



the Voice

A FORCE FOR TRUTH

FALL 2026

VOLUME 53 | ISSUE 4



AMERICANAGRIWOMEN.ORG

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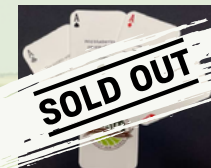
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AAW decks of playing cards feature 50 agriculture facts from all over the United States.

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About The Voice Cover

Photo courtesy of Vikkie Becker, Illinois Agri-Women, AAW VP of Communications



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You'll find the login at the top right corner of any page on the site

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Building Momentum, Strengthening Our Voice

One of the things I love most about American Agri-Women is that we are an organization that continues to evolve while staying true to the foundation that brought us together over 50 years ago. We are passionate about agriculture, committed to advocacy, and always looking for new ways to connect, engage, and make a difference. And we have some exciting things happening!

First, please join me in welcoming Hannah Guthoerl, our new AAW intern! Hannah will be helping us strengthen our communications, with a special focus on expanding our social media presence. This is such an important opportunity for AAW! We have incredible members with powerful stories that deserve to be shared far beyond our own circles. A huge thank you to the AAW Foundation for helping with this process.



Kim Bremmer, President
American Agri-women

But here's where we need YOU! I encourage every member to follow our social media channels, like and comment on posts, share our content, and, most importantly, contribute! Send us photos, stories, affiliate updates, and examples of the great work you're doing in your communities. Social media is one of the easiest ways we can amplify our collective voice, but it takes all of us to make it successful. Let's give Hannah plenty of great material to work with and continue to show the world what American Agri-Women is all about!

Next, we're looking for an affiliate or group of members interested in hosting our annual Mid-Year Meeting next spring! If you've ever attended Mid-Year, you know this gathering is near and dear to the hearts of our policy junkies (and I proudly count myself among them!).

Mid-Year is where we roll up our sleeves, dig into the issues impacting agriculture, and work together to develop and strengthen the policies that guide our advocacy efforts. It's grassroots policy development at its finest, and it leads directly to one of the most important things we do as an organization: fiercely advocating for agriculture in our nation's capital.

Our ability to walk into congressional offices and speak with strong informed voices begins with the work we do together. That's what makes AAW so special. Our policy isn't handed down to us. It's built by the women who live and breathe agriculture every single day, and the bandwidth of our collective experience and expertise in this arena is second-to-none.

Hosting Mid-Year is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your state, bring members together, and play an important role in advancing our mission. If you or your affiliate might be interested, please reach out. We'd love to have a conversation about what's involved and how we can make it happen.

Finally, I am incredibly excited about launching our National Virtual Affiliate (NVA)! This initiative has the potential to open doors for women across the country who believe in our mission but may not have access to an active affiliate in their area or the ability to participate through a traditional membership structure or simply want an additional avenue to connect with women from across the country.

I want to give a tremendous amount of credit to our amazing **Road to Influence (RTI)** class, which has enthusiastically embraced this project and is doing the work to bring it to life. Their creativity, collaboration, and commitment to building something meaningful for the future of AAW have been inspiring.

The NVA represents exactly the kind of forward thinking we need as an organization. We can honor our history and the strength of our existing affiliates and membership while finding new ways to meet women where they are, welcome them into our network, and give them opportunities to engage, lead, and advocate. Stay tuned as this exciting initiative continues to take shape!

President's Message (Continued)

As I look at these three opportunities, I see a common thread: connection, engagement, and action. Whether it's sharing a social media post, helping host a meeting, or creating a new pathway for membership, every effort helps strengthen American Agri-Women.

We have an incredible organization because of the women who choose to invest their time, talents, and passion in it. Let's keep building on that momentum, together. Thank YOU for being part of it. I hope to see you in Kentucky at Convention!

Kim Bremmer
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Through the Years... Our Roots...Our Legacy

Celebrating the women, memories, and milestones that shaped American Agri-Women.



Photo courtesy of the American Agri-Women Facebook page. Originally posted June 6, 1995, captioned "AAW 20th Anniversary ... Fly-In Reception."

AAW MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Putting Farm AI to the Test

By: Heather Hampton+Knodle

AAW Past President, Illinois Agri-Women

Agri-Women, Heather Hampton+Knodle has been testing AI tools on her family's farm. Here's what she looks for.

Heather and her late husband Brian would seldom wait for new technology to prove itself on someone else's farm. Using precision ag for yield monitors and section control, owning their own sprayer and semis, and adding drone application for fungicides and cover crops are a few examples. So, when AI assistants started showing up in agriculture, she started testing them on Knodle Ltd. which is their corn, bean, winter wheat, and black Angus farm in Montgomery County, Illinois.

"A few weeks ago, a podcaster asked me what our most recent 'Wow' moment was. Since he meant it in a good way, I didn't dwell on lack of trade deals and cost of inputs or regulations, the first thing that came to mind as the biggest positive is the personalized AI assistant we've used call AgAnswers. It has truly been a game changer."

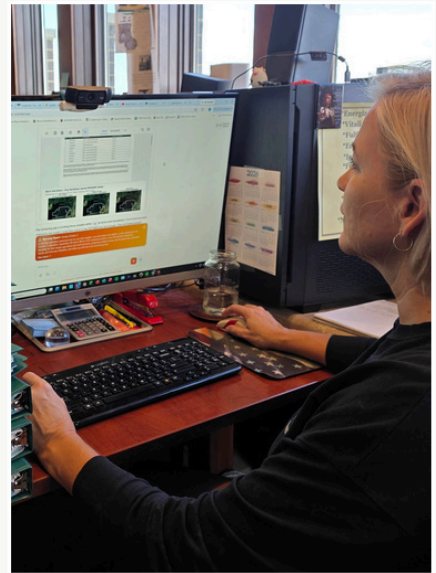
What she's found is that AI tools are not all alike. Some work inside a single platform—an equipment manufacturer's or a farm software provider's—and only see what's been entered there. Others are general AI tools that answer from broad agronomic information rather than from what actually happened in her fields this season. Then there's the data itself. As a member who has been active in shaping AAW policy such as naming on-farm data security a national security issue this year, one of the things she wants to know about any tool is who owns the data and who can see it.

"AgAnswers gives that guarantee and certainty that our farm's data stays with me and my sons. We train it with our data and it gives us field and zone-specific answers to critical management questions. It's not a trivia tool like a general system that then trains itself and won't remember our specific circumstances to build more or better results in the future."

Types of data she has loaded into AgAnswers are years of soil lab audits so she can get a better idea of actual crop removal rates on their soils, leases that only she and her sons – not other employees – can refer to while managing field operations, scale tickets, contracts, invoices, equipment service records, field data, and exports from any brand or system. For example; it is fully operational with John Deere or Case operations software. Her farm owns those records and decides who on the team sees them. As a beta user, she puts it to work on the farm and tells the company what works and what doesn't.

It hasn't replaced all of her spreadsheets but it's made getting to the decision point faster. She asks for the analysis in plain language, by text, voice or email, and the time that used to go into pulling numbers together and formatting sheets now goes into the decision.

"I have a lot of drive time and being able to carry on a conversation with AgAnswers by running an analysis on our sprayer, obtain its hours and average acreage covered over "x" number of years in order to calculate the payoff time on a new sprayer and then shift to a completely different



Heather Hampton+Knodle working at her desk

Putting Farm AI to the Test (continued)

management concern that could size up a change in our state's employment law to our direct employee costs followed by another shift to analyzing CEC capacity and creating management zone maps for operations is POWERFUL." Back at the desktop, she gave the assistant a range of base soil saturations and asked it to compare and map the costs of DAP and TSP along with fall nitrogen and potash as part of their fall fertilizer planning process. Trying to shave off costs of inputs field by field.

