2023 Leadership Conference

Cultivating Confidence, Harvesting Happiness

NOVEMBER 29-30 2023

Gateway Hotel and Conference Center • 2100 Green Hills Dr • Ames, Iowa
our MISSION
To improve the quality of life in Iowa by providing research-based education programs that expand agricultural business, improve natural resource management, and support the community of women in agriculture.

JOIN US in the conversation @IsuWomenInAg
Use #WIAL2023 during this event to share your thoughts, ideas, and revelations
Dear Women in Ag:

Welcome to the 7th Annual Women in Ag Leadership Conference. This year’s theme *Cultivating Confidence, Harvesting Happiness* reflects the purposeful dedication women give to the agricultural industry they love.

Several of the conference sessions revolve around career advancement, financial management, leadership development, and trending topics in agriculture. The conference has become a comfortable setting for women to explore new opportunities while expanding their network of women working in farming, agribusiness, and agricultural organizations, as well as students.

We are humbled and awed by the graciousness and commitment of our guest speakers. They truly care about other women in agriculture and are eager to share their hard-earned expertise. Be sure to talk with, ask questions, and thank them throughout the conference.

On Wednesday, the conference begins with tours that offer behind the scenes insights into Iowa agriculture. After the tours, we’re delighted to bring you Andrea Flemming as the conference opening speaker. Her personal story of cultivating confidence will refresh your mindset and inspire your work in agriculture.

Our intensive workshops feature strong women in agriculture who are leaders and role models. They’ll generously share their experience with a focus on practical skill building to help you achieve your goals. As we end the day, renew your spirit and expand your network with a relaxing dinner and social hour.

On Thursday, the conference planning committee is extremely honored to host the founder of Agri-Pulse Communications, Inc. and ISU graduate, Sara Wyant, as our keynote speaker. Throughout her career, Sara has been a trailblazer through several glass ceilings. She’ll share her stories as a journalist, entrepreneur, and Iowa farmland owner. In her breakout sessions, Sara will give us an update on the Farm Bill.

We are very excited to announce the 2023 Women Impacting Ag Honorees: Kellie Blair, Joanne Roepke Bode, Melissa O’Rourke, and Meredith Nunnikhoven. Enjoy their extraordinary stories and take time to visit with them.

After lunch, we are so proud to host three amazing Iowa women who currently preside over agricultural member organization boards of directors. Trish Cook, President of the Iowa Pork Producers Association; Shelly Kruse, Chair of the Agribusiness Association of Iowa; and Jolene Riessen, President of the Iowa Corn Growers Association, will share insights on their role as leaders and the issues they care deeply about.

The breakouts offer stimulating topics such as career advancement, conflict management, financing business start-ups, branding, empowering the next generation, and financial security for women. Our capstone speaker ends the day with a harvest of happiness. Ruth Hambleton, the founder of Annie’s Project, brought her vision to others and in so doing empowered more than 19,000 women in agriculture over the past 20 years.

This conference is designed around three key goals. We hope you’ll take home and carry with you: a belief in yourself and the power of life-long learning, connections with other women who inspire your leadership journey, and new skills that enhance your leadership and your life.

A very special thank you to our advisory committee members, speakers, sponsors, attendees, and everyone who is coming together to help create a meaningful event.

