

the

VOICE

of the American Agri-Woman



August/September 2007, Volume 34, Issue 5

We can do it together!

AAW Showcase will feature local, state, and national activities

“AAW Showcase” will be a new feature at the American Agri-Women Convention, November 8-10, in Minnesota and is your opportunity to share AAW, affiliate, or chapter work with convention participants through a poster that illustrates and tells about a particularly successful project.

Since there is not enough time to share everything that we would like with other AAW members, this new poster exhibit will highlight projects and work of committees, affiliates and chapters within AAW.

To make it a little more interesting we are going to offer prizes to those who participate, including a little cash! Awards will be given in each of the four categories plus a People’s Choice award will be given, as well.

You may enter your poster in one of the following categories:

- AAW Committee Programs/Activities
- AAW Affiliate Programs/Activities
- Affiliate Chapter Programs/Activities
- Collegiate Programs/Activities

The convention committee will provide mounting materials at cost to participants who would like to bring their display or components with them to assemble at convention. The request for materials must be made by October 28, 2007.

Rules /Requirements

Complete an entry form (on page 8) and submit it by October 28, 2007. The actual entries themselves may be shipped ahead of time or may

be brought to the convention. Submit your forms via mail to 2007 AAW Convention, P.O. Box 8192, St. Paul, MN 55108 or fax 715-822-6351.

Please indicate on the back of your poster the category to be entered into, a contact name, address, phone number and e-mail.

Maximum size of the poster is 36" x 48". Posters may be smaller; for example, standard size poster board is 22" x 28". Posters must include:

- Visuals – photos, illustrations, items from the project/activity. An easy way to make a poster is to develop it on your computer and then bring the page or file to Kinkos and have it enlarged on their poster machine.
- A Narrative that explains the project/activity: 1) how you planned or organized it, 2) when and where it occurred, 3) what the results were: the impact that it had (who it impacted and approximately how many people), and 4) tells which committee, affiliate or chapter did the project or activity.

Please do not make table top displays! Posters will be hung in a public area at convention so that they may be shared with the membership. Posters should be made with a stiff material or mounted on material that makes them easy to hang.

You may ship your poster in advance to: Sarah Tesmer, 320 VoTech Bldg., 1954 Buford Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108.

Questions? Contact Doris Mold at doris@sunriseag.net or 715-822-6347.

Deputy Minister of Canadian Agriculture to speak at convention

Ms. Yaprak Baltacioglu will be our featured keynote speaker when we open the convention on Friday, November 9, 2007. Ms. Baltacioglu is one of the top agricultural officials in Canada and was appointed the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, effective March 5, 2007. She will provide us with her unique perspective on Redefining Agriculture.



Previously, Ms. Baltacioglu spent over four years at the Privy Council Office, first as Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet (Social Development Policy) and then as Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet (Operations). In these roles, she provided advice and support to the Prime Minister and Cabinet on the full range of government operations and domestic policy issues.

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President's Column



By Yvonne Erickson
AAW President

As the days grow shorter—especially noticeable in our northern tier states—signs of fall are appearing. We are now switching modes to our fall schedules of school, harvest, and meetings. Fall also means our Annual Convention in November.

When you read this issue, allow yourself to be motivated into attending this meeting.

Besides the always-educational tours and speakers, a mini-summit with our Canadian neighbors will be featured on Thursday afternoon's program. Come to share common interests and concerns and learn about the world's largest bilateral trading relationship in the world. We are each other's best customers for agriculture and agri-food products, thus creating a mutually beneficial trading partnership. The Minneapolis Canadian Consulate has been actively working with the convention committee, resulting in some of their outstanding 'women in agriculture' participating in a summit exchange.

The annual business meeting needs your voice in decision-making for AAW's continuing progress. There are bylaws revisions, logo choices, resolutions, and strategic planning recommendations to discuss and approve. A special thank you is due to the bylaws and logo committees. They have shared many talents to accomplish these needed tasks

for AAW.

Take a few minutes to get your convention reservations made. This will enable you to gain information, promote your ideals and enjoy each other's company. Minnesota weather may not always be warm, but the greetings from Minnesotan's are.

Looking forward to seeing you,

Yvonne

Convention Silent Auction

Start thinking of your convention silent auction items now. All proceeds benefit AAW activities. Think of things that represent your state or affiliate. We are looking for items in all price ranges. Think easy to pack or provide packaging or a shipping box to make it easier to get home. Any questions may be directed to Barb Overlie, Silent Auction Chair, 507-642-8098, or donbar@myclearwave.net.

Trade Show

Those wishing to participate in the convention trade show may choose to have their booth for Thursday only (through the Festival of Agriculture), or through Saturday afternoon. Cost is \$100 per space for non-members, \$50 for members. A trade show registration form will be available online or you may request one to be faxed or sent to you by contacting Doris Mold, 715-822-

American Agri-Women Executive Committee

President	Yvonne Erickson 34115 County Hwy 74 Battle Lake, MN 56515 Phone: 218-495-2867 Fax: 218-495-2659 president@americanagriwomen.org
1st Vice President Resolutions, Vital Issues	Marcie Williams 11404 Appleton Rd Croton, OH 43013 Phone: 740-893-4300 Fax: 740-893-4003 resolutions@americanagriwomen.org
Vice Pres. Communi- cations	Chris Wilson 2103 Zeandale Rd Manhattan, KS 66502 Phone: 785-539-7899 communications@ americanagriwomen.org
Vice Pres. Education	Pat Yeagle 4875 W. Winslow Rd Winslow, IL 61089 H/F: 815-789-4581 Cell Phone: 815-291-4581 education@americanagriwomen.org
Secretary	Lynn Figone-Gallagher PO Box 260 Middletown, CA 95461 Phone: 707-987-3634 Cell Phone: 707-291-005 secretary@americanagriwomen.org
Treasurer	Kathy Rhoads 26669 Kingston Pike Circleville, OH 43113 Home: 740-474-4649 Office: 740-474-2028 Fax: (740-474-3939 treasurer@americanagriwomen.org
Past Pres.	Carol Marx 4150 Oak Grove Rd. Rickreall, OR 97371 Phone: 503-362-6225 Fax: 503-362-2253 pastpresident@ americanagriwomen.org

AAW Web Site:

www.americanagriwomen.org

E-mail Address:

info@americanagriwomen.org

The Voice is published in February, April, June, August, October, and December by American Agri-Women as a service to members. Deadline is the 15th of the month before each issue is published.