AgAnswers assisted with preparing the FSA 578 planting record in July. Heather says it requires the user to ground truth and make corrections, but can provide a very effective way to save time in identifying the tracts and FSA cropland or conservation parcels that dot their maps. She has her farm team members using the app to upload anything that they repair or maintain. "Wednesday night we had a sickle bar and then a chain break on a combine. They repaired it in the field, without dealership tech. support, and we have that in the maintenance record now, where in the past, it would have only been in the employees' memory.

It can also generate "to do" lists for employees and managers based on their team meetings and follow up needs.

Heather's questions for any farm AI tool:

- Does it answer from my operation's records, or from general information?
- Can it see all my records, or only what's in one company's platform?
- Does it speed me up, or add data entry and another system to learn?
- Does it help me analyze and decide, or just store data?
- Who owns my data, and who can see it?

Now that we've been using this tool since January, I am convinced that it will enable us to get better at a faster pace than any other investment we could make on our farm. When I'm able to pull up our sulfur level zone by zone in a specific field as I'm headed to the airport that is needed for a new crop we are contracted to grow (as I'm on the phone with the company rep) and ask the same system to prepare a graph with our healthcare costs to share with the congressmen I'll meet tomorrow, I've found a tool that can keep up."

Heather Hampton+Knodle is a beta user of AgAnswers and provides product feedback to the company. AgAnswers is in a free beta; operators can request an invitation at aganswers.ai.



Heather Hampton+Knodle working with Trent Lohman, a farm team employee. They had been closely tracking the new grain auger, number of tension bolt, vs shear bolts they had gone through in a matter of days.

AAW MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

From Courtroom to Pastures: Lessons From an Unexpected Second Act

Nicole Sloane Kondrlik, Kondrlik Farms, National Virtual Affiliate

For more than twenty years, my workday began in a courthouse.

I spent my career as a criminal defense attorney in Pennsylvania, eventually serving as the Chief Public Defender of my county for the final four years of my career. My days involved criminal cases, court deadlines, employees, budgets, judges, juries, clients in crisis, a surprising amount of politics, and decisions that sometimes carried enormous consequences.

These days, I begin my days with my husband checking for mastitis before milking, surveying pastures for new lambs born during the night, and monitoring changes in the weather forecast that could impact field work.

I did not leave a high-pressure, stressful career for a peaceful life. Farming has its own deadlines, emergencies and worries. The primary difference is that in my new life, I spend my days caring for livestock, not humans.



Nicole Sloane Kondrlik, Kondrlik Farms, National Virtual Affiliate

AAW MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

From Courtroom to Pastures: Lessons From an Unexpected Second Act (continued)

My husband, son and I operate a small family farm in northwestern Pennsylvania. My husband has farmed for more than 50 years and is a wonderful partner in everything we do. Together, we raise crops, cattle, sheep, goats, butcher hogs, livestock guardian dogs and laying hens. I have also added bees to the list of creatures keeping me humble.

I discovered that the skills I developed during my professional life followed me home to the farm.

Lawyers are trained to gather facts before making decisions. Farming requires the same thing, except the witnesses cannot talk.

A ewe stops eating, drops her head and stands in a corner. A springing heifer has been in labor a bit too long. A lamb has bottle

jaw. Something has changed, and you begin gathering evidence, researching, and sometimes talking with other farmers before making a decision.

What did the animal eat? Is there a fever? What does the pasture look like? Is the pink in her eyes washed out? Has anyone seen her nurse? What changed yesterday? What happened the last time? It is surprisingly similar to preparing a case, although instead of having my own investigators question witnesses, I need to find the evidence by observing and investigating on my own and staying constantly alert for changes.

Record-keeping matters in both worlds, too. On a diversified farm, there is an astonishing amount to remember: breeding dates, expected due dates, vaccinations, ear tags, medications, pasture rotations, feed changes, purchases and sales. One of the biggest surprises for me has been how much judgment farming requires. There is rarely one perfectly correct answer.

Do we sell lambs now during an ethnic holiday even though they are not the optimal weight, or feed them another month? Keep a heifer who did not settle after a month with the bull, or take her to market? Treat an animal immediately or watch it for another day? Harvest honey or leave all of it for the bees for the long, harsh northwestern Pennsylvania winter ahead? Buy something because it would make life easier, or save the money because the tractor will undoubtedly need new tires soon?

Law taught me that difficult decisions are often made with incomplete information. Agriculture reinforced that lesson.

You gather the best information available, consider the consequences, make the decision and live with it.

Mistakes? I have made plenty of them in both worlds. As I reminded young attorneys, mistakes are inevitable. It is not the mistake itself that breaks a young attorney, but being unable to move on from it and allowing past mistakes to consume you.

In my former work, a mistake could make it more likely that a client went to jail or suffered a collateral



Nicole Sloane Kondrlik, Kondrlik Farms, National Virtual Affiliate

From Courtroom to Pastures: Lessons From an Unexpected Second Act (continued)

consequence of an unjust conviction. When I make mistakes now, an animal may become ill, be injured, or die.

There is another similarity between public defense and farming that I did not expect: both can make a person deeply aware of how government policies affect ordinary people, especially those who are not at the top of the income scale.

Regulations that sound straightforward from an office can look very different when someone must actually comply with them while running a small farm. Agriculture intersects with local, state and federal government constantly—from animal identification and transportation requirements to environmental rules, meat processing, grants, taxes and land use.

Many livestock antibiotics that farmers once could pick up at the farm store now require a veterinary prescription. That can include something as simple as an antibiotic eye medication. For a small farmer, that can mean additional veterinary costs and another hurdle between recognizing a sick animal and obtaining the medication needed to treat it. The increased difficulty and expense have also made me much more

interested in learning when safe over-the-counter treatments or other appropriate remedies may be available.

There is another similarity between my two worlds that I did not expect: my experience as a woman in them. During my years practicing law, I watched male attorneys sometimes receive informal mentoring that was extraordinarily valuable, while female attorneys did not. After a hearing or trial, a judge might invite a young male lawyer into chambers, talk through what had happened and offer advice about how he could improve. I do not remember observing female attorneys being afforded that same kind of informal mentorship.

I also saw disparities that were harder to dismiss. At times, female attorneys were offered lower compensation or treated differently from male attorneys with comparable experience. Qualified female attorneys were passed over for positions or promotions in favor of male attorneys with a fraction of their qualifications and experience. Agriculture has occasionally felt surprisingly familiar.

There have been many moments when I have been reminded that some people still instinctively view agriculture as a man's world.

Recently, I attended a grazing conference. Three different people asked me why my husband wasn't there. I politely explained that my husband and son were baling hay. I left out the fact that it was my research and grazing decisions that prevented a repeat of the lamb losses we experienced last year. My husband's niche is cattle and hogs; mine is small ruminants.

There is an interesting equalizer in both professions. When we take lambs or calves to the livestock sale, the buyers do not seem particularly interested in whether a man or woman raised them. They care about the well-raised animals standing in the ring.

And when I stood before a jury defending a client, the jury did not seem particularly concerned that the lawyer speaking to them was a woman. What mattered was the case I presented and the argument I made on my client's behalf. In both places, ultimately, the work had to speak for itself. The farm does not care about my gender or my title. The sheep are unimpressed with my résumé. A lamb abandoned by his mom and needing a bottle does not care how many jury trials I handled. A broken gate is not persuaded by legal argument. There is something wonderfully grounding about that. Agriculture measures usefulness differently.

