



Happy June!

I hope this newsletter finds everyone healthy and safe! What a crazy year this has been so far. I am sorry we weren't able to get together in April as planned. We will save that event for next spring. You will not want to miss the awesome technological things happening in Agriculture at Richland Community College. We are working with new formats to share information and learn new things together. Stay tuned for that information. I am super blessed to be working with such a great team of Ladies on the IAW Board team. We have been busy working to better our organization as well as spreading the word about IL Agri-Women. A "Members Login" space on our website is in the works as well. Stay tuned for further info. Please hop on Facebook and "like" our page! Please also visit our website regularly to stay on top of upcoming events.

We are creating "Officer Spotlights" which are being posted on the website and Facebook. This will be a great way for our membership to get to meet our officer's and learn more about them and what their roles are in agriculture. I am also excited to share that we have three new regional directors for our organization. Our Regional Directors are Lorrie Stahl-North Region, Tammy Miller-East Region, Diana Ropp-West Region and Jill Biehl- South Region. Jill is our veteran Regional Director and has been a great asset to our organization and to the team of new ladies. We are looking forward to the upcoming events. Keep an eye out for an event coming to the area near you.

Deb Schultz IAW President
dschultz@northcentralbank.com
815-440-6708

If you know anyone that would be a great nomination for this award, please submit your nomination as indicated below.

Executive Women in Agriculture-Trailblazer Award-Nomination ideas?

Deadline to Enter: Sept. 1, 2020

The Executive Women in Agriculture Trailblazer Award will be given to a female producer who is a shining example for her peers. The winner will be an advocate for agriculture and represent an innovative farming or ranching operation.

Entrants are judged on agricultural advocacy (50%), farm business innovation (30%) and industry or community leadership (20%).

To apply, complete the entry form and attach your resume and two letters of reference from an industry peer, banker or agribusiness leader. Winners agree to be recognized in articles published in Top Producer magazine and online. Any financial information remains confidential unless entrants agree to its release.

PRIZES INCLUDE:

A trip for two to attend the Executive Women in Agriculture Conference in Chicago (Jan. 28-30, 2021)

Leadership, business or succession planning consulting sessions with Rena Striegel, Transition Point Business Advisors

Questions? Contact Sara Schafer at 573-581-6387 or sschafer@farmjournal.com.

**Renew your membership today
by clicking [here](#).**

Hello Illinois Agri-Women!

It is officially Summer! I hope you are all enjoying time with your families and friends while practicing social distancing! 2020 has been a year for the books! My family finished planting a few weeks ago and we have been dry since. We are all praying for a rain this weekend to help our crops grow and activate our crop protection products. I could also use a break from watering my flowers! Due to COVID-19, we had to cancel our Spring Illinois Agri-Women Tour and Meeting. We are hoping to reschedule it for next Spring! I hope that you are all enjoying the Distance Learning Series! We recently had a webinar covering CFAP and before that our very own Gayle Baker was featured on Chats with Change Makers. We have another webinar coming up on Thursday, July 2nd at 9:30 with Cari Rincker of Rincker Law. Cari will be doing a presentation on Farm Business, Estate and Succession Planning. We are in the process of possibly planning a third webinar in our Summer Webinar Series! Please watch your email, the website and Facebook for more information! I am longing to see all of your beautiful faces and am hopeful that we will be able to meet in person in December. The safety of our members is our number one priority. I recently heard the song, "Be A Light" by Thomas Rhett, if you have not already heard it, I encourage you to take a few minutes to give it a listen! So many of the ladies in this organization are looked up to as leaders in our communities, this organization and in our careers, it our time to shine!

Stay Strong, Ladies! BE A LIGHT!

Kelsey Vance

Vice President of Education

Agri-Women Distance Learning Series

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program Producer Teleconference: Non-Specialty Crop & Livestock Producers

The USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) is available to farmers and ranchers whose operations have been directly impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. CFAP provides direct relief to producers who faced price declines and additional marketing costs due to COVID-19. Join the USDA Farm Service Agency as we discuss what non-specialty crop and livestock producers should know to sign up for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) which ends August 28, 2020.

Find information that was on this call here: <https://www.illinoisagriwomen.org/>

Farm Business, Estate and Succession Planning

Thur, Jul 2, 2020 9:30 AM CST

Cari Rincker of Rincker Law, PLLC will be doing a presentation on Farm Business, Estate, and Succession Planning. This info session will be 40 minutes with a 20 min Q&A session.

Cari Rincker is licensed to practice in Illinois, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Texas and Washington D.C. She is a general practitioner with concentrations in food, farm and family law. She is also a mediator, prolific writer, and articulate speaker. See more about Carie [here](#).

Register here: <https://forms.gle/ZBb2KsXUJF12yQ7bA>

Look for more distance learning opportunities!

OPPORTUNITY

Tuesday, July 14, 12:00-12:30pm CDT
AGTECH INNOVATIONS IN THE POST COVID-19 WORLD

Insights from agri-food thought leader and author Mary Shelman about the “new normal”. How will our collective COVID-19 experience affect and interact with existing disrupters like changing customer values, climate change, new Ag technologies? Moderated by Claire Kinlaw, Director, Innovation Commercialization, Danforth Center.