Articles and suggestions are always welcomed by the editor:

Arlene Kovash, Page Craft
11425 Pedee Creek Rd
Monmouth, OR 97361

Ph: (503) 838-3512 • Fax (503) 838-6851
E-mail: akovash@earthlink.net

Please send address changes to:

Carolyn Kleiber, Membership Chair
PO Box 111

Hillsboro, KS 67063
Ph: (620) 947-3094 • Fax: (620) 947-2476
carolyn@agpowerinc.net

Letter to the Editor —

CAFOs misunderstood

We have been having trouble around the county I live in because people do not want “Mega Farms” that people incorrectly call them.

People claim that CAFOs [Confined Animal Feeding Operations] will pollute our water systems and cause a major fly problem. CAFOs will not do this because of regulations that we have in place today.

I think people should be more accepting of CAFOs because I don't think we want our meat and dairy products coming from foreign countries. Most CAFOs are just large family livestock farms. I would like to correct the incorrect information that people have been

saying. CAFOs properly operated will not have a strong odor because, when a person is building a CAFO, they have certain rules and regulations. Another example is that the CAFOs are designed to not pollute our water system, unlike older facilities where the livestock went to the creek to drink and deposit.

Yes, all animals will produce manure but there are companies that will come and recycle it by spreading it on crop fields. My family's business specializes in this area. When we haul manure from small and large facilities, we knife it in. Knifing it in just means that we inject it into the soil. By doing this, it eliminates odors and greatly reduces the chance of run-off. This

Thanksgiving I spent my weekend working with my father on a 1700-head swine farm doing just this and it had no odor before or after spreading.

By recycling the nutrients out of the manure we are able to restart the cycle of meat and crop production for society's benefit, using organic fertilizer and not manufactured, inorganic-based. That is why I think we should understand CAFOs. They are raising our food which provides us with safe, local, and inexpensive food.

*Thanks,
Megan Dresback (13)
Ohio Agri-Women Member*

Voice editor, website developer positions open

American Agri-Women is seeking proposals for the positions of Editor and Website Developer. Proposals are due by October 1, 2007, to Chris Wilson, Vice-President for Communications, by mail to 2103 Zeandale Road, Manhattan, KS 66502, or by email to communications@americanagriwomen.org. Questions are welcome as you are considering or developing a proposal. Phone is 785-844-0274. These are 2-year, contractual positions and may be renewed. Job descriptions follow:

Editor of the Voice, the newsletter of American Agri-Women:

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

It is the responsibility of the editor to solicit articles for the *Voice* from affiliate organizations, officers and committees. A schedule is provided for content and affiliate and committee reports throughout the year, i.e. issues for convention and other meeting information.

The editor also writes articles as needed. The editor is responsible for

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

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

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

If there are any questions about the position or on making a bid for this position, please contact the current editor, Arlene Kovash, akovash@earthlink.net, or 503-838-3512.

Website Developer:

This contract is for as-needed development of website features and

maintenance of our website <http://www.americanagriwomen.org>. We are looking towards development of an administrative tool side of the site, allowing for AAW officers, affiliates and committees as directed to upload information to the site. The administrative tools site should allow for uploading of Word documents, text, pictures, audio and video files, and .pdf files.

Other additions the organization would like to have made include:

- A members-only section of the site
- A links page, including links to our donors and coalitions we belong to
- A calendar page, including AAW and affiliate events and deadlines
- An RSS news feed of agricultural news stories

We wish to work toward a web-based membership system, which would allow affiliate organizations to update their membership via the website.



Redefining Agriculture Advancing In New Directions

November 8-10, 2007

with pre-convention and post-convention activities
Crowne Plaza St. Paul, Minnesota

WEDNESDAY – PRE-CONVENTION

Wednesday we are offering a Food, Land and People (FLP) workshop as an optional pre-convention activity for those who wish to add to their education resources. The registration price includes great learning materials, lunch, a break and the workshop. Food, Land and People is a resource for classroom visits, AgDay activities, or other educational opportunities that you might have. The materials alone are worth the registration price. For more information on FLP visit www.foodlandpeople.org.

Several options for Wednesday night activities will be available via the web and in the President's newsletter.

THURSDAY

Thursday kicks off a busy day of meetings, sessions and networking. Mid-afternoon we will hold a U.S./Canada Agriculture Mini-Summit focusing on Trade, Natural Resources, Commodities, Public Understanding and other topics. The Summit will feature dialogue between AAW members and representatives from Canadian agriculture on these topics and more. This is a unique opportunity for AAW to discuss issues and topics of concern with our neighbors to the north.

Spouse tours start early on

Thursday, leaving the hotel at 9 a.m. with a visit to the state of the art Minnesota Department of Agriculture labs, followed by an early "Dutch-treat lunch." Then it is on to the Minneapolis Grain Exchange for a tour, watching the close of the markets and an on-floor mock trading session. Spouses will be back by mid-afternoon.

First time attendees will be provided with a short orientation late in the afternoon and will learn who their convention only mentors are at that time.

The Redefining Agriculture Festival that evening will feature a full range of interactive displays and activities representing all different types of agriculture. Convention participants will be able to learn first-hand how agriculture is being redefined in Minnesota and beyond!

FRIDAY

Our Town Hall meeting will be served along with breakfast Friday morning. We will follow this with the official opening of Convention with the flag ceremony and a welcome by MN Lt. Governor Carol Molnau, an AAW member and farmer. The morning will include keynote addresses from Yaprak Baltacioglu, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Nancy Pellet, Chairman of the Board & CEO of the Farm Credit Administration.

Friday afternoon will feature several tours you may choose from when you arrive at convention. Included are: Ag Innovation-Ethanol/Ag Artists/Genetics; Food Distribution System; and Behind the Scenes Agricultural Education and Research at the University of Minnesota, and more. There will be no morning spouse tour and they will be joining the afternoon tour of their preference.

Short receptions will be held afterward. The Making Connections Reception is for the general membership and the Young Professionals Reception is for attendees who are in college, recent graduates or

those that work with these populations. Dinner is on your own.

SATURDAY

Wake up with a Networking Breakfast for the majority of the participants or for those who are eligible, participate in the Affiliate Presidents Breakfast. Texas will invite us to the 2008 Convention during lunch and we will hear from outgoing officers at this time, as well. The day continues with AAW Business meetings, a special update from the USDA Ag Statistics service and breakout sessions on ag energy, ag innovations/entrepreneurs, ag issues and education. That evening will be our Awards Banquet and installation of officers.

The Saturday spouse tours start early! 7:45 a.m. departure, first stop is Cabelas (well known- outdoor store) and the second is a visit to the Miron Farm which faces some special issues being on the urban fringe, lunch will be served at this stop. The final stop of the day will let you know what we do with barley and hops in Minnesota. A tour and tasting at Summit Brewery will round out your day.