Did you get the animals fed? Did you notice the one that was sick? Did you help bring a newborn through a difficult night? Did you grow something? Did you leave the place a little better than you found it?

I still value the career I had and the work I did. But farming has taught me that a person's knowledge and usefulness do not end when a professional title does.

Sometimes those skills simply find a new place to work. Mine happened to be a barn and several pastures.



Nicole Sloane Kondrlik, Kondrlik Farms, National Virtual Affiliate

AAW MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Lucky to attend 15th Women in Agribusiness Summit in New Orleans... Apparently, I need to get out more!

By: Nancy Vander Byl - Coblentz -
President, National Virtual Affiliate

I recently attended the 15th Women in Agribusiness Summit in New Orleans, and I came home with one very clear thought: I need to get out more.

The Summit was incredibly well organized, with great speakers, relevant panels, and women from across the U.S. and around the world. But as good as the sessions were, some of the best parts happened in between. Sitting beside someone new, talking over dinner and simply “bumping into” women who are doing interesting things in agriculture. This reminded me how valuable it is to get outside our own little corners of the industry.

A few speakers really stuck with me. Dominique Rose Van-Winther, Chief AI Evangelist at Final Upgrade, made AI feel exciting, practical, and a whole lot less intimidating. Dr. Liz Fiedler Mergen's story of building a flower farm and creating her own opportunities was inspiring. And Emily Metz, President and CEO of the American Egg Board, offered some wonderfully simple advice: show up, do the job, add value, and earn respect.

I also learned things I wasn't expecting. A discussion about GLP-1 medications and protein really caught my attention. As people eat less, nutrient-dense food matters more, and research presented at the Summit showed GLP-1 users willing to pay considerably more for quality protein, including beef. Consumers may be

eating less, but they are looking for good protein and are willing to pay for it. Farmers and ranchers should be paying attention to that.

The young women at the Summit really impressed me. Many were there through scholarships and sponsorships, and they were confident, intelligent, curious, and interesting. Kids today sometimes get a bum rap. Spend a few days with these young women, and you'll feel pretty darn good about the future of agriculture. It was also great to see Sara Wyant of Agri-Pulse recognized with a Women in Agribusiness Leadership Award. Agri-Pulse provided our 2025/26 AAW Road to Influence cohort with access to its information, so seeing Sara recognized made that connection a little more special.

Of course, we were in New Orleans, a long-time bucket list trip for me. We rode the trolley, explored a graveyard, the French Quarter and Bourbon Street, and made the required stop at Café du Monde for beignets. We even came home with professional headshots, although I would argue the beignets were the better perk.

What I really brought home, though, was a renewed appreciation for connection. As President of AAW's new National Virtual Affiliate, the Summit solidified something for me. Not every woman has the time or resources to attend conferences like this, but we can still create opportunities for women to meet, learn, and have these conversations. Sometimes we can bring the speaker, the discussion, and those connections right to her, at her kitchen table through Zoom.

AAW was a sponsor of this year's Women in Agribusiness Summit, which also means AAW members can receive an additional 10% discount on Summit registration. Early bird registrations for 2027 will start soon and go to mid-October. If you get the chance to attend, go. Talk to someone you don't know. Ask questions. Listen. Make some new connections. And eat the beignets.



Women In AgriBusiness Banner being displayed at the conference. Notice....AAW is a Proud Sponsor

AAW MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Celebrating Our Own: Brave Women Who Broke Barriers

Written by and Contributed by: Juanita Reed-Boniface

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There's a great new book hitting the shelves that hits close to home for our agriculture community. Written by Minnesota author Ronald Eustice, *"Brave Women Who Broke Barriers"* shares the inspiring stories of twenty-four remarkable women. All of these ladies from 12 states, Washington, DC, and Scotland, carved out successful careers during a time when agriculture and other industries were strictly male-dominated.

Juanita Reed-Boniface, a dedicated member of American and Minnesota Agri-Women and Minnesota Livestock Hall of Fame inductee is one of the women featured. Juanita grew up as a fourth-generation cattle producer and went on to spend a lifetime advocating for ag education through 4-H, Agriculture in the Classroom, and volunteer leadership. Her story sits alongside several other trailblazing women in the beef and dairy sectors across the country.

Eustice says he wrote the book simply because he knew so many incredible women and wanted to make sure their accomplishments were recorded to encourage the next generation. It's a fantastic read for anyone passionate about our industry's heritage.

Copies are available at Amazon.com, or reach out to Ronald Eustice directly at 612-202-1016, or at email address reustice@gmail.com



From left to right: Author Ron Eustice and AgriWomen member, Juanita Reed-Boniface examine first copies of *"Brave Women Who Broke Barriers"*.

AAW MEMBER TESTIMONIAL

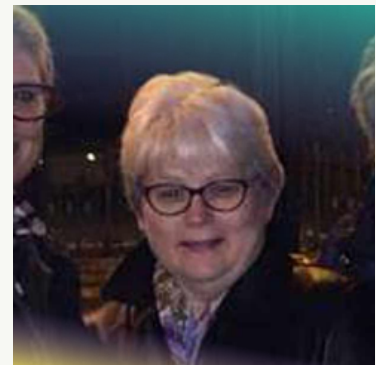
Deb Whalen - Minnesota Agri-Women

As a proud member of American Agri-Women for more than 30 years, I've gained an extraordinary depth of knowledge, perspective, and purpose. The opportunity to network with women from across the country has shown me just how diverse American agriculture truly is. Every region faces unique challenges, and every challenge requires its own thoughtful remedy. Listening, learning, and sharing experiences with fellow members has been one of the greatest gifts of my involvement.

Each March, we gather for our Mid-Year Meeting, where we roll up our sleeves and get to work. Together, we identify the most urgent issues facing agriculture and develop white papers that reflect our research, our experience, and our unified voice. Expert speakers join us to deepen our understanding. Whether on the issues we're tackling now or those we need to keep on our radar for the future.

By late May or early June, we take these papers to Washington, D.C. During Fly-In, we meet with Senators, Representatives, and key government agencies, leaving behind our white papers and our comprehensive policy position book. These conversations matter. They ensure that the voices of women in agriculture are heard at the highest levels. And when we're lucky, we even fit in a visit to an Embassy; always a fascinating and memorable experience.

In recent years, I've also had the privilege of assisting our Vice President of Education at the National Ag in the Classroom Conference. This program was founded by Illinois Agri-Woman Jean Ibendahl, a farm wife and teacher who believed children needed to understand where their food comes from. Her vision caught the attention of



Deb Whalen, Minnesota Agri- Women

AAW MEMBER HIGHLIGHT

Deb Whalen - Minnesota Agri- Women (Continued)

Secretary of Agriculture John Block, who helped expand it into a national USDA program. Today, it continues to shape agricultural literacy across the country; something American Agri-Women proudly supports.

In recent years, I've also had the privilege of assisting our Vice President of Education at the National Ag in the Classroom Conference. This program was founded by Illinois Agri-Woman Jean Ibendahl, a farm wife and teacher who believed children needed to understand where their food comes from. Her vision caught the attention of Secretary of Agriculture John Block, who helped expand it into a national USDA program. Today, it continues to shape agricultural literacy across the country; something American Agri-Women proudly supports.

Education is at the heart of AAW. We work tirelessly to help consumers separate fact from fiction, because learning is a lifelong process and agriculture is always evolving.

