

# SPEAK OUT!

## To Harvest....To Harvest....to get the grain in!

by Susan Wall, IAW President



Well I can't believe it but Fall is here and folks are harvesting. It is a beautiful sunny day at our farm today and we are planting wheat. I hope that everyone is having a great time getting their crops in from the field and that you are all being very safe. I have been hearing many ads on the radio

telling the farmer to follow safety first and reminding the drivers on the road to be patient and careful when they come upon farm machinery. We should all take our time and use common sense and courtesy with each other.

IAW had a great time on June 22 at the North East Region meeting and meeting AAW President Sue McCrum and VP Doris Mold at Starved Rock Lock and Dam and Wabaunsee College. Thanks to Lorrie Stahl, the regional coordinator for setting that up for us. On June 23 we got to meet Orion Samuelson in Chicago. I also attended the Western Region meeting on July 30 at Market Alley Wines in Monmouth, Illinois. There were just a few of us but we had a good time and we gained a couple of new members! Thanks to Western Region coordinator Krista Swanson for making it all possible. Then on August 21 I attended the South West region meeting in Shipman at the CHS Plant. There were five of us there and we had a great time and presentation by Jennifer Filipiak. Once again, we gain new members. Thanks to Erin Williams, regional coordinator, for hosting us. Then on to the State Fair and Ag Day presenting IAW awards and we had an IAW board meeting too. After that we were at the Farm Progress Show where IAW shared a spot in the Illinois State/SIU Carbondale tent. I also had the honor of being on stage in the Farm Progress tent representing IAW as one of the ten agricultural groups chosen in the state of Illinois to be recipients of Farm Credit's \$100,000 gift to agriculture in their "Designate the Dollars" program. Finally, Denise Smith and I attended the first Illinois Harvest Dinner that was held near Pontiac, Illinois on the Mackinson Farm. You can see it on Face Book.



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### Dates to Remember

#### 2015

**Nov. 6-9 AAW Convention**  
Portland, Maine

**Nov. 17 IARC/IAW Leadership Seminar**  
Bloomington, IL (turn to page 5)

**Mar. 3, Pre-WCFA reception**  
5-7 pm. Marriott Convention Center Bloomington

**Mar. 4, WCFA**  
ISU, Bone Student Center

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**President Message continued from page 1**

As you can see, we have been very busy this summer.

Coming up this Fall is the Leadership Training sponsored by IARC



and IAW on November 17 in Bloomington, everyone is invited and bring a friend. It will be a great meeting. Also the AAW Convention that will be held in Maine on November 5-8. You can find information about the convention in the latest AAW newsletter. You will also see two stories in there about our visit to Chicago and another by Diana Ropp and her visit with Jean Ibendahl on Jean's 97<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Illinois Agri Women are making

things happen for agriculture all the time. Please keep in touch with us and come when you can to take part in these many educational experiences that we sponsor. You definitely will go home with something good to share in your part of the country; besides gaining several great new friends. I can't wait to meet you all!

Susan Wall President Illinois Agri Women

**Member Corner**

Congratulations to Heather Hampton + Knodle for being selected by Lt. Governor Sanguinetti to serve on the Governor's Rural Affairs Council

Congratulations to Penny Lauritzen, Pat Yeagle and Diana Ropp for being recognized as Illinoisans of the Day by the Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation.

**Welcome**

- Melinda Anderson, Eureka, IL
- Bridgot Giles Effingham, IL
- Caitlin Chrzanwoski Elmwood, IL
- Dara Entwistle New Holland, IL
- Grace Foster Macomb, IL

**Membership Directories:** You will soon be receiving your Membership Directory by mail if you haven't picked one up already. Please contact Karen Westbrook at [kbtbwestbrook@gmail.com](mailto:kbtbwestbrook@gmail.com) or call 217-787-1059 if you do not receive a Directory by October 15 and wish to receive a copy. Please put IAW directory in the subject line of the email.

**2015 IAW Memberships Dues**

**New Member / Renewal**

\_\_\_\_ I would like to renew my IAW membership  
Dues \$50 per year, including IAW/AAW newsletters.

\_\_\_\_ I would like to join IAW.  
Dues \$50 per year, including IAW/AAW newsletters.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Ph \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Annual dues of \$50.00 are due March 1, 2015 to be current. Our organization needs your support, both physically and financially, to meet our goals and promote agriculture in Illinois. Please send your check and complete form to Jennifer Waters.

