisconsin Outstanding Young
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Ina Fluid
Yvonne Erickson
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Imogene Woodside
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In memory of Calvin Ibendahl
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In memory of Melvin & Sarah Mold
Doris Mold

In memory of Sally Tada
Northwoods Chapter of Wisconsin
Women for Agriculture

In memory of Rose Burdick
Ann Kraemer

In memory of Mike Kaster
Jacquie Compston

*In honor of Patricia & Billy Magee's
Anniversary*
Pamela Sweeten-Shaw
Lynn Figone-Gallagher

In honor of Barbara Steidinger
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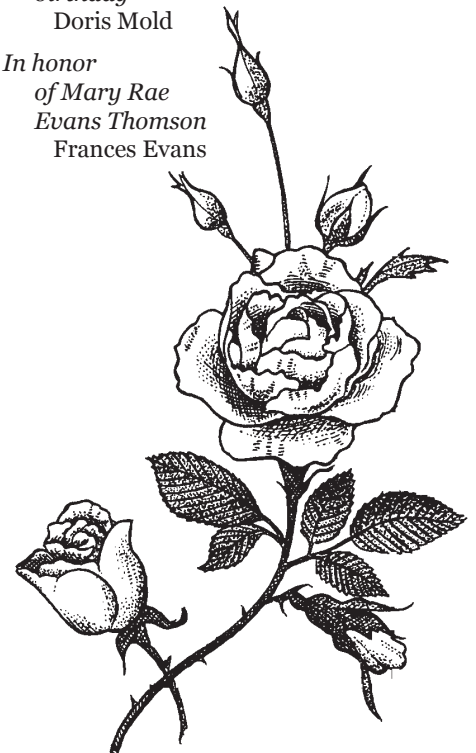
In honor of R. H. Benson
Virginia Benson

In honor of Carol Marx
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In honor of Yvonne Erickson
Vivian Helland

*In honor of Sarah H. H. Whyte's 2nd
birthday*
Doris Mold

*In honor
of Mary Rae
Evans Thomson*
Frances Evans



Committee & Officer Reports

Good news and bad for specialty crops

By Pam Sweeten-Shaw, CWA, Specialty Crops Chair

Everyone's heard the saying, "an apple a day, will keep the doctor away." Well, now researchers are encouraging you to have a salad everyday; it will help you meet the daily recommended levels for Vitamin C and other nutrients.

The last few months have been very active for specialty crops. We have not only seen the fruits, nuts, flowers and seeds of our labor harvested but we have seen HR6193 the Equitable Agriculture Today for a Healthy America Act. What this act focuses on is specialty crops by increasing the technical assistance for specialty crops, increasing research into the prevention of invasive plant pests and diseases, and increasing opportunities for specialty crop producers to access conservation programs.

In addition, this legislation will increase market access, encourage and facilitate consumption of nutritious products, fund research programs and increase opportunities for family farmers in conservation programs. Specialty crops include nursery products, fruits, vegetables, and tree nuts.

I would much rather talk about the GOOD news than touch on the bad. . . but here goes. I am sure most of you heard about the E.coli O157:H7 Outbreak in spinach and it just goes to show that maybe there was a little over reaction from big brother at FDA. It is okay to eat spinach again, but for those that suffered and had to disc under crops, we have to have a better system in place before the next outbreak. This has affected growers in California, Arizona, New Jersey, Texas, Colorado and Maryland.

The New York Times wrote an article on the lack of migrant workers in Lake County, California, to pick the pear harvest in time. California Women for Agriculture member Toni Sculley who owns a packing plant can be seen in a photo with rotting fruit on the ground and growers blaming Congress.

"Fruit and Tree Nuts Outlook" is

the title of a report released on May 25 by the USDA Economic Research Service which provides current intelligence and forecasts the effects of changing conditions in the U.S. fruit and tree nuts sector. Topics include production, consumption, shipments, prices received, and more.

A National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) forecast reported that the combined strawberry production in California and Florida to be 2.4 billion pounds in 2006, up 7 percent from a year ago. This and other interesting information is found at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/FTS/>

California remained the nation's number-one producer of agriculture in 2005; Texas and Iowa came in second and third respectively.