Each November, AAW hosts its National Convention, where affiliates take turns showcasing their region's agricultural strengths, products, and commodities. We've welcomed women from Canada, Mexico, and Australia, enriching our discussions with global perspectives. This year, we gather in Lexington, Kentucky; a beautiful setting for connection, learning, and leadership.

In American Agri-Women, you can be as active as you choose; whether in leadership, education, policy development, or creative outreach. If you're looking for meaningful involvement, lifelong learning, and a community of remarkable women, I encourage you to explore American Agri-Women at www.americanagri-women.org.

American Agri-Women stands as a powerful force for agriculture; rooted in resilience, driven by leadership, and united by a deep love for the land. Their advocacy strengthens rural communities, their voice shapes the future, and their dedication keeps America growing strong.

AFFILIATE HIGHLIGHT

Illinois Agri-Women Announces 2026 Scholarship Winners

Submitted and Contributed by: Penny Lauritzen, Illinois Agri-Women

This year, the Illinois Agri-Women (IAW) organization awarded 4 scholarships for females studying agriculture. The Illinois Agri-Women (IAW) organization supports the agriculture industry, works for legislation to support and preserve family farms, communicates with other agriculture organizations, and strives to educate the public and promote agricultural awareness.

One \$1,500 IAW Helen Henert & Eleanor Zimmerlein Memorial Agriculture Education Scholarship was awarded to Haley Mae Bode, an agriculture education major from Waterloo, IL. Bode is a senior at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale this year, finishing her degree in agriculture education.

Bode writes "An agriculturally literate population is essential for the success of our world. Because of this, agriculture education should be legislated as a core subject in Illinois to ensure all students have access to this knowledge. As a future agriculture educator, I am committed to creating a classroom where students feel inspired to learn, lead, and understand their responsibility as agriculturalists. I want my students to leave with knowledge and confidence to represent Illinois agriculture."

Illinois Agri-Women Announces 2026 Scholarship Winners (Continued)

Three \$1,000 WCFA Agent of Change Scholarships are offered to students who have attended at least one Women Changing the Face of Agriculture Conference. Eligible applicants include past attendees of the WCFA career exploration event. One scholarship is awarded to a high school senior, one awarded to a current college student, and one scholarship awarded to a current graduate student.

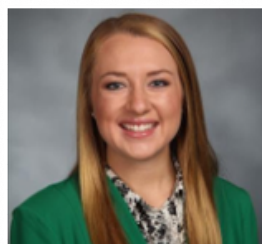
Two WCFA Agent of Change Scholarships this year are provided as memorial scholarships. The Phyllis Johnson Memorial Scholarship is provided by a daughter of the Johnsons, Penny Lauritzen. In 1951, Phyllis and LaVern Johnson moved to his parents' farm as they retired and moved to town. Phyllis worked alongside her husband to plant and harvest the corn, oats and alfalfa that they grew to feed their hogs and cattle. She raised chickens and was very active supporting her six children in their school, 4-H, and FFA activities. She served several years as the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) President and chaired hundreds of fund-raising banquet committees at their church and for various school organizations. This experience led her to establish a catering business and eventually build a new home with a large commercial kitchen and serving area called "Your Home and Ours" ...thus creating Farm to Fork before connecting production agriculture to the family table was considered "cool". Phyllis and LaVern were insistent that their six children secure post-secondary educations, from farm finance to meat science to farm management to nursing to hospitality to psychology. She believed that supporting young women as they prepare themselves to be self-reliant and serve as leaders in their field of interest was an important effort.

The college student memorial scholarship, the Joan Loeb Memorial Scholarship, provided by a daughter of the Loeb, Karen Westbrook, is also an interesting story. In 2001, Joan and Herb Loeb purchased their first farm as an investment. This investment became Joan's passion. Living her whole life in Chicago, Joan was intrigued by the processes of farming from soil fertility to harvest. She also loved riding in the equipment. Joan was fascinated by the education and information required to run a profitable operation. She felt it was important to explain to her city friends that farmers are more than people in bib overalls and, farming is much more than plowing a field. Her daughter, Karen is a board member of Illinois Agri-Women, a graduate of Annie's Project, and pursued graduate level classes at University of Illinois to help oversee the farm operations. Joan believed that women in agriculture was an important effort to support.

The 2026 Women Changing the Face of Agriculture Agent of Change scholarship recipients are:

Samantha Myers will receive the \$1000 Phyllis Johnson Memorial Scholarship. She is the daughter of Danny and Sarah Myers of Pontiac, Illinois. Myers is majoring in animal science and a freshman at Illinois State University in Bloomington/Normal.

Myers plans to continue on to veterinary school. Her goal is to become a veterinarian working with both livestock and small animals in a mixed or rural practice. She is especially passionate about supporting livestock health and productivity while also providing compassionate care for companion animals.



From left to right: Samantha Myers, Aubery Wall, Cally Hatton and Bode Haley

AAW AFFILIATE HIGHLIGHT

Illinois Agri-Women Announces 2026 Scholarship Winners - Continued

Aubrey Wall, University of Illinois at Champaign, is recipient of the \$1000 Joan Loeb Memorial Scholarship. Her parents are Don and Laura Wall, hailing from Sorento, Illinois. Wall's future plans are to become an agricultural teacher and FFA Advisor in a rural community.

Wall states, "My long-term goal is to positively impact as many students as possible by helping them discover their passions, develop leadership skills, and build confidence for their futures. Agriculture has always been a central part of my life, and I want to share that passion with the next generations of leaders." She plans to inspire students to become confident leaders and active members of their communities.

Cally Hatton, Illinois State University, Bloomington/Normal, will also receive a \$1000 scholarship. Hatton originates from Marseilles, IL, and is the daughter of Tom and Shelly Diss. She attended Illinois Valley Community College, Joliet Junior College, and Southern Illinois University Carbondale to earn her bachelor's degree. She is now at Illinois State University pursuing her master's degree.

Hatton share, "Years ago when I attended the Women Changing the Face of Agriculture Conference in high school, I was amazed at the different opportunities available to Women In Agriculture. I always knew that I wanted to be a teacher, but finding a passion for agriculture education was a special part of leading me to where I am today. While I looked into other agricultural careers, many of which Women Changing the Face of Agriculture showed me, I stayed with my passion for becoming an agriculture education teacher. The empowerment and support that I felt that day at the conference ensured me that this was the industry I wanted to be in. Hearing from the other professionals about all that they have gained from the agriculture industry was inspiring to me and something I wanted to be a part of. Now that I am a teacher, each year I take my own group of students to the Women Changing the Face of Agriculture Conference and always appreciate the wide variety of agriculture careers available to the attendees. My students have always remarked about how they didn't even know that some careers like that existed until they heard about it at the conference. This conference allows women to be inspired and influenced by other women in agriculture to pursue a career in the industry. The experience that the professionals share one-on-one with the attendees is always one of my favorite parts and what I see to be most influential from the day. When attendee hear how those professionals come from similar backgrounds as them, but earn the spot they are in today, I think it's eye opening to my high schoolers to see what they can do with their future as well.

To find out more information about scholarships, visit Scholarships – WCFA (womenchangingthefaceofagriculture.com) or www.illinoisagriwomen.org

Schultz/Miller Family Receives Generations of Women in Agriculture Across America First Place Award

Submitted and Contributed by: Penny Lauritzen, Illinois Agri-Women

The Illinois Agri-Women recognized the inaugural families of the Generations of Women in Agriculture Across America awards on August 21, 2026 in Normal, Illinois. The GoAg3 national award celebrates the legacy of multi-generational women whose stories represent resilience, innovation, and a lasting legacy in agriculture.