**Send to:**  
**Jennifer Waters**  
**4974 Robinson Rd**  
**Pleasant Plains, IL 62677**  
**Membership renewals are due each March. If you have not yet renewed please remit today!**

## Our next 40 years: AAW marks milestone at 2015 convention



American Agri-Women's (AAW) 2015 national convention in

Portland, Maine, set for Nov. 5-7, will be a culmination of the organization's year-long celebration of its 40th anniversary and offer a look into the future of the organization. AAW is the nation's largest coalition of farm, ranch and agri-business women.

This year's 40th anniversary events included a Drive Across America, where volunteers drove in a specially wrapped "farm pickup" on a five-month education and advocacy tour of the U.S.

The 2015 convention's theme is "Harvesting for the Future" and

attendees will hear speakers on ag issues as well as tour different aspects of Maine agriculture. Maine Agri-Women are hosting the convention. Maine is also the home state of AAW President Sue McCrum, who will complete her term this year.

"It's such an honor to celebrate all that we've achieved in our first 40 years in my home state and to plan for a future where we'll continue being a force for truth for American agriculture," says President Sue McCrum.

Complete details and registration is available on the AAW website: [www.americanagriwomen.org](http://www.americanagriwomen.org).

### **Speakers include:**

- Walter Whitcomb, Commissioner of Agriculture, Forestry and Conservation

- Ann LePage, First Lady of Maine
- Karen Worcester of Worcester Wreaths and executive director of Wreaths Across America
- Marge Kilkelly, senior policy advisor for U.S. Senator Angus King
- John Rebar, executive director of the Maine Extension Service
- Kathy Day, a nurse and patient safety activist and advocate

Tours include visits to Pineland Farms, a 5,000-acre working farm and educational center; Green Thumb Farms, a 2,200-acre potato, corn and grass farm; Curran Co., which specializes in fresh-cut vegetables; Alagash Brewing Co., one of New England's original Belgian-style breweries; and ImmuCell Corp., an animal healthcare company.

## Illinois Harvest Dinner Brings Food Conversation to the Field

The inaugural Illinois Harvest Dinner held Wed., Sept. 9 at the Mackinson Dairy Farm brought healthcare professionals, moms, bloggers, grocers and farmers together for an exchange of ideas about food, farming and Illinois agriculture.

The IHD was inspired by Common-Ground North Dakota's "Banquet In A Field" and created by Illinois farm women Mary Mackinson Faber, Katie Pratt and Jenny Schweigert. The group partnered with Illinois Agri Women to host the event.

"Farmers and ranchers around the world have a unique story to tell and we are making strides in communicating the 'whys' of our farming

practices through social media," said Schweigert, IHD co-coordinator and executive director for AgChat Foundation.

The purpose of the dinner was three-fold, said Schweigert. The group wanted to create a comfortable atmosphere for meaningful dialogue about farms, to foster trusted relationships between consumers and farmers, and to highlight Illinois' number one industry, agriculture.

"The dinner confirmed that we need to step outside our social media comfort zones and develop relationships in person," said Schweigert.

The Pontiac FFA Chapter guided by

advisor Jesse Faber, built raised garden beds in which they planted sweet corn, popcorn, wheat, pumpkins, horseradish, green beans and peas. The garden beds were on display at the dinner, and FFA members were on hand to explain the significance of each crop to Illinois' agriculture community.

"Many people see Illinois strictly as a corn and soybean state, but we grow 85 percent of the world's horseradish," said Pratt.

Next to each garden box sat a group of products that contained the featured crop.

**Illinois Agricultural Resource Council Corner**

*By Diana Ropp, IARC President*

What a growing season this has been and the fat lady hasn't finished singing yet. IARC has several projects on the horizon and are more than willing to consider additional projects as they arise.

Congrats go out to Penny Lauritzen, Pat Yeagle and myself for being recognized as Illinoisans of the Day by the Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation. If you are not familiar with this recognition, the Illinois State Fair Museum Foundation began the Illinois Corn Dog Kickoff 10 years ago. The Kickoff typically takes place in July and is a fund raiser for the founda-

tion. This event includes silent and live auctions, entertainment and announcement of the Illinoisans of the Day all in the name of history and preservation of State Fair artifacts. It's truly an entertaining and fun event for those of us passionate about the Illinois State Fair.