SUNDAY

Will feature our worship service and post-convention tour.

Join us for an optional tour that takes us to Red Wing Minnesota on the Mississippi River. Includes brunch at the Victorian St. James Hotel in Red Wing, shopping and sightseeing in Red Wing, including the Red Wing Shoe Museum and Great River Boatworks. Following Red Wing we will move on to Alexis Bailly Vineyard for a visit and wine tasting. Find out how the grapes can suffer in Minnesota and still produce a nice wine! We will return to the hotel by early evening.

2007 American Agri-Women Convention Registration

American Agri-Women 32nd Annual Meeting

Name: _____ Affiliate: _____

Guest: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Are you a voting member of AAW? _____

How many conventions have you attended? _____ Are you a 1st time conference attendee? _____

Please list any dietary requirements: _____

Conference Registration	Cost	# Attending	Amount
Early Registration (Postmarked by September 15, 2007)	\$250.00	_____	_____
Late Registration (Postmarked after September 15, 2007)	\$300.00	_____	_____
Early Student Registration (Postmarked by September 15, 2007)	\$150.00	_____	_____
Late Student Registration (Postmarked by September 15, 2007)	\$200.00	_____	_____
Day-Only Registration - Please mark the days attending:			
_____ Thursday _____ Friday _____ Saturday	\$100.00 per day	_____	_____
Student Day-Only Registration - Please mark the days attending:			
_____ Thursday _____ Friday _____ Saturday	\$50.00 per day	_____	_____

I am a collegiate student and would be interested in a homestay for lodging.

Pre-Conference Activities - Wed, November 7, 2007 (Limited Space Available)

Food, Land & People Training – Includes training, lunch, & materials \$50.00

Optional Wednesday evening activity will be available, more details to follow.

Optional Events (Please indicate if attending and how many)

Thursday Spouse Tour	Comp	_____	
Saturday Spouse Tour	Comp	_____	
Friday 'Making Connections' Reception	Comp	_____	
Friday Young Professionals Reception	Comp	_____	
Sunday Tour – Red Wing, MN	\$50.00	_____	_____
Total Enclosed			_____

Registration Fees

The early registration fee for the 2007 convention is \$250.00 and must be postmarked by September 15, 2007. After that date, the registration fee is \$300.00. The early student registration fee is \$150.00 if postmarked by September 15, 2007, after that date, the registration fee is \$200.00. For those that cannot attend the whole conference but still would like to participate, there is a daily registration fee of \$100.00 and \$50.00 for students.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations made in writing before October 15, 2007 will receive a full refund. No refund will be given to cancellations made after October 15, 2007.

Payment & Inquiries

Make checks payable to 2007 AAW Convention and mail with registration form to: Sarah Tesmer, 320 VoTech Bldg., 1954 Buford Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108. Any inquiries contact Sarah Tesmer at 612-624-6256 or tesm0010@umn.edu.

How the Guestworker Program really works

By Arlene Frelk, Wisconsin Women for Agriculture and Past AAW Labor Chair

There is much false and misquoted information regarding the Guestworker Program, also known as the H-2A temporary foreign worker program. I want to bring you up to date on how it really works.

Our farm had held off getting involved in the program for many years, as it is so expensive, demanding and subject to attacks by various organizations. We had considered it for several years but with all the immigration turmoil going on we felt we had no alternative but to sign up.

We contracted with a company that does this, as the paper work is so difficult we felt we needed their assistance. This service cost us \$200 per worker. We have the option of providing names of people we would like to hire or this can be left up to the labor recruitment agency in México, to interview people to fill our job request.

It is important to start the process several months before workers are needed. We are required to provide state-approved housing and workers' comp coverage. We have to pay the travel expense for each worker from his or her home to us and back again.

First, we must obtain a labor certification from the U.S. Department of labor (DOL). To do this, we fill out a lot of paper work and we must advertise the jobs we have available. We must document every person who applies and why we did or did not hire them. With the labor certification in hand, we must then petition the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for admission of the H-2A aliens.

Upon receipt of the DHS petition number, the names of workers we have requested are forwarded to the Mexican recruitment agency that calls them in for an interview. If no specific names are requested then the Mexican recruiters will contact people. After the interview the worker is sent to an American consulate for an interview. If they find the worker has no record of having been in the United States

and has no criminal background, the American consulate will issue the worker a visa, which permits him to apply for admission to the U.S. at the border. At the port of entry, the DHS makes the final decision to allow the worker to come to our place of employment.

This visa allows the worker to travel in the United States to us but nowhere else. He must fulfill his contract with us and if he does not, we are required to report him to the Department of Labor. He can return to Mexico any time he wishes (at his own expense) for family needs or illness and can come back into the United States to return to work for us during the term of his visa.

There has been concern that these people are indentured servants. This is totally not true. While the worker must adhere to the terms of the contract with us, there are provisions for a worker who is mistreated to change employers. It is in the employer's interest to treat the workers fairly. After all, we are talking about their livelihood and ours as well. With the H-2A program, the workers understand the rules and we have not lost any of our H2A workers so far this year.

The wages to be paid are determined once a year based on a flawed method of assessing wages, the so-called "Adverse Effect Wage Rate" (AEWR). The AEWR is the average of ALL field and livestock worker wages in a state or multi-state region. This year it has been set at \$9.65 per hour for Wisconsin. We must pay the highest of three wages – the applicable federal or state minimum wage, the DOL certified prevailing wage for the occupation, or the AEWR. Usually the AEWR is the highest wage.

When you figure the cost of housing, travel, and recruiting expense, this brings this wage up considerably. You must also pay this wage to any local person who works for you doing the same work, from

students on up. This wage is very tough for most agricultural employers to live with. There is a small benefit. The employer does not have to pay social security or unemployment costs.

The H-2A program has its positives and negatives. On the positive side, we know our workers are legal, so fewer sleepless nights worrying about a raid. On the other hand, the program is cumbersome and expensive. The proposed AgJOBS federal legislation (S.340, H.R.371) would cut red tape and streamline the bureaucracy. It would provide some flexibility in housing. It would also permanently reform the AEWR to bring it more in line with the marketplace, and the type of work offered.

There are other factors in the bill to make the program more employer friendly but our fear is that tougher rules will be added making it even harder to live with. This is a point that we need to get conveyed to our legislators. Employers who use labor for a very short season are especially burdened by these rules.