No immigration reform in 2006

By Carol Chandler, Agricultural Labor Chair

It is important to note that agricultural labor has been at the forefront of the nation's heated immigration reform debates the entire year of 2006. Countless trips to Washington, DC, letters, phone calls, faxes and e-mails to legislators have drawn attention to the workforce needs of our industry. However, despite all of our efforts, there will be no meaningful comprehensive immigration reform legislation including AgJOBS provisions or H2A revisions this year.

Throughout the year, there has been an ongoing battle between the House and the Senate over how immigration laws should be overhauled. The House pushed for enforcement only while the Senate offered a more comprehensive plan including AgJOBS. As of this writing, the Senate has passed a bill to fence 700 miles of the US Mexico border and install a state-of-the-art security system along the border with Canada to stop smugglers.

AgJOBS has been offered most eloquently as an amendment by Sen. Craig (R-ID) and Sen. Feinstein (D-CA) who understand the need for ag labor. Both are attempting to rally lawmakers to support AgJOBS in the final days of the session.

AgJOBS would create a new temporary resident status for seasonal farm workers and give them the chance to become permanent residents if they work intensively in agriculture for at least three years.

Adding to the argument for a reliable immigrant workforce for agriculture is evidence of labor shortages causing crops to rot in the fields and thousands of dollars lost to growers. Articles in the New York Times, Kansas City Star, and Buffalo News have highlighted the shortage of nursery workers in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, pear pickers in Lakeport, California, and apple harvesters in upstate New York.

As to the future, USDA statistics on farm wages show that wages are up 4% from one year ago, and the number of workers is down by 11% overall. There is less part time labor due to heightened border security. As many growers, nurserymen, dairymen, and others have testified, without AgJOBS legislation the labor intensive segments of the agriculture industry would be decimated. An American Farm Bureau Federation study concluded that "if agriculture's access to migrant labor were cut off, as much as \$5 billion to \$9 billion in annual production of primarily import-sensitive commodities would be lost in the short term. Over the long term, the annual loss would increase from \$6.5 billion to \$12 billion with fresh fruits and vegetables the hardest hit."

Does the dairy industry have a future?

By Norma Hanson, Dairy Committee Chair

Reports early in the year stated that U.S. milk production was 5.1 percent larger during the first quarter of 2006 compared to 2005. Also

there was an expansion of dairy cows during this time that grew to around 50,000 head during that first quarter. Much of this growth in productivity was attributed to the restoration of available supplies of BST, which had been in short supply during the previous year.

Most of us read and hear that there are many concerns in the dairy community about the future of the industry. The 2007 Farm Bill will continue the Dairy Price Support Program, increase conservation programs like EQIP, encourage energy production on farms and maintain the current dairy mandates for nutrition programs.

The new milk advertising campaign "Body by Milk" was kicked off in September, just in time for children going back to school. The campaign comes at a time when consumers are looking for healthier beverage options, and millions of teenagers still aren't getting their recommended calcium intake. "Body by Milk" is the largest dairy promotion program ever for schools and has a budget of about \$20 million, one-third of milk processors annual advertising expenditures.

Education committees report on activities

By Doris Mold, Outgoing Vice President of Education

Where has the year gone! Below you will find a brief report on the five committees that currently fall under the education area for AAW and the following details some of the activities for the committees.

Ag in the Classroom – We had a display and materials again at the National Ag In the Classroom Conference June 20-24 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. From our booth in the trade show at the conference we handed out 285 CDs with our Activity Book on it to the educators who were in attendance, as well as, general information on AAW. AAW was also recognized as a sponsor of the National Ag In the Classroom program.

College Project – We are currently working on matching up college student members with regular AAW members in a new ongoing mentoring program. We are working on starting new college chapters and hope to have our first two-year college chapter started soon. Additionally, we are pleased that for the first time ever there is a college student rate for

convention and a special collegiate event at convention. Lastly, we are evaluating how we can better support Sigma Alpha and perhaps encourage more of their individual members to join AAW.

Consumer Awareness – We continue to work on the recipe project and you can see the initial results in the draft copies that are available for comment here at convention. We continue to need your action shots of you or other Agri-Women doing ag work (field, office, classroom or meetings) and some short bios. of Agri-Women along with Ag Facts and recipes to add to what we already have.