The first-place Legacy Farm Family Award winner is the Schultz/Miller family, centered in Orangeville, IL. The second and third place winners are the Green family of Arthur, IL and the O'Bryan family of Grants Pass and Lakeview, OR.

"It's wonderful that we have a farm family legacy. I never take this for granted," said Madeline Schultz,

Schultz/Miller Family Receives Generations of Women in Agriculture Across America First Place Award (Continued)

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach agriculture specialist, Gen 2. “I’m very proud of all the amazing women in my family,” added Madeline

The GoAg3 Celebration was held at Heartland Community College Agriculture Complex. The featured keynote speaker was Colleen Callahan, a member of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting Hall of Fame. Several concurrent sessions offered educational activities throughout the morning. The GoAg3 Luncheon and Award program was held at Distihl Brewery and Beer Hall. Tours of the Midwest Food Bank and Radar’s Family Farm were enjoyed in the afternoon.

The Schultz/Miller family’s GoAg3 application included the stories of two Gen 1, three Gen 2, seven Gen 3, and four Gen 4 women and girls. They share a common love of livestock including dairy, beef, horses, sheep, poultry, dogs, and pigs. In addition, several other women in the family work in agriculture or have strong connections to the family farm.

The Schultz/Miller family honors the 64 years since the founding of Mil-R-Mor dairy farm, which relocated to Orangeville, IL in 2006. “I’m really proud Mil-R-Mor is a gathering place for the whole extended family. It’s great to have all the cousins over for our annual summer Ag Olympics, and showing calves at the district Holstein show,” commented Lorilee Schultz, Mil-R-Mor Herd Manager, Gen 3.

Beyond the four generation ‘farm business’, is a four generation ‘farm family’. “Ours is a story of entrepreneurship, of the women and men in our family finding innovative paths to succeed in agriculture, and of being there for each other through challenging times,” explained Madeline Schultz, Gen 2. “It’s a testament to the agrarian imperative, the will to farm, that runs deep in my family,” she adds.

In addition to Mil-R-Mor Farm, the Schultz/Miller women contribute to seven individually owned farm businesses (including two in Iowa), one partnership farm, and three hobby farms. Their off-farm careers include university extension, animal nutrition, genetics services, agricultural banking, k-12 teaching, agritourism, and photography. Four of the Gen 3 women operate related entrepreneurial businesses with their husbands involving livestock transportation and custom forage harvesting.

“Beyond her impact in the multiple generations of the Schultz/Miller family, Madeline’s impact on women in agriculture throughout the US is truly amazing,” wrote Melissa O’Rourke, attorney and farm succession consultant, in her letter of recommendation. Madeline’s extension work included two decades of advocating for women while strengthening Annie’s Project farm management courses and developing new programs for women.

While raising their families and growing their businesses, the women make time to contribute to 30 different agricultural and rural community organizations. From serving on the local school board to being a fellow of the EU-U.S. Transatlantic Sustainable Transition Initiative Fellowship for Young Leaders in Agriculture, the women have stepped up to advocate and lead.

“It is truly amazing to see the array of leadership accomplishments and the involvement in agricultural activities by the Schultz/Miller women,” said David Fischer, University of Illinois, retired Extension Dairy Educator, in his letter of recommendation for the Schultz/Miller Family.

Each generation is building on the strengths of previous generations. “I’ve been involved in the dairy industry for as long as I can remember, growing up in the barn from a very young age,” shared Ashlynn Schultz, Gen 4. As the oldest fourth-generation cousin, Ashlynn, a high school senior, sees a bright future in agriculture.

“Through managing a herd of show animals each year, I became interested in how nutrition and genetics impact an animal’s performance,” Ashlynn said. That experience sparked her interest in

AAW AFFILIATE HIGHLIGHT

Schultz/Miller Family Receives Generations of Women in Agriculture Across America First Place Award (Continued)

pursuing a career in animal science. “I have learned that hard work truly does pay off and if I keep persevering, I can achieve almost anything,” she added.

The resilience of Gen 1 continues to inspire the family. Kathleen (Kaye) Miller grew up in Quebec and followed her husband to his new job in Illinois on her 21st birthday with a baby in her arms and one on the way. Her daughter, Debbie, died in a farming accident just a few years later. Kaye persevered and brought smart business decisions to her family; including saying yes to purchasing Roxy, a Holstein cow that later earned the title of International Cow of the Century.

Dorothy Schultz grew up in Chicago and wanted to study ecology. She was told that girls don’t go to college. She eloped on her 21st birthday, marrying a police officer. The couple soon started a farm business. Holding on to her love of ecology, Dorothy donated land for Exner Marsh, a 220-acre state nature preserve.

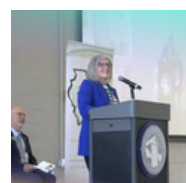
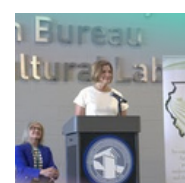
“Applying for this award, gave all the women in our family an opportunity to reflect on the past, appreciate the present, and look forward to the future,” said Lorilee Schultz. “We’re very grateful for this opportunity.”

The Brandt Corporation, represented by Danielle Knox, presented the first-place Schultz/Miller family with a \$5,000 cash award during the GoAg3 celebration. The family contributed the funds to the Kathleen Miller endowment at the Holstein Foundation. “We couldn’t think of a better way to pay it forward with this generous gift, than by adding it to my mom’s scholarship endowment for women,” said Madeline Schultz

The Families that received the Generations of Women in Agriculture Across America



Winning families from left to right: Madeline Schultz, Lorilee Schultz, and Cora Schultz of the Schultz/Miller Family located in Northwest Illinois, Southern Wisconsin, and Central Iowa, were the recipients of first place. The second place recipients of the Green Family, Aurthur, Illinois, in East Central Illinois are Makenna (Green) Frantz, Jerelyn Green, and Monica. Third place recipients represented by the ladies of the O’Bryan Family, standing with Dad/Grandpa, are Brenna, Freyja, and Amanda O’Bryan, from Grants Pass, Oregon, in Southwestern Oregon and Lakeview, Oregon, in South-Central Oregon.



Pictured are a few of the of the speakers the GoAg3 event held in Bloomington, IL at Heartland Community College. Top row from left to right: Krista Swanson, who spoke on “Farm Economy Insights”, and also received the 2026 Illinois Female Farmer of the Year at the GoAg3 event. Colleen Callahan spoke about “She’s Got Moxie” as the main speaker of the day. Rachel Brown, Illinois FARM SOS counselor spoke of “Caring for the Farm & the Family Behind It”. Holly Spangle who served as the GoAg3 Emcee, and Anjie Erbsen, President of Illinois Agri-Women

2026 AAW NOMINATIONS

The American Agri-Women Nominating Committee has worked together for several months to bring forward this year's nominees for the membership's consideration. We are confident in these nominees and believe they will bring strong leadership and dedication to our organization if elected at the business meeting during the 2026 National Convention in Lexington, Kentucky.

Our bylaws also allow any member in good standing to run from the floor at our National Convention. Interested members must submit their completed application and endorsements to the Nominating Committee Chair before the start of the American Agri-Women business meeting at the 2026 National Convention.

Positions up for election include Secretary, Vice President of Education, and positions within the AAW Foundation and Nominating Committee.

If you missed the initial application process but still feel called to serve, your opportunity isn't lost!