I hope this brief summary of the program helps you to understand the process so you can discuss this with your legislators and other people who need to learn that this is a very rigid program overseen by the very critical eye of the Federal and State Labor Departments, Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. State Department. In view of the failure of the comprehensive immigration bill, we should all join in support of Congress enacting AgJOBS, this year.

Many growers who are near the Mexico border have already moved their farming operations to Mexico. This is a tragic blow to our agricultural industry.

Please contact your legislators and ask them to support "Ag JOBS" legislation.

Arlene Frelk is also on the National Council of Agricultural Employers Board of Directors.

AAW committee redesigns logo

American Agri-Women's logo was created in the mid 1970s. The logo design was representative of the imagery and icons for which it was created and it embodied our organization well for many years. The present day interpretations of the symbols in the American Agri-Women logo, however, have now become representative of ideals and organizations that are not in alignment with our own.



American Agri-Women Logo circa 1970s



International Women's Alliance – A political organization that represent women who are treated unjustly in 3rd world countries. Logo circa 2006



Cannabis Trust – A Marijuana Promotion Organization Logo circa 2006



Lesbian Quarterly Magazine Logo circa 2007



The Pot Party - A Political Organization Logo circa 2006

The committee's charge was to design a contemporary logo that is representative of the American Agri-Women's founding members vision, core ideals, and beliefs and mission statement. The committee was also challenged to design a logo that would last for the next 30 years.

This is the design we are presenting, which will be voted on at the AAW Convention in November –



Honor the Past. Promote the Present.
Protect the Future.

Creative Components

- ◆ The sun, shining brightly, is the essential, unifying icon that represents everything: Food, Fiber, Flora, Fauna and Us. Without the sun, nothing else could exist. Shining brightly over us, the sun is the force behind everything that American Agri-Women stands for.
- ◆ The blue, of sky and water, represents that which nourishes our fields, our farms and our families.
- ◆ The fields represent that which American Agri-Women fights each day to protect. The land that generations have nurtured and called home. The land that feeds, clothes and sustains the world.
- ◆ The Tagline, “Honor The Past. Promote The Present. Protect The Future,” was added to simply communicate our purpose.

Committee members: Sharon Steffens, 1st National Coordinator of AAW and member of Minnesota Agri-Women; Debbie Brady, Secretary, Florida Agri-Women; CarrieAnn Arias, California Women for Agriculture; Kellie Yost, Montana Agri Women; and Tricia Chastain and Shireen Malpass, Oregon Women for Agriculture.



2007 AAW SHOWCASE ENTRY FORM

Organization _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Committee/Affiliate/Chapter represented in this entry _____

We are entering in the following category (one form per entry please):

_____ AAW Committee Programs/Activities

_____ AAW Affiliate Programs/Activities

_____ Affiliate Chapter Programs/Activities

_____ Collegiate Programs/Activities

We will bring our poster with us _____ We will be shipping our poster _____

We will need mounting materials _____ yes _____ no

Please return this form by October 28, 2007 to:

2007 AAW Convention
P.O. Box 8192
St. Paul, MN 551108
fax 715-822-6315

It's a Contest for 2008 AAW Offices

By Dana Peterson, Nominating Committee Chair

The AAW Nominating Committee is pleased to announce they have two well-qualified nominees for the First Vice President of Vital Issues and Resolutions for 2008. Moreover, there are two well-qualified nominees for the Vice President of Communications. AAW members can look for information to cast their votes in the special edition of the *Voice* published this October.

Committee members Dana Peterson, Kansas, Heather Hampton+Knodle, Illinois, Ina Pluid, Idaho, Barb Overlie, Minnesota and Katie Edwards, Florida, are still accepting applications for the position of Treasurer.

Three of the nominating committee served on the Strategic Planning working group in January 2007. One of the priorities of that exercise was "leadership" and an indicator of a strong leadership organization is competition for positions of leadership.

Empowered with positive feedback from the Mid Year meeting session, the committee unanimously chose to submit to the membership two nominees for both the Vice President positions.

The two nominees for Vice President of Vital Issues and Resolutions are: Chris Wilson, Kansas, and Doris Mold, Minnesota.

The two nominees for Vice President of Communications are: Arlene Kovash, Oregon, and Pam Sweeten-Shaw, California.

Each of these four nominees has distinct skills and leadership styles. AAW members will be sure to be able to determine the future of their organization with this selection.

Adding to the opportunity for healthy competition, President Erickson shared the opportunity for a special October issue of the *Voice*, which will highlight the full Strategic Plan. These two opportunities, multiple candidates and opportunity for education about the nominees close to convention, swung the decision for a contest.

Committee members' discussion indicated that this contest should increase attendance at convention as the officers are selected by voting members in attendance at the meeting after the opportunity for nominees from the floor.



Agricultural Biotechnology Facts

Crop Acreage Devoted to Agricultural Biotechnology Crops

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), biotech crop acreage in the United States increased in 2006 by 9.6 percent over 2005. In 2006, U.S. acreage of biotech soybean increased by more than six percent, to a total of 66.68 million acres, or 89 percent of all soybeans grown in this country. American farmers planted 12.68 million acres of biotech cotton in 2006, representing 83 percent of all cotton grown in the United States (an increase from 11.25 million acres planted in 2005). Plantings of biotech corn in the United States significantly increased in 2006 by nearly 14 percent to 48.4 million acres.

Benefits of Biotech Plants

- ❖ Since the introduction of biotechnology a decade ago, insect-resistant corn alone has increased yields nearly 39 billion pounds. The advances in genetics that biotechnology brings not only increased crop yields, but improved insurance against pest problems and reduced production costs. Plus, new traits are in development to bring additional yield enhancements to American farmers. Because of this increase in production, growers will still be able to meet America's needs for food and feed, and provide for the growing demands of fuel.
- ❖ Studies by the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy (NCFAP) concluded that in 2005, biotech crops improved crop production in the United States by 8.3 billion pounds, reduced production costs by \$1.4 billion, and increased farmer revenue by \$2.0 billion. Additionally, American growers reduced pesticide applications by 69.7 million pounds by planting biotech crops.
- ❖ Biotech crops can reduce the need for plowing to control weeds, which leads to better conservation of soil and water and a decrease in soil erosion and compaction. A reduction in plowing has also enabled farmers to significantly reduce the consumption of fuel and decrease greenhouse gas emissions. A study by British agricultural economist Graham Brookes of PG Economics, released in late 2006, concluded that biotech crops have saved farmers 441 million gallons of fuel through reduced fuel operations, which has resulted in eliminating nearly 10.2 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions since 1996. The study estimates that this is equivalent to removing four million cars from the road in one year.