Leadership – We will be running our third convention only mentoring program again this year. The purpose of this program is to match more seasoned members with first timers or collegiate members so that our newer attendees learn more about our organization and how our convention works. We would like to restart our full year mentoring program for non-college students, as well. Applications for this program will be available online on our AAW website and at convention. The Leadership Committee also assisted in the Syngenta Leadership program applications this year.

Member Education – This is a new committee to AAW and we need your help! We were encouraged to complete a member education/ leadership program survey here at convention and to encourage our members to complete a survey which will be available online. If your members do not have access to the Internet we hope that you provide them with a paper copy of the survey so that we may have input from a wide range of members. We welcome your input on what will add value to your membership.

Please take a moment or two to check out the new Education page on the web, www.americanagriwomen.org.

The two years has gone fast! It has been my pleasure to serve as your Vice President of Education.



Members from the Midwest got a chance to visit with longtime member Jean Ibendahl from Illinois Agri-Women at the annual convention in Miami. In front are Trenna Grabowski, Jean, Eleanor Zimmerlein, and Pat Yeagle, all from Illinois Agri-Women, and in back are Chris Wilson from Kansas, and , Penny Lauritzen, Ardath DeWall and Linda Swiercinsky from Illinois.

No simple solutions for Texas water shortages

By Linda Gilleland, Texas Agri-Women Water Chair

Pressure to solve the water shortage in Texas will most certainly grow as the population grows in urban areas of the state. Because of this and because of being in one of the worst droughts in the history of Texas, now is the right time for the Texas legislature to have a serious discussion about the water supplies in Texas. During the next legislative session, the Senate and House need to take a moment to think about the future of this state and how to better live within its legislative and environmental constraints.

The pressure to find new sources of water is being pushed by the 2007 State Water Plan. This plan was released in October in draft form by the Texas Water Development Board. In the report, predictions of doubling the state's population by the year 2060, and predictions of the declining availability of water resources by 18 percent in that same time period have lit a fire under many legislators, state and city leaders, and everyone else who likes to drink water.

The ongoing drought across Texas, despite sporadic rains, has created a huge problem for the entire region and has made everyone more aware of the problem that someday, many wells may be empty. Should there be, or not, privatization of aging water structures? Should more groundwater districts be created to pass the state level while still maintaining local control? These are only two of many questions that will need to be addressed by upcoming legislation.

Speculators are gambling that the underground water and surface water will be a valuable commodity. Only time will tell as the water story unfolds whether or not water will be a new liquid asset. One thing is for sure. All water resource projects will be costly, no matter which one is considered. Desalinization, huge reservoirs, recharge structures and pipelines are only some of the solutions that will

be discussed and fought over in the next legislative session. Regional cooperation of water issues will be more vital now than ever before in the upcoming sessions.

Legislators will need to recognize that the private property right inherent in groundwater will be the key to protecting its use for all Texans. There can be a best of all worlds where private landowners, through historical use and proper well spacing, get what they need and no more and municipalities and industries get what they need and no more with a built in safety net for growth. The problems of water shortages need to be worked out in the next session before they are taken to court where no one benefits except the lawyers. Until this is done, there will never be closure, and people will never be able to get on with their lives wondering whether or not they have water.

The past 100 years have made one thing very clear to Texans . . . water has always been a warrior's fight and has never been an agenda for social gatherings.

Illinois active on many fronts

By Heather Hampton+Knodle, Illinois Agri-Women President

Membership

We launched a pilot program to reward existing members and to recruit members through the Annie's Project educational seminars. One new member joined by submitting her Annie's Project rebate form with her membership application for a Voting Membership (\$40 a year) in IAW to receive a \$20 rebate.

Beginning the fall of 2004, we asked the current vice president to draft, circulate and tabulate a survey of members' interests, priorities and talents. Because the vice president is to step into the president's role in March, it is a fitting way for her to be

aware of members' interests so that she may marshal resources to respond. This fall's survey includes questions about the timing and location of meetings as well as what leadership roles members might be interested in serving.

Consumer Education

We appointed a Special Projects Committee 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.

We continue to support categories at the State Science Academy for new uses in cooperation with checkoff dollars. A previous winner is pursuing a patent with assistance from the soybean checkoff.

The IAW Northwestern Region continues support of the Food Resource Bank project to provide food to people in need.