American Agri Women's 40th Anniversary celebration continues with the Drive Across America. I hope you have been keeping up on the sights and sounds of President Sue McCrum, Doris Mold and others on Facebook and Twitter! Their journey has been one of fellowship, camaraderie and fun. The Annual

Meeting in Maine this coming November 5-7, 2015 will be a memorable occasion I am sure. Hope you are making plans to attend.

All the BEST to my Illinois Agri Women friends and colleagues and stay tuned to this column for more news on IARC activities in the future.

<p><b>Oct. 20, 8:00 A.M.</b> <b>IARC Monthly Conference Call</b></p> <p><b>Nov. 17, 10:00 A.M.</b> <b>IARC Annual Professional Development</b> <b>Bloomington, IL</b></p>
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**Illinois Agricultural Resource Council, Inc. (IARC)  
501(c)3 Charitable Organization  
Non-profit Associated with the IL Agri-Women**

**Current Board Members**

- Diana Ropp (2<sup>nd</sup> term/2017) – President
- Cheryl Day (2<sup>nd</sup> term/2017) – Vice-President
- Krista Lottinville (1<sup>st</sup> term/2017) – Secretary
- Beverly Coffman (2<sup>nd</sup> term/2016) – Treasurer
- Patricia Yeagle (ex-officio) – Past President
- Emily Pratt (2<sup>nd</sup> term/2016)
- Martha Blum (2<sup>nd</sup> term/2016)
- Jennifer Waters (1<sup>st</sup> term/2016)
- Penny Lauritzen (2<sup>nd</sup> term/2017)
- Heather Hampton-Knodle (1<sup>st</sup> term/2016)
- Denise Smith (2<sup>nd</sup> term/2017)
- Karen Blatter (1<sup>st</sup> term/2017)

**Ex-Officio Members**

- Linda Swiercinsky (IAW Past President)
- Mary Meinhart (IAW Treasurer)
- Julie Le Sueur (IAW Special Projects Comm/2016)
- Shirley Bartelt (IAW Special Projects Comm/2017)
- Diane Wohlers (IAW Special Projects Comm/2018)



## State and Federal Legislation

**Ag focus lost:** Illinois Director of Ag Phillip Nelson and State Fair Director and Illinois State Fair Director Patrick Buchen resigned for their position on Sept. 24. Governor Rauner's office said the search for a new director is underway. In the meantime, Warren Goetsch, chief of staff at the Agriculture Department, will serve as acting director.

**Wind Farm:** A bill has been signed by Gov Rauner that shifts regulatory control over wind farm projects from counties to the state. The passage of Illinois Bill 3523 creates the Wind Energy Facilities Construction and Deconstruction Act. It was signed into law July 24, and is effective immediately. A key element dictates that an agricultural impact mitigation agreement between developers and the agriculture department must be in place before a project can proceed locally. This sets minimum standards for set up and decommissioning, and puts financial protections in place for landowners. The agreements will address such property restoration issues as compaction of soil, and drain tile systems. The counties can have more restrictive standards, and landowners can negotiate something beyond what's in the agreement. This brings some consistency to widely varying county regulations. Similar agriculture agreements are already used for other energy projects such as pipeline transmission. *Source Dixon Telegraph*

**According to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics,** Illinois has been losing manufacturing jobs

all year. Over the first half of 2015, there was a net loss of 7,300 factory jobs. Michigan and Indiana have gained 12,800 jobs and 6,700 jobs. July announcements total more than 2,800 manufacturing jobs to be lost going forward. Few if any manufacturers consider expanding in Illinois. Caterpillar would love to expand in Illinois, but it cannot be justified under the current policy regime. Gov Rauner has identified three key policy reforms that will help make manufacturing happen in Illinois: workers' compensation reform, lawsuit reform and a freeze on property taxes. House and Senate Democrats have been unwilling to call a vote on any of Rauner's bills, and have been completely devoid of an alternative plan to address the state's obvious industrial crisis. *Source Illinois Policy*

**Budget Woes:** Gov Rauner has approved measures which allow funding for schools to open this fall. Gov Rauner has approved measures which allow state workers to continue to be paid. The state legislature has not come up with a balanced budget for the coming year. The governor is insisting that some business friendly laws be passed. The Democrats want more borrowing to balance the budget.