For more information, please visit www.whybiotech.com

AAW Resolutions

The following resolutions will be considered at convention for updating as proposed by Trena Grabowski, Tax Chair under Ag Business and Economics sector of the Strategic Action Response Team. The updating includes deleting the strike-through words and adding the underlined words.

November 14, 1998 AAW Annual Meeting Fargo, North Dakota

GAIN ON THE SALE OF FARM ASSETS

WHEREAS, a significant amount of farmland and other productive farm assets is effectively "locked up" in the hands of those who have retired from farming or desire to retire but cannot sell these assets due to the taxes that would have to be paid on such a sale, and

WHEREAS, there is another segment of the farm economy in economic distress, but constrained from disposition of farm assets due to the tax ramifications of such a sale and the negative impact the tax would have on their ability to pay mortgage and other debt attached to such assets, and

WHEREAS, the farm economy and the small town/rural economy would be healthier, more vibrant and dynamic if such assets could be sold into a willing market at a price that does not have to be artificially inflated by taxes, and

WHEREAS, mid-life, as well as young and beginning farm women and men are willing and anxious to purchase such assets and to gain control of active farming operations, and

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Code allows an individual to realize a gain of up to \$250,000. Every two years on the sale of a personal residence, effectively shielding up to \$500,000. For a married couple filing jointly, and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced in the past as ~~Senate Bill 2388~~ that appears to extend a similar treatment to farmland on which the individual (or family) has materially participated for three of the last five years, and

WHEREAS, American Agri-Women has supported a similar concept for several years,

THEREFORE be it resolved that American Agri-Women supports legislation which would provide a reasonable exemption from capital gains and other taxes on the sale of assets that have been used by that individual (or family member) to

materially participate in the business of production agriculture for a significant period of time.

November 9, 1991, AAW Annual Meeting, Boise, Idaho (two resolutions to consider revising)

FAMILY FARM TAX RELIEF SAVINGS AND RETIREMENT BILLS

WHEREAS, employed people and professionals are allowed very generous tax preferential treatment of large sums invested in retirement packages...IRA, 401K, KEOUGH, DEFERRED COMP, EMPLOYER FULL OR PARTIAL PAID retirement funds, etc., which are invested in commerce,

WHEREAS, up to the tax reform act of 1986, the farmer's capital appreciation was believed to be the farmer's retirement fund and was given tax preferential treatment by means of the previous long term capital gains tax exemption.

Now, when a farmer is forced or voluntarily sells out when retiring, all proceeds are taxed at a very high ordinary income tax rate, as if his lifetime assets were earned that year. (no consideration for inflation).

WHEREAS, when net income is very limited or non-existent due to the combination of persistent low prices and required capital expenditures, by law, NO TAX EXEMPT IRA'S and ONLY EXTREMELY LIMITED SOCIAL SECURITY CAN BE FUNDED. The farmer retires with none of slim retirement funds.

THEREFORE, American Agri-Women urges legislation support of S.1130 and H.R. 2470 known as Family Farm Tax Relief and Savings Act of 1991. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide rollover of gain from sale of farm assets, land, buildings, and equipment, into an Individual Retirement account.

Limitations: \$10,000 for each year of farming. This is individually available to each single farmer, farm wife, and farm husband with the maximum being \$500,000 per farm.

Eligibility: Must have actively farmed for five years of "Hands on Management Test."

FAVORABLE TAX TREATMENT

WHEREAS, The current federal tax code makes no special provision for the treat-

ment of gain realized on the disposition of capital assets; and

WHEREAS, The capital intensive nature of farming requires a sizable investment in capital assets over the farmer's active years; and

WHEREAS. The heavy tax burden on the sale of these assets tends to concentrate the ownership of farm assets and to discourage the transfer of such assets to new farm operators; and

WHEREAS, The heavy tax burden on the sale of these assets limits the farmer's alternatives with regard to retirement planning and transition planning; and

WHEREAS, The tax consequences of the disposition of both business and personal assets throughout the economy serve as a deterrent to capital investments and tend to discourage said investment and growth thereby having a negative impact on the economy;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the AAW support a lower, favorable tax treatment for capital gains. the same of assets used in farming.

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 _____

Oregon submits resolution to AAW

Oregon Women for Agriculture is submitting this resolution to AAW so that we can act on HR 2421, The Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007, as an organization, but we need to act on it right away, as individuals now, too!

In HR 2421 the new definition of “waters of the United States”— which strikes all mention of the word “navigable” — is a massive Red Flag to all property owners and resource providers. If this passes, the federal government will have the authority to control ALL our water and ALL activities affecting our water, preempting state and local government authority over land and water use decisions and possibly requiring permits for anything we do, such as pesticide application or even plowing!

Please call Congress at 202-224-3121 and tell your senators’ and representatives’ staffers what you think of this bill! If you do not speak up strongly NOW, you will have to live with the consequences later.

The resolution:

HR 2421, THE CLEAN WATER RESTORATION ACT OF 2007

Whereas HR 2421, the Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007 would delete the term “navigable” from the Clean Water Act and replace it with a new legislative definition of “waters of the United States” and all “activities affecting these waters,” and

Whereas HR 2421 would grant the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Corps of Engineers for the first time ever jurisdiction over all “intra-state waters”—essentially all wet areas within a state, including ground water, ditches, pipes, streets, municipal storm drains and gutters, and more; and

Whereas HR 2421 would grant the (EPA) and the Corps for the first time ever authority over “all activities affecting these waters” (private or public), regardless of whether the activity is occurring in water or whether the activity actually adds a pollutant to the water;

Therefore be it resolved that American Agri-Women oppose expansion of the jurisdictional reach of the Clean Water Act as proposed in HR 2421, The Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007.

Affiliate Reports

NM Wool Growers Auxiliary educating the public

By Joan Kincaid, President, New Mexico Wool Growers Auxiliary

The New Mexico Wool Growers Auxiliary’s goal has been educating the public (young and old) about the good qualities of lamb and wool. Our organization is made up of individuals who give of their time and share their valuable knowledge of New Mexico agriculture.

Throughout our state, we give gift subscriptions of RANGE magazine to university and college libraries, present the puppet show “The Grocery Store” to second-graders and have recipes and other information available for the consumer.

At the New Mexico State Fair, we sponsor the Sheep to Shawl exhibit. Here, along with the Los Aranas Spinning and Weaving Guild, sheep are shorn and the fleece is dyed, spun into yarn, and woven into a finished product. What a crowd pleaser.