For questions or additional information, contact:
Chris Wilson
Nominating Committee
chris@agresources.com
785-844-0274



Secretary – Keila Schilling - Texas Agri Women

Born and raised on a farm and ranch in the Texas Panhandle, I developed a lifelong passion for agriculture through working alongside my family and experiencing the daily commitment it takes to care for the land and livestock. I have spent 11 years with Capital Farm Credit, building a career and gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges facing producers.

I currently serve as President of Texas Agri-Women and have served on the AAW Financial Review Committee for the past four years. I am passionate about agriculture and dedicated to helping AAW continue to grow, thrive, and advocate for the future of our industry.



Vice President of Education – Jenny Hitner, Oregon Women for Agriculture

Jenny Hitner brings a diverse background in agriculture, business, and leadership to American Agri-Women. A member of Oregon Women for Agriculture, she currently serves as State Treasurer and has been involved nationally with AAW's RTI program and Timber Policy.

Jenny is a real estate business owner specializing in farm, ranch, forest, and rural properties, and serves as CFO of Century Forest Management. She also brings 10 years of experience as a mechanical design engineer developing agricultural equipment.

Passionate about agricultural education and bringing awareness to the industry, Jenny hopes to bring fresh ideas, strong leadership, and a new perspective to AAW's educational efforts.

2026 AAW FOUNDATION NOMINATIONS



AAW Foundations - Jacquie Compston, - Nevada Agri-Women

Jacquie Compston is a fifth-generation Nevadan with deep roots in ranching and agriculture. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Education and taught at Smith Valley Schools and Western Nevada College. Jacquie and her family operated a large ranch in western Nevada, raising registered and commercial cattle, managing a feedlot, and producing seed garlic, small grains, and alfalfa. Her dedication to agriculture and mentorship was recognized when she received the American Agri-Women's Erickson-McCrum Outstanding Agricultural Mentor Award in 2022. Jacquie continues to be an active advocate for agriculture and a mentor in her community.



AAW Foundations - Donnell Scott, Kansas Agri-Women

Donnell manages and operates a farming operation south of Manhattan, Kansas which grows dry land wheat, soybeans, and milo. She has a commercial cow-calf operation of Angus cross cattle and a small commercial ewe flock. Donnell works full time off the farm as a Food Labeling Professional for AIB International. She gives assistance to the food industry on interpretation of regulations for food labeling requirements and generates nutritional information and ingredient statements for food companies as well as reviewing food labels for compliance.



AAW Foundations - Ardath DeWall - Midwest Dairy Association and Illinois Agri Women

Ardath DeWall has a long history of involvement with American Agri-Women and a strong commitment to agricultural education and leadership. A member of Illinois Agri-Women and the Midwest Dairy Association, Ardath currently serves on the AAW Foundation Board and is seeking another term. Through her involvement, Ardath has supported agricultural scholarships, educational opportunities, and leadership development. Her continued dedication reflects her passion for agriculture, supporting future generations, and the mission of American Agri-Women.

2026 AAW FOUNDATION NOMINATIONS



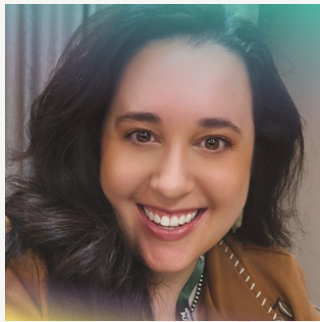
AAW Nominating Committee - Marcie Williams – Ohio Agri-Women

Marcie Williams a long-time Ohio Agri-Women and American Agri-Women member has dedicated much of her time in both those organizations in a leadership position, most notably as the American Agri-Women President. With a keen understanding of the organizations inner workings and the goals of the AAW Foundation board, Marcie is excited to use her talents for the best future of AAW. Along with her Agri-Women pursuits Marcie is an active member of her community and local Farm Bureau chapter. She is also a passionate equestrian competing in multiple disciplines.

2026 AAW NOMINATIONS



AW Foundations - Donnell Scott, Kansas Agri-Women
Donnell manages and operates a farming operation south of Manhattan, Kansas which grows dry land wheat, soybeans, and milo. She has a commercial cow-calf operation of Angus cross cattle and a small commercial ewe flock. Donnell works full time off the farm as a Food Labeling Professional for AIB International. She gives assistance to the food industry on interpretation of regulations for food labeling requirements and generates nutritional information and ingredient statements for food companies as well as reviewing food labels for compliance.



AAW Nominating Committee Megan Foran – Montana Agri-Women

Megan Foran of Shepherd, Montana, brings experience in agricultural marketing and communications to American Agri-Women. As Marketing Director at Nutra-Lix, a company serving the livestock industry, Meg's professional background connects her with agriculture and the people who work within it. Her experience in marketing and communications provides a valuable foundation for sharing agriculture's story, building connections, and supporting the mission of American Agri-Women.



Nominating Committee Kellie Kittelmann – Montana Agri-Women - Hold Over

Kellie Kittelman was born and raised in Montana on a small farm that produced four great kids and a few chicken eggs. Kellie served as President of Montana Agri Women and is the current secretary. Her involvement with American Agri-Women is extensive as she has attended many conventions, mid-year meetings, and Fly-Ins. She recently served as the Veritas Chair. She works at her families liquid feed company located in Billings and enjoys working with ranchers in the day to day life. As well as lending a hand at Yost Events team ropings during the summertime. Kellie lives north of Park City with her husband Kaine and their two boys George & Augustus "Gus".



Nominating Committee - Hannah Guthoerl- National Virtual Affiliate - Alternate

Hannah Guthoerl brings a fresh, young voice and a growing passion for agricultural advocacy and communications to American Agri-Women. Her involvement in agriculture began through 4-H, where she served in a leadership role and helped showcase agricultural career opportunities at World Dairy Expo.

A recipient of the AAW Helen Whitmore Convention Scholarship, Hannah continues to expand her involvement through internships with American Agri-Women and Agri-Pulse in Washington, D.C., where she covers agricultural policy and industry issues.

Hannah also serves on the AAW Communications Committee, helping develop social media content focused on agricultural policy and issues affecting the industry. Through her leadership, communications, and journalism experiences, she continues to build her knowledge while helping share agriculture's story.

Leadership Isn't Always About a Title...

It's about passion, dedication, the courage to speak up, and the willingness to make a difference.

The Future of AAW Begins With Its Members.

Sometimes all it takes is someone saying, "I believe you'd be great at this!"

Could that someone be YOU?

YOUR VOICE... YOUR STORY... YOUR AGRICULTURE...

Your experiences, your stories, your voice. Share them with American Agri-Women.

The Voice has come a long way since it first began, and so have we as women and as American Agri-Women! We've grown in so many directions, and The Voice has grown right along with us. From how we receive it, to how it looks, what we read, and the stories we share...a lot has changed over the years!

And starting with the Fall 2026 edition, we're adding something new! A section I would LOVE to see grow with every issue.

This one is all about YOU!

Your voice. Your thoughts. Your dreams. Your experiences. Your story. Your agriculture.

Maybe you've experienced something that could help someone else. A cause or awareness month that's close to your heart. A challenge you've faced, a dream you're chasing, or something happening in agriculture or your community that deserves more attention.

Attended an Annie's Project workshop and want others to know what a great program it is? This is the place! (Psst...did you know Annie's Project was founded by one of our own, Ruth Hambleton of Illinois Agri-Women? And Ag in the Classroom has roots in the work of American Agri-Women members, too!)

Maybe you've participated in the AAW Road To Influence Leadership Program that changed the way you look at things. Discovered a resource worth sharing. Started a new adventure, overcome a challenge, or learned something the hard way that might make someone else's journey a little easier.