Krista Downing and Madeline Schultz, Conference Co-Chairs
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>12 p.m.</td>
<td>Gallery Lobby</td>
<td>Onsite check-in begins</td>
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<td>Networking and refreshments</td>
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<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td>Garden Room</td>
<td><strong>Opening Remarks</strong>--Krista Downing, Madeline Schultz</td>
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<td>Tour attendees gather with committee hosts</td>
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<td><strong>CONCURRENT SESSION A: Iowa State University and Community Tours</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tour A1: City of Ames Water Treatment Plant</strong></td>
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<td>COMMITTEE HOST--Gary Eshelman--assistant superintendent</td>
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<td><strong>Tour A2: ISU Bessey Hall Pohl Conservatory and Horticulture Greenhouses</strong></td>
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<td>COMMITTEE HOST--Sara Lira</td>
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<td>TOUR PRESENTER--Pete Lawlor, Kenny McCabe--Greenhouse Managers</td>
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<td><strong>Tour A3: ISU Balloun Turkey and Hamilton Poultry Teaching and Research Farms</strong></td>
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<td>COMMITTEE HOST--Janette Smith</td>
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<td>TOUR PRESENTER--Courtney Edwards, Jessica Seward, Tanner Volkmann--Farm Managers</td>
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<td><strong>Tour A4: ISU Meats Laboratory and Consumer Experience</strong></td>
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<td>COMMITTEE HOST--Rylee Sloss</td>
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<td>TOUR PRESENTER--Matt Wenger--Program Coordinator</td>
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<td><strong>Tour A5: ISU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory</strong></td>
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<td>COMMITTEE HOST--Kiley Allan</td>
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<td>TOUR PRESENTER--Katie Woodard--DVM, Client Services Section Leader</td>
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<td><strong>GENERAL SESSION 1</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Afternoon Remarks</strong>--Lisa Scarbrough, Rylee Sloss</td>
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<td><strong>Opening Speaker:</strong> Cultivating Confidence in Your Roles and Harvesting the Ripple Effect</td>
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<td>Andrea Flemming--That Fit Agvocate</td>
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<td>4:45 p.m.</td>
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<td>Networking and refreshments</td>
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<td>5 p.m.</td>
<td>Central Prairie Room</td>
<td><strong>CONCURRENT SESSION B: Intensive Workshops</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Session B1: Legacy Stories of Leasing, Conservation and Succession</strong></td>
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<td>COMMITTEE HOST--Melissa O’Rourke</td>
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<td>GUEST SPEAKERS--Jamie Benning--ISU Assistant Director, Ag and Natural Resources Extension Kitt Tovar Jensen--ISU Center for Ag Law and Taxation PANELISTS Emily Boettcher--Boettcher Farms, Northwest Seed Monica Lursen--Lursen Farms, Lursen Trucking Amy Tlach--City View Farms, Mid-Iowa Seeds, LLC</td>
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<td>South Prairie Room</td>
<td><strong>Session B2: Generations of Wisdom</strong></td>
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<td>COMMITTEE HOSTS--Debbie Kassel, Rylee Sloss</td>
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<td>GUEST SPEAKERS--Emma Aljets--Financial Officer, Farm Credit Services of America Laura Botine--Technical Agronomist, Channel at Bayer Crop Science Courtney Fara--US Portfolio Marketing Leader, DuPont Pioneer Stephanie Vinton-Pollock--Financial Officer, Farm Credit Services of America</td>
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<td>Cardinal&amp;Gold Room</td>
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<td>COMMITTEE HOST--Chelsea Llewellyn</td>
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<td>GUEST SPEAKER--Lori Korthals--Senior Manager, ISU Extension and Outreach, Sioux County</td>
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<td>Meadow Room</td>
<td><strong>Session B4: Market Your Grain with Experience</strong></td>
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<td>COMMITTEE HOSTS--Sharon Chism, Janette Smith, Alexis Stevens</td>
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<td>GUEST SPEAKER--Lynn Martz--Larson Family Farms</td>
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<td>7 p.m. Garden Room</td>
<td><strong>Networking Dinner</strong></td>
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<td>Committee Welcome--Krista Downing, Luci Sheriff</td>
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<td>Networking Activity--Kiley Allan, Rylee Sloss</td>
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<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>Iowa Stater Restaurant</td>
<td>Social Hour</td>
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Thursday NOVEMBER 30

7:30 a.m. Gallery Lobby  Onsite check-in begins
Networking and breakfast

8:30 a.m. Garden Room  GENERAL SESSION 2
Opening Remarks—Krista Downing, Madeline Schultz
University Welcome
Jamie Benning, Assistant Director—ISU Extension and Outreach Agriculture and Natural Resources
Keynote—Telling Agriculture’s Story from the Nation’s Capital and Beyond
Sara Wyant, Founder and President, Agri-Pulse Communications
Women Impacting Ag Recognition—Marilee Jones, Lisa Scarbrough
HONOREES: Kellie Blair—Blair Farm, LLC
Joanne Roepke Bode—Bode Moonlight Gardens
Melissa O’Rourke—Dry Creek Acres Dairy Goats, Attorney
Meredith Nunnikhoven—Barnswallow Flowers

10:30 a.m. Gallery Lobby  Networking and refreshments

10:45 a.m. CONCURRENT SESSION C: Breakouts
Central Prairie Room  Session C1: We Don’t Have a Farm Bill: Why It Matters to You
COMMITTEE HOSTS—Kylie Rosonke, Ann Wolf
GUEST SPEAKER—Sara Wyant, Agri-Pulse Communications, Inc.