We are investigating a custom, fashion jewelry piece that would symbolize agri-women's role as providers and stewards/managers of natural resources and serve as a conversation piece while attending non-ag meetings or running errands.

Policy

IAW President continues serving on the Illinois Agricultural Roundtable steering committee. We also serve on the steering committee for potential strategic planning efforts for Illinois agriculture.

IAW hosted its first legislative coffee in conjunction with our annual meeting. Position papers were shared and signage with our positions were posted around the room.

The IAW vice president is currently serving as vice chair of planning committee for the Illinois Agricultural Legislative Day in March.

The IAW President addressed issues related to support of modernizing locks and dams through the Water Resources Development Act; support of updating the Endangered Species Act to protect landowners and communities and do

Continued on next page.

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a better job of recovering species; and to support maintaining the stepped up basis in estate taxes and elimination of the capital gains tax.

IAW established a Farm Bill Task Force with members serving as Title Leaders for the key titles that impact Illinois agriculture. We also contacted both major party candidates to obtain answers to IAW state priority issues. Attended gubernatorial candidate agricultural forum in August.

Business Skills

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 book keeping.

IAW is a charter member of the Illinois Council for Food and Agricultural Research. We have active representation in three of five working groups. Several research projects lead to information and methods to increase on-farm and agribusiness profitability and to improve consumer health and safety.

Leadership

So that our members can be better informed spokespeople is one of our goals for including tours with our meetings. This year, we had a guest speaker give tips on how to influence policymakers, and had a tour to the headquarters of the seventh largest pork producing farm in the country, and an award winning winery.

Scholarships

Our Memorial Fund was established in 2004, to reimburse partially or to pay registration expenses to IAW and AAW events.

IAW is also establishing an Illinois Agricultural Resource Center to fund more extensive scholarship opportunities, consumer education and member education/development opportunities.

IWIT still vital, even with fewer members

By Jackie McAvoy, IWIT President

It has been a full year for chapter members in the six chapters of Idaho Women in Timber (IWIT). Our membership is down a little due to mill closures and relocation but that hasn't stopped us from carrying on our mission.

In April I was a speaker at the Intermountain Logging Conference. A quote from an article on the conference by Mike Crouse publisher of *Loggers World* talks about my comments. He said, "... Jackie McAvoy from Idaho Women in Timber, outlined their ongoing programs that benefit the logging industry, and talked about the national association of Women in Timber's upcoming lobbying trip to Washington, DC. They are to be congratulated for the work they continue doing for the timber industry and outlying communities." Several people talked to Jackie during a break in the conference asking about WIT.

Also in April, IWIT sent a wreath made of native conifer species to Washington, DC for the Cherry Blossom Festival. Idaho's Cherry Blossom Princess laid the wreath at the Memorial to Fallen Police Officers. IWIT has been invited to provide a wreath for this event for the past several years. In 2005 the wreath was laid at the memorial for Women in the Military.

Ina Pluid and Dolly Lillis continue to be involved in American Agri-Women. They attended the mid-year AAW meeting in early April. In November I joined Ina and Dolly in attending the AAW 31st Annual Meeting in Miami. Ina is serving her fourth term as chair of the Timber Commodity group and Dolly chairs the Resources Committee. Ina is now a director of the Resource Center.

In July, on a 100-degree plus day, members of the IWIT board of

directors hiked the historic Pulaski Trail prior to the start of their quarterly meeting. The hike is a four mile round trip route that takes the hardy climber to the site where Ed Pulaski saved 39 of 45 firefighters as they were caught in the path of the horrific 1910 fires. The trail begins just south of Wallace, Idaho. If you're ever in that part of northern Idaho, you need to put a visit to the site on your "to do" list. The trail is interspersed with several interpretive signs telling the story of the 1910 fire and Pulaski's heroism.

Chapters continue to be involved in their communities. Members set up fair booths, take part in various youth educational activities, are members of their local Chambers of Commerce and are involved in their local government commissions. They write letters in support or opposition on various topics related to federal land use.

I am still on the Panhandle National Forest Resource Advisory Committee and am anxiously waiting for Congress to provide funding to continue the program. I also represent Idaho on the Citizens Board of the National Recreation and Parks Association.

Immediately following the AAW convention we will be busy with our annual wreath fundraiser. Selling Christmas wreaths is our largest fundraiser for the year.