**Air Quality:** Farmers in several Illinois counties could have to reduce emissions as part of proposed stricter ozone standards proposed by EPA. Many believe the push to reduce ozone standards from 75 parts per billion to 65 parts per billion is an unachievable goal. A study by the Center for Regulatory Solutions said the EPA's ozone

rule "would be the most expensive regulation in history, could cause significant economic harm in Illinois—triggering substantial job cuts, reduced business spending, and economic uncertainty as manufacturing companies scramble to comply." Several ag-based counties would be in non-attainment at 70 ppb, including Champaign, McLean, Peoria, Macon, Sangamon, Macoupin, Jersey, Madison, St. Clair and Hamilton. Those counties combined for about 11% of the state's GDP.

Oklahoma Agriculture Secretary Jim Reese testified before the House Committee on Science on Science, Space and Technology subcommittee on Environment, that a stricter ozone standard would harm agriculture. "This proposed standard means greater costs to our producers and for smaller operators who operate on a very thin margin that is already impacted by unpredictable forces such as Mother Nature. Those increased costs can result in the decision to quit farming. Having to retrofit a combine, or tractor or generator is expensive and for a farmer who never knows for sure what price they will receive for their commodity, it is challenging to take on more expense to work towards a standard that may be unattainable." EPA's plan would require states to offset ozone-forming emissions from new transit or highway projects or projects "undergoing major modifications" by reducing emissions from other existing sources in non-attainment areas. *Source DTN*

## Providing Milk for All

An award-winning Northern Illinois Food Bank program provides hungry families with nutritious fresh milk while supporting local dairy farmers and processors. In May, Northern Illinois Food Bank and Prairie Farms Dairy were recognized with a U.S. Dairy Sustainability Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Partnerships for the Food Bank's Milk2MyPlate Program.

Cost is a barrier that often keeps hungry neighbors from purchasing fresh milk, and donations to local food pantries have traditionally been hard to come by because milk is heavily regulated and has a short shelf life.

To overcome these challenges, Northern Illinois Food Bank forged a partnership with Prairie Farms Dairy to provide participating food pantries with a weekly supply of fresh milk. The program allows hungry neighbors to take home milk that is as fresh, or fresher, than what would be found in the store.

### Harvest Dinner *continued from page 3*

"Corn and it's by-products are used in a variety of ways," said Pratt referencing the body lotion, diaper, magazine and sunscreen sitting on the table next to the corn field.

The dinner was prepared by Executive Chef Vince Swanson of Cracked Pepper (Peoria, Ill). Chef Swanson met with dinner guests to discuss his menu selection and thoughts about food and farming.

Appetizers included horseradish infused deviled eggs, bruschetta with mozzarella from Marcoot's Creamery, grilled tomato, peach, aged balsamic on house made

More than three million servings of nutritious milk have been delivered to families and individuals struggling to make ends meet since Milk2MyPlate's inception in 2012.

For Joyce Budnick, who visits Glen Ellyn Food Pantry and is the mom of a toddler, being able to get fresh milk makes a big difference. "I know I will always be able to get cereal at the pantry, but (in the past) I often (have) run out of milk," she said.

Milk is the top food source for calcium, Vitamin D, potassium and six other essential nutrients, and making sure hungry neighbors have access to this nutritious product is Milk2MyPlate's main priority. From the program come additional benefits, namely the support of local dairy farmers.

About 12,000 gallons of 1% milk are delivered every month to the 34 community food pantries participating in the program. With the support of private funders, the Food Bank and food pantries are able to

focaccia; salad including cider roasted golden beets, apples, cherry tomatoes with hazelnut vinaigrette and house made croutons; Illinois raised prime rib and slow braised pork shoulder, green beans and charred corn polenta. Mini cheesecakes from "That's So Sweet," completed the meal and includes flavors such as Maple Bacon, Butter Pecan, Peach Amaretto, Pumpkin and Andes Mint.

"It was an evening I'll remember for a long time for the food, company, conversation and even the weather. All were fantastic," wrote guest Mark Steffen, owner of

## By Donna Lake, Northern Illinois Food Bank

purchase the milk from Prairie Farms Dairy at a fixed and more affordable cost.