The Auxiliary helps sponsor

Lead Classes throughout New Mexico, the Zia Classic which showcases the outstanding wool breed lambs at the State Fair, New Mexico State University’s wool judging team and the New Mexico State 4-H Foundation. We give a scholarship to a deserving New Mexico State University student annually.

Nationally, the New Mexico Wool Growers Auxiliary helps sponsor the National Make It Yourself With Wool contest and donates to the Paragon Foundation, Mountain States Legal Foundation, Stewards of the Range, Michael New Foundation, and the American Land Rights Association.

Each year the New Mexico agriculture community sponsors an Ag Fest in Santa Fe for the state legislators and a Capitol Ag Dinner for the Governor, legislators, and their staff. What a success!



American Agri-Women President Yvonne Erickson spoke to Wisconsin Women for Agriculture members recently at their meeting in Black River Falls to discuss a variety of issues that AAW is working on, especially AAW’s efforts in strategic planning. From left are Diane Qualmann, president of Rock River Chapter; Rosemary Eckardt, Mar-Lin Chapter and state WWA president; Erickson; and Joyce Arndt, Northwoods Chapter president.

AAW Bylaws revisions

Bylaws are being revised as part of strategic planning

As part of the strategic planning process that AAW has been undergoing this year, the Bylaws Committee of Ardath DeWall-IL, Chair; Lois Schlickau-KS; Jackie McAvoy-ID; Val Velde-MN; and Chris Wilson-KS, Executive Board, have done an extensive review and revision to meet our current and future needs.

The Board of Directors approved their work at the March Mid-Year Meeting. The voting members of AAW at the November Annual Meeting will determine the final approval. The recommended revision will delete the strike-out words and add the underlined words when approved.

The committee included prior experience working on other national organizations bylaws, a registered parliamentarian, and an attorney. AAW is fortunate to have these members provide their services for this revision.

BYLAWS

AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN, INC.

As revised and adopted _____, 2007

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of this organization shall be "American Agri-Women, Inc.," an ~~international~~ coalition of farm and ranch organizations and individuals, and hereinafter referred to as AAW. AAW is a not-for-profit corporation, organized under Section 501(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code and the laws of Michigan.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Section 1 Purpose

~~The purpose of AAW is to unite. We, as women's agricultural organizations and individuals, unite together,~~ to communicate with one another and other consumers to promote agriculture for the benefit of the American people and the world.

Section 2 Objectives

- A. To educate our members to the important issues involving the agricultural industry.
- B. To use this knowledge to provide the industry with a strong public relations outlet.
- C. To influence policy and legislation that is of concern to the agricultural industry.
- D. To serve as a communications link for

farm and ranch women and organizations interested in the well-being of the agricultural industry.

- E. To promote an educational program educational programs to advance the interests and welfare of agriculture.

Section 3 Representation

Affiliated groups or individual members shall not represent AAW in an official capacity without the approval and direction of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1 Membership

Membership shall be open to the following who accept the purpose and objectives of AAW ~~and recommendations of the Board of Directors.~~ The membership dues schedule shall be determined from time to time, upon recommendation by the Board of Directors and approval by the membership at an annual meeting.

- A. Individual Membership: all persons involved with agriculture who have paid the annual dues.

There shall be four classes of individual membership:

- 1.) Individual membership: In a state or commodity affiliate that pays an affiliate fee based on the number of its members, all members who wish to join AAW as individual members would pay annual dues. Individuals who wish to join AAW but not any state or commodity affiliate would also pay annual dues.
- 2.) Individual Affiliate Membership: when the affiliate collects the AAW dues with its affiliate dues and forwards AAW dues with membership data to the AAW Membership Chairman, the dues shall be the same as individual membership. If AAW dues are optional, then the affiliate dues must be paid. Once an affiliate has dual membership, it will continue as dual membership. All future state affiliates will pay dual membership.

a.) There shall be two subclasses of the individual membership:

- 1.) Silver Donor: when an individual chooses to pay \$50.00 an additional amount per year in addition to the individual member fee, according to the dues schedule; that member will appear on the silver honor roll to be published

in the Voice.

- 2.) Gold Donor: when an individual chooses to pay \$100.00 an additional amount per year in addition to the individual member fee, according to the dues schedule; that member shall appear on the golden honor roll to be published in the Voice, and will be recognized at the Annual Meeting.

- 3.) Collegiate Membership: College students wishing to join under individual memberships may join at half the annual dues rate.

- 4.) Lifetime Membership: when an individual chooses to pay a lifetime amount specified in the dues schedule \$500.00 in one lump sum; or when an individual or group wishes to gift a special member with a one time \$500.00 lifetime membership; that member enjoys all the rights and privileges of full yearly voting membership for her lifetime and joins an elite group of AAW leadership for special recognition.

- B. Affiliate Membership: agricultural organizations that are approved by the Membership committee and make annual contributions as determined by the dues schedule.

- D. Lifetime membership will be given to all past Presidents of AAW.

- E. Associate Non-Voting Membership: commodity and farm-related organizations who contribute an annual amount as determined by the dues schedule ~~annually~~ \$200.00 or more.

- F. Donor Non-Voting Membership: Non-farm businesses and organizations who contribute annually an amount specified in the dues schedule \$500.00 or more.

Section 2 Payment of Dues

- A. Membership dues shall be payable to the treasurer to be considered a member in good standing.
- B. Organizations and individual members shall be dropped from membership when dues are not paid or they no longer support the purpose and objectives of AAW.
- C. Only members in good standing on September 30 of the current year shall be eligible to vote at the annual meeting.

Section 3 Newsletter

- A. The AAW newsletter, the Voice, is the official publication of the organization.

A subscription to the newsletter, an electronic or a paper version, shall be included in all memberships.

- B. A non-member subscription price will be determined annually by the Board of Directors.

Section 4

—The fiscal year shall be October 1 to September 30.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION

Section 1 Officers

The officers shall be: President, three Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by the bylaws, the AAW Policy and Procedure Manual, and the parliamentary authority.

Section 2 Qualifications

All officers shall be members in good standing, active in promoting a better agricultural industry, and insofar as practical, they shall reside in different geographic regions. No officers except the Treasurer may be elected to the same office for two consecutive terms. The nominee for First Vice President must have served on the Board of Directors for at least one year prior to nomination and have attended a national convention within three years prior to her nomination.

Section 3 Election

Officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting for two-year terms or until successors are elected and qualified. The first Vice President, Vice President of Communications and Treasurer shall be elected in odd numbered years. The Secretary and Vice President of Education shall be elected in even numbered years. In the event there is only one nominee for an office, upon a motion from the floor, elections may be by voice vote. Officers shall assume their duties at the close of the annual meeting.

