

Annie's Project Strengthens Women's Roles in Agriculture

Empowering farm women to be better business people is the goal of *Annie's Project*, a nationally recognized curriculum designed for farm women. The outcomes of the six session series are as numerous as the women who attend. For some, learning about marketing, farm records, business plans, leases and estate planning opens the door to their partner's world.

Annie was a woman who grew up in a small town in Illinois and always wanted to marry a farmer. She spent her lifetime learning how to be involved as a partner with her husband. Together she and her husband accomplished great things, but it wasn't easy.



In 2007-08, 214 women participated in Annie's Project statewide for a total of 1211 participants since the program was initiated in 2003. Local participants say, "When the opportunity arises, I'll be able to talk about certain aspects of farming with confidence that I know what I'm talking about." "I appreciated the fact that Plymouth County Extension thought this program was worthy enough to bring to our county and make it available to farm women." "I believe it is extremely important to be as involved as possible in your own farming operation because you never know what tomorrow will bring!"



"I truly believe that women need a place and/or network to come together and become educated and feel 110% confident about their decisions. I believe that education and knowledge are priceless and what a better place to come together with others that are in the same situation as you are. I have learned a tremendous amount while attending *Annie's Project* that I will take back to the farm and implement and I'm very excited to be a part of this ever-changing agricultural industry."

Crystal Jauer - Hinton, Iowa

For more information about this program or other Iowa State University Extension resources, contact the Plymouth County Office at 712-546-7835. Information is also available on the Iowa State University Extension website at www.extension.iastate.edu.

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... and justice for all

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