For the local dairy farmers involved, the program provides a consistent, year-round customer. The milk is also delivered directly to each food pantry through the dairy's existing ordering system and delivery routes.

Milk2MyPlate furthers Northern Illinois Food Bank's mission of leading the northern Illinois community in solving hunger by providing nutritious meals to neighbors in need through innovative programs and partnerships. Through a network of more than 800 community food pantries and feeding programs, the Food Bank serves more than 71,000 hungry neighbors each week across 13 counties.

Learn more about Northern Illinois Food Bank's Milk2MyPlate Program at [www.SolveHungerToday.org/Dairy](http://www.SolveHungerToday.org/Dairy).

Dave's Supermarket in Fairbury, Ill. He also shared via email, "The conversation at our table was great."

"We are so grateful to all the businesses, organizations and individuals who supported this event," said Faber. She said the group plans to follow-up with the IHD guests to learn if they met their goals for the event.

For additional information, including a full list of sponsors, visit the Illinois Harvest Dinner facebook page.

## WOMEN CHANGING THE FACE OF AG SPONSORS 2015

**LUNCH SPONSOR:** CNH Industrial

**GOLD SPONSORS:** Cargill, 1st Farm Credit DAF, DuPont Pioneer, Agrium/Crop Production Services, Illinois State University

**BREAKFAST SPONSORS:** Prairie Farms Dairy, Illinois Pork Producers

**Silver SPONSORS:** CHS Foundation, Illinois Corn Marketing Board, AT&T, CGB Diversified Crop Insurance Services, BASF, Bunge, John Wood Community College, GROWMARK, Inc., Farm Credit Illinois, Archer Daniel Midland, Dow AgroSciences

**Bus Sponsor:** Brandt

**BRONZE SPONSORS:** Greene Farm Management Services, Inc., Advance Trading, Inc., Beck's Hybrids, Birkey's CNH, Country Financial/Illinois Farm Bureau, Edlong Flavors Technology, Farm Week, Illinois Soybean Association, Monsanto, Prairie Farmer Magazine, WJBC Radio, Topflight Grain Cooperative, USDA - Farm Service Agency, Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE)

**Student Sponsorship:** Syngenta, Great Lakes Hybrids, One Earth Energy, North Central Bank, USDA - Natural Resource Conservation Service, American Water, McLean County Timeless Clovers, Blaine's Farm & Fleet, The Andersons, Bates Commodities, Farm First Dairy, FarmHer, National FFA Foundation, Northern Partners Cooperative, Nutrients for Life Foundation, USDA - Rural Development, Western Farm Business Farm Management, Parkland Community College, Carthage Veterinary Service, Illinois Agricultural Leadership Program, Illinois Certified Crop Advisor Program, Kent Precision Foods, Maurer-Stutz, Inc., University of Illinois, RFD Radio, WSMI Radio

## SPEAK OUT!

Publications of the Illinois Agri Women  
[www.illinoisagriwomen.org](http://www.illinoisagriwomen.org)

President: Susan Wall  
309 Sorento Ave Sorento, IL 62086  
217/272-4485 [susanwall@frontiernet.net](mailto:susanwall@frontiernet.net)

Vice President: Denise Smith  
P.O. Box 143 Franklin, IL 62638  
217/675-2373 [abentree@aol.com](mailto:abentree@aol.com)

Treasurer: Mary Meinhart  
3636 E 1800th Ave Montrose, IL 62445  
217/683-2256 [meinhartfarms@mmtcnet.com](mailto:meinhartfarms@mmtcnet.com)

Secretary: Karen Westbrook  
4616 Foxhall Lane Springfield, IL 62711  
217/785-1059 [westbrook.karen@comcast.com](mailto:westbrook.karen@comcast.com)

Past President: Linda Swiercinsky  
1739 State Rte 8 Maquon, IL 61458  
708/334-4030 [showlamb@earthlink.net](mailto:showlamb@earthlink.net)

Newsletter Editor: Cheryl Day  
3509 NE County Line Rd Cerro Gordo, IL 61818  
217/763-9907 [CultivatingSolutions@gmail.com](mailto:CultivatingSolutions@gmail.com)