Section 4 Nominations

There shall be a nominating committee of five, four of whom shall be elected at the annual meeting and the chairman shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee. The committee shall nominate at least one qualified person for each AAW office to be filled, at least one qualified person for each of the three Director positions to the AAW Resource Center Board, and four nominating committee members, and secure their written consent to serve, if elected. The slate of nominees who

form the nominating committee shall be presented at the annual meeting, following which nominations from the floor will be in order, provided written consent of the nominee has been obtained and qualifications met.

Section 5 Officers shall assume their duties at the close of the annual meeting.

Section 5 6 Vacancies

Vacancies in office or in the nominating committee may be filled until the next annual meeting by the Executive Committee. The office of President shall only be filled by an officer elected for that purpose. Any Officer serving more than one-half of a term shall be considered as serving a full term.

Section 6 Removal

Any officer may be removed from office, with sufficient cause, prior to the expiration of her term by the Board of Directors, upon a vote of three-quarters (3/4) of all members of the Board, provided that the members of the Board, including the individual officer involved, must be notified in writing at least two days prior to the Board meeting. In the event that any such action is contemplated, the individual officer involved shall be afforded the opportunity to be heard at any such meeting.

ARTICLE V DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1 President

The President shall preside at all meetings except committee meetings; serve as an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating and election committees; furnish a meeting agenda for each member; present an annual report for membership; confirm bills to be paid by the treasurer; appoint a parliamentarian, committee chairmen, the convention coordinator, and other appointees as needed; and such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors or Executive Committee. The President (or appointee) will be the official spokesperson for AAW – only after policy has been approved by the Board of Directors and/or Executive Committee.

Section 2 First Vice President

The First Vice President shall serve as an aide to the President, fill the office of President in the event of a vacancy, and coordinate the work of the membership committee and committees not otherwise assigned. This officer shall assume the office of President upon completion of the term. Committees shall be appointed

and ready to begin working at the close of the annual meeting.

Section 3 Vice President of Communications

The Vice President of Communications shall coordinate the work of communications, including supervision of the Voice, the website and media relations.

Section 4 Vice President of Education

The Vice President of Education shall be chairman of the Education Committee and serve as liaison with the Resource Center Board.

Section 5 Secretary

The Secretary shall keep in permanent form accurate minutes, including a record of attendance, of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors and the annual meeting; conduct related correspondence; and such other duties as assigned.

Section 6 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

1. keep in permanent form a complete and accurate record of finances;
2. receive all dues and contributions;
3. pay bills within the limits of the adopted budget after approval of the President, or by order of the Executive Committee;
4. submit financial reports to the Executive Committee as requested, to the Board of Directors at the midyear meeting, and to the membership at the annual meeting;
5. have the books compiled and reviewed by a Certified Public Accountant following the close of the fiscal year in order to have the reviewed financial report for the annual meeting;
6. deposit all monies in the name of American Agri-Women, Inc. in a bank approved by the Executive Committee,
7. prepare an annual budget in conjunction with the Executive Committee, and
8. be bonded for AAW.
9. The Treasurer is responsible for the coordination of mailing lists, finance and membership. She shall prepare an annual treasurer's report for the President and the Board of Directors; and she shall oversee the finance committee.

Section 7—The Treasurer and Executive Committee shall be responsible for preparing the annual budget.

Continued on Page 14.

Bylaws revisions, continued.

ARTICLE VI ANNUAL MEETING

Section 1 Timing

An Annual Meeting shall be scheduled by the Board of Directors to be held during the last quarter of the calendar year.

Section 2 Quorum

A quorum shall consist of one-third (1/3) of those voting delegates registered at the convention, and must include at least three officers, five affiliate delegates, and five commodity or issue chairmen.

Section 3 Site

The meeting site shall be determined two years in advance by the convention site committee comprised of the AAW Executive Officers and the President or official representative of affiliate organizations. The first Vice President shall preside over this meeting. Following selection of the site the President shall appoint the convention coordinator for the convention.

Section 4 Adoption of the budget

The Treasurer and Executive Committee shall prepare in writing a budget for adoption by the membership at the annual meeting.

Section 5 Voting

A voting member shall have but one vote, though entitled to vote in more than one capacity, and there shall be no proxy voting.

Section 6

In the event of a national emergency, the meeting may be canceled by the Executive Committee and necessary business conducted by mail, telex, e-mail, or whatever means possible.

Section 6-7 Resolutions

All resolutions to be considered at the Annual Meeting, except those coming from the Board of Directors, shall be sent to the Resolutions Committee at least 60 days before the Annual Meeting. The committee shall prepare all resolutions for consideration and provide copies for publication in the *Voice*. Resolutions originating with individual members or affiliated organizations shall be signed by at least 10 members and be accompanied by supporting data and rationale. Emergency resolutions may be presented by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates. Copies for each delegate must be provided by the presenter.

ARTICLE VII THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1 Membership

14 The VOICE of the American Agri-Woman

The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected officers, the immediate past President and Presidents of affiliated organizations, or their appointed representatives.

Section 2 Meetings

They shall hold a mid-year meeting and a meeting preceding the Annual Meeting

Section 3 Duties

A. Uphold the bylaws and work toward fulfillment of the purpose and objectives of AAW.

B. Develop policy and promote implementation of strategy.

C. Transact necessary business between annual meetings and report to the membership via meetings, mail, conference call or electronic mail in the newsletter.

D. Recommend the amount of annual dues to be adopted by the membership.

E. Amend the adopted budget, if necessary.

Section 4 Quorum

Four Executive Committee members plus five Presidents or their appointed representatives of affiliated organizations shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1 Membership

The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers and immediate past President.

Section 2 Meetings

Meetings shall be held two times a year and upon the call of the President, or upon the request of any two officers; business may be conducted by conference call when deemed advisable.

Section 3 Duties

A. Fill vacancies in the elected offices and the nominating committee until the next annual meeting.

B. Approve a depository for AAW funds.

C. Publish a minimum of six newsletters a year.

D. Assist the President in recruiting appointees.

E. Establish guidelines for reimbursement of travel expenses for official AAW business.

F. Approve program plans for the annual meeting.

Section 4 Quorum

Four Executive Committee members shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE IX COMMITTEES

Section 1 Standing Committees

Standing committees shall be: Education, Membership, and Finance. The duties of the Standing Committee may be further delineated in the AAW Policy and Procedures Manual.

Section 2 Other committees

Other committees and commodity groups shall be appointed as deemed advisable.