On a closing note, IWIT members mourn the recent death of our friend and former Idaho District 1 Representative, Helen Chenoweth-Hage. Helen served Idaho, and all those whose values she respected, with dedication and honor. News of her death took away our breath and brought many of us to tears. She will go down in history as one Idaho's greats and one of Women in Timber's greatest supporters.

INSPIRATIONS & DEVOTIONS BOOK READY

The Inspirations and Devotions Volume 3 booklet was compiled by Eunice Guell. The collection of past readings, prayers and devotions used at AAW events plus other selected readings became available during convention. It is available through the Country Store for \$10 plus shipping fees. Contact Vickie Maaske at 920-485-4745 or maaskewsfarm@powercom.net.

2001 Veritas winner Helen Chenoweth-Hage killed in automobile accident



Former Rep. Helen Chenoweth-Hage was killed in an automobile accident in Nevada on October 2, just four months after her husband Wayne Hage passed away. She was 68. With her passing, America lost a great statesman and patriot.

Wayne Hage had battled the federal government for decades over public lands and private property rights and came to epitomize the Sagebrush Rebellion in the West. Hage had been ill and died in his sleep at age 69.

Helen was born in Topeka, Kansas, but spent most of her growing-up years on her father's dairy farm in Grants Pass, Oregon, then attended Whitworth College in Spokane, Washington, where she met her first husband, Nick Chenoweth.

Helen lived with her husband and two children, Mike and Meg, in Orofino, Idaho, where she designed and managed the Northside Medical Clinic. There she developed one of the nation's first physician recruitment practices where she recruited doctors for under-served rural communities.

She moved to Boise in 1975 to become the Executive Director of the Idaho Republican Party. She revived the Party's dismal financial condition by bringing to Idaho several notable speakers, including William F. Buckley, Jr.

and Ronald Reagan. She articulated a set of beliefs that reflected the principles of the Republican Party, and spoke throughout the state to provide assistance to legislative candidates, including Larry Craig, who represented his district in the State Legislature. She served as then-Congressman Steve Symm's District Director in 1977 through his election in 1978, after which she started her own business, Consulting Associates, where she worked as a lobbyist in the legislature.

In 1993 she was asked by prominent Idahoans to consider running for Congress, and, with the encouragement of her pastor, made her first bid for election. With her victory in 1994, Helen became the second woman to represent Idaho in that capacity, and one of very few Congressmen to be elected by her peers to a chairmanship (House Sub-Committee on Forest and Forest Health) after only one term. While in Congress, she articulated and defended a freedom philosophy that was born out of a true appreciation of this country, particularly its foundation. She retired based on her term limits pledge, keeping her word always.

On October 2, 1999, she married Wayne Hage, and when her term was complete at the end of 2000, she moved to her husband's Nevada ranch. They traveled the country speaking and teaching on private property rights.

Helen loved God; she loved her family; she loved our God-given rights and the heart of those willing to serve a country that would defend those rights; she loved good law; she loved justice; she loved Idaho, the western way of life and the idea that is "America;" she loved life.

Helen was AAW's 17th Veritas Award winner in 2001, for her tireless work with her husband's property rights organization, Stewards of the Range.

Feds may delist wolves in Montana & Idaho

Wolves in Montana and Idaho could be taken off the endangered species list even if Wyoming wolves remain listed, federal officials said Tuesday. A proposal to delist wolves could come as early as this month. There are two possible delisting options that may be pursued in the very near future. One would involve wolves in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, but only if Wyoming agrees to make changes to its wolf plan and amend a law passed earlier by the Wyoming Legislature.

The other would remove federal protections just in Montana and Idaho, an option that both states have pushed for years. Federal wolf biologists have said for years that the wolf population, which sprung from reintroductions in Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho in 1995 and 1996, has recovered enough to allow them to be delisted.

The biggest stumbling block has been an ongoing dispute between Wyoming and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which must approve management plans from all three states before delisting.

House approves animal terrorism act

President Bush signed the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act, which improves and strengthens federal law dealing with criminal acts against animal enterprises, such as farms, meat processing companies and research laboratories.