Or maybe you have thoughts about solar farms, data centers, mental health, breast cancer awareness, family, farming, ranching, or simply life itself.

You don't have to agree with everyone, and everyone doesn't have to agree with you. That's part of what makes our voices valuable. We can have different opinions and still care about, respect, and support one another.

This isn't a place for political campaigning or arguments. It's a place to share experiences, raise awareness, encourage conversation, and better understand the lives and challenges of women across our nation.

You don't have to be a professional writer. You just have to have something you want to share.

And since I'm asking you to share your stories, I figured I should be willing to share mine, too! So I'm kicking off this new section with the very first article. It's a personal one, but one I believe is important to share.

This is YOUR section. Let's see where we can take it together!

Submit your story at:
<https://americanagriwomen.org/content-submission>

I'm looking forward to seeing what you have to share!

Vikie Becker
VP of Communications
Communications@americanagriwomen.org

YOUR VOICE... YOUR STORY...YOUR AGRICULTURE...

YOUR EXPERIENCES, YOUR STORIES, YOUR VOICE. SHARE THEM WITH AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN.

AGRICULTURAL SUICIDE: THE TABOO WE CAN'T AFFORD TO IGNORE

By Vikkie Becker

Suicide. The silent killer.

Have you ever thought about suicide? Or known someone who has? September might be Mental Health Month, but mental health is something we should think about all year...365 days a year.

I've personally struggled with suicidal thoughts, so I know how difficult this subject can be. But it's a conversation we **NEED** to have.

Farming, ranching, and timber are tough industries. Financial pressures, uncertainty, and the fear of losing generations of hard work can become overwhelming.

And when things go wrong, who do we blame? Too often, ourselves.

Many years ago, when my son Reece was only two or three, I was silently struggling. I wasn't just having passing thoughts about suicide. I had begun thinking about ending my life.

No one knew.

Then one day, sitting in my hairstylist's chair, the subject of suicide came up. She shared how she had attempted suicide, called for help, and survived.

I grabbed her arm and said, *"You just saved my life. I've been deciding when I was going to do this."*

She had no idea I was considering suicide.

One conversation. One person willing to share her experience.

My struggles weren't related to agriculture. They were connected to an autoimmune disease and hormonal imbalances that needed medical attention. But hopelessness can feel much the same, regardless of the cause.

I contacted my doctor, received medical care, and when Marc came home from the farm, we talked. I mean REALLY talked.

Have I struggled mentally since? Of course! I've talked with counselors over the years because life isn't always easy.

You don't have to be thinking about suicide to ask for help. Managing stress, talking with someone we trust, or seeking professional help can make a difference long before reaching a breaking point.

Thankfully, those suicidal thoughts haven't returned. Reece is now 34, and I'm a Granny to 5-year-old Warner.

I share this not for sympathy, but because you never know who might be sitting across from you or driving the tractor in the next field, silently struggling.

YOUR VOICE... YOUR STORY...YOUR AGRICULTURE...

YOUR EXPERIENCES, YOUR STORIES, YOUR VOICE. SHARE THEM WITH AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN.

Agricultural Suicide: The Taboo We Can't Afford to Ignore (Continued)

The Weight of Agriculture

According to the CDC, agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting are among the industries with the highest suicide rates.

While working on this article, I shared it with my friend Lynn Weis, who works in suicide prevention through Illinois' FARM SOS program. She raised something that made me think.

Agricultural families face the same everyday struggles as everyone else...relationships, health, family, and work. Then add the pressures of agriculture.

So why do we think we're built differently? Tougher? Stronger?

Maybe we're not as different as we think.

We're taught to be tough. Work through injuries, bad weather, poor markets, and long hours. Throw on a Band-Aid, maybe some black electrical tape, and move on.

We're independent. We figure things out. We keep going.

But what happens when the person who always figures things out feels lost?

Sometimes it's the woman balancing the farm books, raising the family, working an off-farm job, and making sure everyone else is okay...while nobody asks how SHE is doing.

Who is checking on the person everyone else depends on?

We talk about farm safety constantly. Equipment, grain bins, livestock, machinery.

I mean, McDonald's even prints "HOT" on coffee cups!

But how often do we remind people it's okay to ask for help?

Recognizing the Signs

Warning signs aren't always obvious. Someone might withdraw from friends, struggle with sleep, become unusually angry, or talk about being a burden.

And sometimes, there are no obvious signs.

Because "I'm fine" doesn't always mean fine.

Lynn made another point. If a neighbor broke a leg or had surgery, we wouldn't hesitate to help. Why hesitate when we're concerned about someone's mental health?

She shared how she approaches those conversations:

"You may get mad, but because I am your friend and I care about you, I have to ask, is everything alright?"

They might get upset, but they'll know someone cares.

If you're worried about someone, ASK. Listen without judgment and help them find support.

If you're concerned they might be thinking about suicide, ask directly. Take their answer seriously. If they're in immediate danger, stay with them when safe and call 911.

I'd rather ask an uncomfortable question than wish later that I had

Agricultural Suicide: The Taboo We Can't Afford to Ignore (Continued)

One Conversation Can Change Everything

I still think about that day in my hairstylist's chair. Sometimes, remembering it brings tears to my eyes. She wasn't trying to save my life. She was simply sharing her experience.

But she did save my life

We can't control the weather, the markets, or everything life throws our way. But we CAN control how we show up for one another.

The next time you're at the coffee shop, sale barn, or visiting a neighbor, take a minute to really ask how they're doing. And don't be afraid to share your struggles.

September may be Suicide Prevention Month, but this conversation needs to happen 365 days a year.

Mental health IS farm safety. And it's time we treated it that way.

Need Help or Know Someone Who Does?

- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: Call or text 988 for free, confidential, 24/7 support.
- Farm Aid Farmer Resource Network: farmaid.org
- AgriSafe Network: agrisafe.org

Source: CDC, Suicide Rates by Industry and Occupation, United States, 2021 (published December 2023).

HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE? WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Voice is YOUR Magazine! But here's the thing...we need YOU to help fill its pages! Every AAW member and affiliate has something worth sharing...stories, experiences, accomplishments, opinions, and PHOTOS!

Ag Industry: Member Voices & Perspectives
Have an agricultural issue, opinion, or experience to share? Let's hear it!

Member Highlights
Know an amazing AAW woman? Tell us her story!
Affiliate Highlights

Events, advocacy, education, accomplishments...what's your affiliate been up to?
Your Voice...Your Story...Your Agriculture...
Your thoughts, experiences, and what matters to YOU!

In Memoriam
Help us honor the women who helped shape AAW.

AND DON'T FORGET THE PICTURES!

Members, events, farms, ranches, and memorable moments...send them! Just include who's pictured, what's happening, and where.

You don't have to be a writer to have something worth sharing! Big or small, it all matters. We can't share what we don't know about!

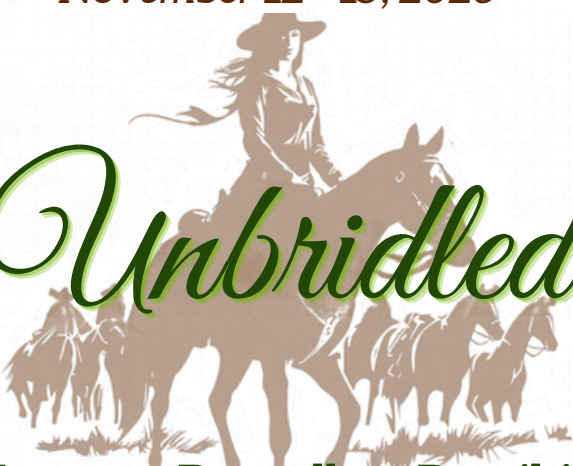
SUBMIT YOUR CONTENT: <https://americanagriwomen.org/content-submission>
Questions? communications@americanagriwomen.org

LEXINGTON, HERE WE COME!