[Register here to join Mary and Claire](#)

IAW Professional Meeting, on Thursday before WCFA Meeting

This short survey is to help gather ideas on what **YOU** would like to see at the Professional Development Event held on the Thursday before the event.

Please consider taking this through the link below

[Begin Survey](#)

Illinois Agri-Women Host “Women Changing the Face of Agriculture”

Over 650 high school and college students gathered at the 11th annual career discovery event “Women Changing the Face of Agriculture” (WCFA 2020) on Friday, March 5, 2020, at Richland Community College in Decatur, Illinois. The 45 supporting companies, agricultural agencies and organizations set up booths in the career fair and activities for the hands-on breakout sessions. Students had an opportunity to learn more about the companies and the career tracks that the women have experienced. A very hearty **THANK YOU!!!** to all of the Illinois Agri-Women, professional associates and college students that assisted with preparations and hosting duties for the event. It wouldn't happen without the team effort that is necessary for such a large undertaking.

Michelle Miller or Farm Babe, social media influencer from an Iowa farm, shared information with the students on Friday about her journey from fashion designer to sharing her daily activities on the farm. Farm Babe also shared suggestions with over 80 agriculture professional women on Thursday evening prior to WCFA 2020 during a networking and professional development session on the potential power that each of us has to raise awareness and educate others about agriculture.

The Full Circle initiative was highlighted during WCFA 2020, as the students were introduced to several of the women representing career tracks at the event. The Full Circle women are those that attended “Women Changing the Face of Agriculture” as a student over the past 10 years, have completed their college education and are now employed at one of the supporting companies or agencies. The search for more Full Circle representatives continues and will be recognized at future IAW events.

The Scholarship Committee has completed its selection process and determined Kylie Miller will receive the Helen Henert Memorial Agricultural Education scholarship of \$1,500. Ashley Althaus was named the high school student WCFA Agent of Change winner, Kelli Black and Callie Wildman were named the graduate student WCFA Agent of Change winners, and 20 additional college students were named the Company Sponsored Match Scholarship winners. These 23 young women each received a \$1,000 scholarship.



Illinois Agri-Women 2020 Award Nominations Being Accepted

Illinois Agri-Women celebrate their long history by recognizing members who have made significant contributions to the agriculture community and our organization. As has been the practice for numerous years, the Illinois Department of Agriculture has allowed agriculture trade associations and commodity groups to recognize annual award winners on Ag Day at the Illinois State Fair.

The last three years, the IDOA has limited these groups to one award per entity to be announced during the ISF Ag Day festivities. Illinois Agri-Women have chosen to recognize our annual Hall of Fame Winner at the state fair followed by a formal presentation of the annual winners at the next annual meeting. As we all are aware the Covid-19 Pandemic has altered the way our August will look in 2020 with the absence of the Illinois State Fair.

However, your IAW Awards Committee will proceed as we normally would and accept nominations for the following awards: Hall of Fame, Outstanding Business Woman and Outstanding Farmer to be recognized at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Please submit a written narrative of 400 words or less by August 1, 2020 with your candidate's information to: diana.ropp@gmail.com or regular mail: 2418 Ropp Road, Normal, IL 61761.

Thank you for being part of Illinois Agri-Women by supporting the awards programs and sharing in the joy of other members contributions.

Stay safe this summer!!

Diana Ropp

IAW Awards Chair

Hello, Illinois Agri-Women Membership!!

Soon we will launch the IAW Member Login Area on the IAW website so that you can utilize IAW Member Tools including our IAW Member Directory. Be on the lookout for an email containing the information you need to navigate to this updated page. It will be in your inbox soon!

When you receive the letter giving you the information needed, go to this link:

<https://www.illinoisagriwomen.org/join-us/>

Scroll to the bottom of the page, then click "Member Tools". After clicking, enter the password you received in the recent email (or mailed hard copy). You then can access Member Tools such as the IAW Member Directory, IAW Policies & Procedures, IAW By-Laws, IAW Project Grant Request Forms, and other useful items.

We hope this is helpful in our networking together! Please contact me with any questions regarding IAW Membership you may have! Have a WONDERFUL Summer!

Best Wishes,
Nathalie Schmidt
IAW Membership Chair
(815)433-0175
naschmidt.70@gmail.com

I am excited to report that 89 members have paid through February 2021. Dues for all have been paid to AAW as well. If you know of contacts that would be interested in joining or renewing an older membership, please have them contact Nathalie Schmidt so that we can welcome to Illinois Agri-Women.

Anjie Erbsen

IAW Treasurer

IAW Logo Wear

Interested in showing your Illinois Agri Women support?
Have a favorite shirt where you would love to add our IAW logo?

Click the link below to begin shopping and or reach out to Kaleel's to answer any of your logo wear questions.

[Shop Now](#)

UPDATED IAW BY-LAWS

During the February 12, 2020 IAW Annual Meeting the By-Laws and the updates proposed via email back in December were voted on and approved as changed.

Anyone who would like an electronic copy of the By-Laws can request a copy from the new IAW Secretary Jessica Schneider via email at jessica.schneider@compeer.com

Make sure to check out our Website and Facebook for the latest news and events!

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