The new law revises criminal prohibitions against damaging or interfering with the operations of an animal enterprise. It also increases monetary and criminal penalties for such crimes and modifies the definition of "animal enterprise" to include an enterprise that uses or sells animals or animal products for profit for educational purposes; and an animal shelter, pet store, breeder, or furrier.

Biotechnology Reaping Benefits

U.S. farmers gained an additional 8.3 billion pounds of yield last year due to biotech crops, including an extra 7.6 billion pounds of corn production, a 29 percent increase over 2004's harvest, according to a study by the National Center for Food Agriculture.

Since the commercialization of plant biotechnology in the late 1990s, corn production has benefited by an extra 39 billion pounds of yield, equivalent to 1.9 billion gallons of ethanol production. These continued yield increases will be a key factor in meeting future demand as corn prices hit 10-year highs and corn used for ethanol production is predicted to jump 34 percent in 2007.

The report indicates biotech crops helped farmers increase their income by \$2 billion last year, while reducing the amount of pesticides used 69.7 million pounds on the 123 million acres planted to the biotech-enhanced crops.

In addition to herbicide-tolerant and insect-resistant corn, the report evaluated the impact of herbicide-tolerant soybean, herbicide-tolerant and insect-resistant cotton, herbicide-tolerant canola and virus-resistant squash and papaya. As cellulosic ethanol production comes online, farmers will be able to sell two crops from each field, a food crop and a biomass energy crop.

The study is an annual update of a 2002 report that analyzes, quantifies and documents the agronomic, economic and environmental impacts of biotech crops on US agriculture.

Iowa uses chemical to foil meth labs

Two Iowa State University researchers discovered a new chemical tool to combat the illegal production of methamphetamine. Researchers discovered that adding calcium nitrate to a common meth ingredient, anhydrous ammonia, makes the substance useless to meth cooks. The finding was the result of a six-year project costing more than a million dollars.



... and we can make our own "news about agriculture"

Michele Payn-Knoper was the kick-off speaker for the annual convention with "Beyond the Shopping Cart," which armed convention participants with tools to reach consumers.

Heather Schueppert of Evolution Marketing, talked about ways to market our organization and increase membership. We need to outsmart, not outspend our competition. We receive 30,000 messages a day. It takes 3 times to notice and 9 times to take action on a message.



Our organization also thrives because of the hard work of members. Here Trenna Grabowski, Illinois Agri-Women, gives a Resource Center report on finances and Peggy Clark, Ohio Agri-Women, reports on scholarships available through the Resource Center. Scholarship information is available on the AAW web site: www.americanagriwomen.org.

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Patty Judge says the calcium nitrate will not have any negative impact on the environment or on farm

equipment. It will be used on a voluntary basis and will cost an estimated 24 dollars per injection, per tank.



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REGISTRATION INFORMATION INSIDE FOR MID-YEAR IN KANSAS CITY, MARCH 31-APRIL 2

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request to Carolyn
Kleiber at Carolyn
@agpowerinc.net



Alice Dettwyler, Oregon Women for Agriculture member and past president of American Agri-Women installed new officers at the AAW convention in Miami, Florida, in November.

Officers, new and ongoing, are (left to right) Carol Marx (Oregon Women for Agriculture), Immediate Past president; Kathy Rhoads (Ohio Agri-Women), Treasurer; Lynn Figone-Gallagher (California Women for Agriculture), Secretary; Pat Yeagle (Illinois Agri-Women), Vice President of Education; Chris Wilson (Kansas Agri-Women), Vice President of Communications; Marcie Williams (Ohio Agri-Women), Vice President of Resolutions and Vital Issues; and Yvonne Erickson (Minnesota Agri-Women), President.

Elected to the AAW Resource Center were Ina Pluid, Idaho Women in Timber; Mary Ann Graff, California Women for Agriculture; and Julie Tesch, Minnesota Agri-Women.

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American Agri-Women **Calendar of Events**

- March 18-24, 2007
National Ag Week
- March 30-April 1, 2007
AAW Mid-Year, Kansas City
- June 10-13, 2007
AAW Fly-In & Symposium
Washington, D.C.
- November 8-10, 2007
Annual Convention
St. Paul, MN

AAW Web site

www.americanagriwomen.org

AAW Phone & Fax Numbers

Phone: 218-495-2867

Fax: 218-495-2659

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

To contact AAW about our positions go to our web site at www.americanagriwomen.org.