American Agri-Women

2026 National Convention
November 12 - 15, 2026

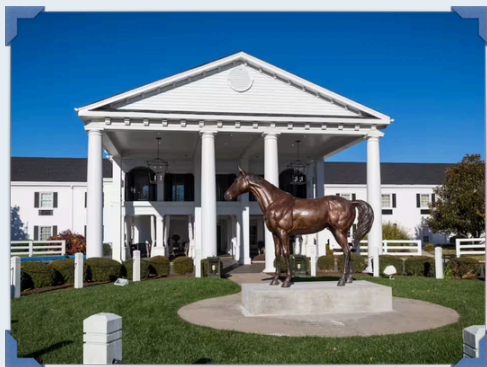


Unbridled

Bold Women... Boundless Possibilities...

The Campbell House - A Curio Collection
Lexington, Kentucky

Meet Me in the Bluegrass State



Lexington Here Comes Your Featured Speaker

“Unbridled, Bold, Boundless”



Dr. Kristen Strom: **“OWN YOUR MAGIC”**

“Unbridled. Bold. Boundless.” Three words that describe the incredible women of American Agri-Women, and our featured speaker, Dr. Kristen Strom!

We're excited to welcome Dr. Kristen to the 2026 American Agri-Women National Convention in Lexington, Kentucky!

A keynote speaker, author, transformational life coach, and agricultural leader, Dr. Kristen brings a unique combination of real-life experience, inspiration, and a passion for helping others recognize their own potential.

As a wife, mother, and member of a farming family, she understands the challenges of balancing agriculture, family, careers, leadership, and everything else life throws our way.

Her presentation, *“Own Your Magic,”* is sure to encourage us to recognize our strengths, embrace what makes each of us unique, and remember just how much we have to offer.

Because being unbridled, bold, and boundless isn't about becoming someone else. It's about having the confidence to be exactly who *YOU* are!

Get ready to be inspired, encouraged, and reminded of the magic you already carry within you!

2026 American Agri-Women National Convention
Lexington, Kentucky



2026 NATIONAL CONVENTION TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

*TIMES AND LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



“Unbridled, Bold, Boundless”

November 11h-15th, 2024
The Campbell House, Lexington, KY

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11th

- 4:00 pm Registration Opens
- 6:00 pm Showing of “World Without Cows”

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12th

- 8:00 am - 7:00 pm Registration Opens & Silent Auction Set Up
- 9:00 am – 10:30 am Executive Committee Meeting
- 11:00 am – 12:30 pm Foundation Meeting
- 12:30 pm Lunch at Hotel for EC & Foundation
- 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Joint Executive Committee & Foundation Meeting
- 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm Board of Directors’ Meeting
- 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Dinner at Hotel
 - First Time Attendees’ Dinner
- 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Town Hall Meeting
- 9:00 pm - 11:00 pm Hospitality Room Open
 -

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15th,

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm Registration Open
- 7:30 am – 8:30 am Breakfast
 - Affiliate Presidents’ Caucus
- 8:30 am - 9:30 am Welcome and Opening Ceremony
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - National Anthem
 - Presentation of Flags, Parade of States
 - National Virtual Affiliate Update
- 9:30 am Load Buses for Spy Coast Farm
- 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Tour of Spy Coast and Catered Lunch

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15th, (Continued)

- 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Business Meeting
- 2:30 pm Load Buses for Distillery Tour
- 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm Distillery Tour
- 5:30 pm Dinner at Hotel
- 7:00 pm Affiliate Oral Reports and Issue Lead Updates
- 9:00 pm – 11:00 pm Hospitality Room Open

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16th,

- 7:00 am – 8:00 am Breakfast
 - Past Presidents’ Breakfast
- 8:00 am - 10:00 am Business Meeting
- 10:30 am – 11:30 am Speaker: Dr. Kristen Strom
“Own Your MAGIC”
- 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm RTI Session for Current Cohort: Kentucky Native Cafe
- 12:00 pm Choose Your Own Adventure, Lexington Style (information to follow)
- 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Cocktails & Hors D’oeuvres
- 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Dinner
- 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Gala:
 - RTI Graduation
 - Leaven Award
 - President’s Awards
 - Veritas Award
 - Officer Installation
- 9:00 pm Silent Auction Closes
- 9:00 pm - 11:00 pm Hospitality Room Open

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17th,

- 7:30 am – 9:30 am Breakfast
- 8:30 am - 9:00 am Church service
- 10:00 am – 12:00 pm Executive Committee Retreat

Where Should AAW Go For 2027 Mid Year?

New Places...New Experiences...Lasting Connections!

Have a location in mind? We want to hear from YOU!

Where will American Agri-Women gather next? Maybe it's a city we've never visited, a state we'd love to explore, or somewhere your affiliate would be excited to welcome AAW members!

We're looking for suggestions for our 2027 Mid-Year Meeting!

Think about the possibilities...agricultural tours, educational opportunities, interesting speakers, local attractions, and, of course, bringing AAW women together from across the country!

Have a city or state in mind? LET'S HEAR IT!

You don't have to have everything figured out, and you don't have to commit to hosting. Maybe you know a great location, have contacts who could help, or your affiliate would love to be involved.

Whatever your idea...we want to hear it!

Help us explore new places, new opportunities, and new adventures for American Agri-Women!

NOMINATE A LOCATION!

Email your suggestions to:

Communications@americanagriwomen.org and kim@aginspirations.com

Subject: Where Should AAW Go for Mid-Year? Have a Destination in Mind?

Here's what we'd love to know!

- City and State you're suggesting
- Why this location would be a great fit for AAW
- Local contacts, possible tours, hotels, or meeting facilities, if known
- Would you or your affiliate be interested in helping host?
- Your name and contact information

Don't have all the answers? That's OK!

We want your ideas, even if you only have a location in mind

AAW FOUNDATION

The Foundation's purpose is to receive and administer funds for promoting and developing educational and leadership programs and opportunities relevant to agriculture. Other objectives include raising funds to support education about agriculture, agricultural education, and leadership development; to promote the leadership of American Agri-Women through scholarships, grants, projects & training.

AAW Foundation also serves as a partner with American Agri-Women in the development of educational and leadership programs and materials. We have nine members from across the United States. The terms are three years, and there is a two-term limit. American Agri-Women Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with an IRS ruling year of 1978, and donations are tax-deductible.

If you would like give to the Foundation, visit americanagriwomen.org/foundation.



All Scholarships Can Be Found At
americanagriwomen.org/scholarships

American Agri-Women Affiliates

Ag Women Connect
American Property Rights Alliance
California Women for Agriculture
Colorado Agri-Women
Florida Sunshine Agri-Women
Foremost Farm USA
Idaho Women in Timber
Illinois Agri-Women
Kansas Agri-Women
Kentucky Women in Agriculture
Maine Agri-Women

Minnesota Agri-Women
Montana Agri-Women
National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association
Nevada Agri-Women
Oregon Women for Agriculture
Oregon Women in Timber
Texas Agri-Women
Wisconsin Women for Agriculture
Women in Agribusiness
Wyoming Agri-Women

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“We are a force for truth, a reasoned,
non-partisan voice for the agricultural community to
the public.”

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