Section 3 Appointments

The President shall appoint committee chairmen and members in consultation with the Executive Committee. At least three members shall be appointed to each committee. Such appointments shall be for one year and may be reappointed for additional terms.

Section 4 Duties

All committees shall meet ~~during the week of the Annual Meeting and at other times as deemed necessary~~ with the approval of the President, present periodic reports in the newsletter; seek increased membership to further ~~goals and objectives~~ the purpose and objectives of AAW; and perform other duties as outlined in the Policy and Procedure Manual.

ARTICLE X FINANCE

Section 1 Purpose of finances

Contributions, dues and finances of this organization are used for purposes of research, education, public information services and administration of programs as specified under the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the American Agri-Women, Inc.

Section 2 Fiscal year

The fiscal year for the AAW is from October 1 to September 30.

ARTICLE XI EMERGENCY ACTION

Section 1 Cancellation of a convention

In the event of a natural disaster, act of God or other unforeseen emergency that would make the holding of a convention inadvisable, the Executive Committee shall have the authority to determine whether the convention should or should not be held; a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee shall decide and the vote may be taken by mail, conference call or electronically.

Section 2 Conducting business

In the event a convention is not held, the Executive Committee will have the authority to plan procedure for conduction

of the routine convention business. Such procedure shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XII INDEMNIFICATION

AAW indemnifies officers and directors and agents for liability for actions properly taken on behalf of the organization with the authority of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XIII DISSOLUTION

In the event of liquidation or dissolution of the organization, whether voluntary or involuntary:

- 1.) No member shall be entitled to any distribution or division of its remaining property or its proceeds.
- 2.) The balance of all money and other property received from any source, after the payment of all debts and obligations, shall be distributed to an organization that is recognized as exempt from Federal Income Tax under either Section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(5) or 501(c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the regulations thereunder, as the same now exist or as they may be hereafter amended.

ARTICLE XIV PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised most recent edition shall be the parliamentary authority for all meetings of AAW and shall prevail when not in conflict with these AAW bylaws, the AAW Articles of Incorporation and any special rules, including the Policy and Procedures Manual and the convention rules, which may be adopted by the Board of Directors or the membership.

ARTICLE XV AMENDMENTS

Section 1 Amendments

These bylaws may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at any annual meeting, provided the following requirements have been met. All members shall be sent a copy of the proposed changes at least thirty days in advance of the meeting. Publication in the newsletter, either electronically or in print, shall be considered sufficient notice.

1. Proposed amendments may be submitted to the President at least sixty days prior to the meeting provided such proposal is signed by at least ten members in good standing.
2. Amendments may be proposed by a majority of the Board of Directors

in any meeting in which a quorum is present.

Section 2 Amendment without notice

These bylaws may be amended by unanimous vote at any annual meeting without previous notice.

Convention Speakers, cont.

Prior to serving at PCO, Ms. Baltacioglu held various senior management positions at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, culminating in the position of Assistant Deputy Minister of Policy between 2000 and 2002. In this capacity, she was instrumental in the successful negotiation of the federal Agricultural Policy Framework.

Ms. Baltacioglu graduated from Carleton University's School of Public Administration, where she received a Master of Arts, as well as from Istanbul University, where she obtained a Bachelor of Law degree.

FCA CEO Pellet featured convention speaker

We are also excited to have Nancy C. Pellett, Chairman of the Board and CEO of the Farm Credit Administration as a keynote speaker.



Ms. Pellett was appointed to a six-year term on the FCA Board by President George W. Bush on November 26, 2002, and was designated chairman in 2004.

Ms. Pellett brings to her position on the FCA Board extensive experience in production agriculture and agribusiness. In partnership with her husband, she managed Prairie Hills, Ltd., a feedlot, cow-calf, and row-crop operation in Atlantic, Iowa, from 1966 until her appointment to the Board. While she serves her term as FCA Chairman and CEO, her husband, son, and daughter-in-law continue to operate this fifth-generation family farm.

A long-time beef industry

leader, Ms. Pellett held State and national leadership positions in cattle industry organizations. As a member of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, she served as chairman of the Check-Off Division, as chairman of the Consumer Marketing Group, and most recently as a member of the Cattlemen's Beef Board. She also was president of the Iowa Beef Industry Council.

She is a partner in Premium Quality Foods, Inc., which markets precooked beef entrees. Previously, she served as president and consumer marketing director for the company.

Ms. Pellett served a six-year term as a member of the Board of Regents for the State of Iowa, which oversees the three State universities as well as the University of Iowa Hospital and its affiliated clinics. She was also selected as a member of the Governor's Student Aid Commission.

Dedicated to the future of agriculture, Ms. Pellett worked with 4-H and the National FFA Organization at the local and State levels and served on the Iowa 4-H Foundation board. She is a founding member of the 4-H/FFA "Sale of Champions" committee for the Iowa State Fair.

Ms. Pellett is on the Iowa State University Foundation Board of Governors and was a member of the advisory committees for the College of Agriculture and the College of Family and Consumer Sciences. She is past president of the university's Alumni Association and was awarded the Alumni Medal in 1987. The Pellett family was honored as the "Family of the Year" by the university in 1997.

The Pellett family also received the "Friends of Youth Award" in 2000 from the Knights of AkSarBen, a foundation that supports education, youth programs, and rural development in Nebraska and western Iowa.

A native of Walnut, Iowa, Ms. Pellett holds a B.S. from Iowa State University at Ames. She and her husband have four children.



American Agri-Women
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See inside this newsletter or the AAW web site for 2007 Convention details!

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

REDEFINING AGRICULTURE ADVANCING IN NEW DIRECTIONS

**2007 AAW Convention
November 8-10
St. Paul, Minnesota**

Come find out how agriculture is being redefined and is advancing in so many directions at Convention 2007!

Keeping with the theme we have new activities for convention this year, along with many old favorites.

New this year—A U.S./Canada Agriculture Mini-Summit; Redefining Agriculture Festival; Young Professionals and Making Connections Receptions; AAW Showcase Poster Session; Food, Land and People training; Home stays for College students; new tours and new speakers, plus new times for events...Town Hall meeting in the morning for breakfast, and more!

Turn to Page 4 for a complete description of all our activities, then send in the registration form on page 5 by September 15 for the best rate! (Hotel reservations must be made by October 7.)

American Agri-Women

Calendar of Events

- October 1 Affiliate & Committee Annual Reports Due
Biennial bids due for Editor of the *Voice* and Website Master
For job descriptions and bid guidelines, see page 3.
- Nov. 8-10 AAW 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.