South Prairie Room  Session C2: Effective Branding Starts With Finding Your Voice
COMMITTEE HOSTS—Kiley Allan and Chinwendu Ozoh
GUEST SPEAKER—Andrea Flemming, That Fit Agvocate

Cardinal&Gold Room  Session C3: Advancing in Your Career
COMMITTEE HOST—Sara Lira
GUEST SPEAKER—Laura Blomme, Executive Recruiter, Hedlin Ag Enterprises

Meadow Room  Session C4: Empowering the Next Generation of Family Agribusiness Owners
COMMITTEE HOST—Chelsea Llewellyn
GUEST SPEAKER—Chris Cornelius, Co-Owner, Cornelius Seed

12 p.m. Garden Room  Luncheon Program
Committee Welcome—Debbie Kassel, Ann Wolf
Women Leading Agricultural Organizations Panel MODERATOR—Kiley Allan
PANEL GUESTS—Trish Cook—President, Iowa Pork Producers Association
Shelly Kruse—Chair, Agribusiness Association of Iowa
Jolene Riessen—President, Iowa Corn Growers Association

2 p.m. CONCURRENT SESSION D: Breakouts
Central Prairie Room  Session D1: We Don’t Have a Farm Bill—Why It Matters to You
COMMITTEE HOSTS—Sharon Chism, Chinwendu Ozoh
GUEST SPEAKER—Sara Wyant, Agri-Pulse Communications

South Prairie Room  Session D2: Financing Business Start-ups Panel
COMMITTEE HOST—Alexis Stevens
MODERATOR—Julia Brenizer
PANEL GUESTS—Mikayla Mooney—Co-Founder, KinoSol
Katie Olthoff—Co-Founder, ChopLocal
Shelby Smith—Founder, Gym-N-Eat Crickets

Cardinal&Gold Room  Session D3: Conflict Imagery: Developing a Reflective Framework
COMMITTEE HOST—Melissa O’Rourke
GUEST SPEAKER—Kiley Fleming—Executive Director, Iowa Mediation Services

Meadow Room  Session D4: Understanding and Creating Financial Security
COMMITTEE HOST—Marilee Jones
GUEST SPEAKERS—Erin Herbold-Swalwell—Senior Counsel-Advanced Markets, Farm Bureau Financial Services
Amanda Van Steenwyk—Farm Business Development Manager, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation

3 p.m. Gallery Lobby  Networking and refreshments

3:15 p.m. Garden Room  GENERAL SESSION 3
Capstone: Harvesting Happiness with 20 Years of Annie’s Project
Ruth Hambleton—Founder and Treasurer, Annie’s Project: Education for Farm Women
Closing Remarks and Door Prizes—Madeline Schultz, Luci Sheriff

4 p.m. Program concludes
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 29

CONCURRENT SESSION A: TOURS

TOUR A1: City of Ames Water Treatment Plant Explore the history of the city of Ames water treatment plant and its construction, the collection of groundwater by a network of wells, treatment of water for human consumption, pumping water into the distribution system, and the management of residual solids generated through the process. Providing water treatment to more than 18,000 consumers, the water distribution system consists of more than 248 miles of mains and supports 2,785 hydrants for fire protection.

TOUR A2: ISU Bessey Hall Pohl Conservatory and Horticulture Hall Greenhouses Discover what the greenhouses on campus have to offer. Encompassing over 12,000 square feet of growing space, the Bessey Hall greenhouse and Pohl Conservatory houses a plant collection of numerous plant species for research programs and projects. The horticulture hall greenhouse covers 10,400 square feet and is used for a variety of purposes, including research and instructional demonstrations. The greenhouses are equipped with state-of-the-art environmental control and innovative production systems.

TOUR A3: ISU Balloun Turkey and Hamilton Poultry Teaching and Research Farms The hallmarks of the Robert T. Hamilton Poultry Teaching and Research Farm include dedicated spaces for teaching and research. A welcome center features one-way viewing glass where tour participants can see first-hand examples of Iowa egg production systems. Opened in spring 2020, the poultry barn supports the number one egg producing state in the nation. The Stanley L. Balloun Turkey Teaching and Research Facility was opened in the spring of 2022, becoming the only facility of its kind focused on turkey production at a major university. The facility provides students with state-of-the-art equipment for research that addresses current challenges and helps advance Iowa’s turkey industry which ranks 7th in the nation.

TOUR A4: ISU Meats Laboratory and Consumer Experience Experience the state-of-the-art meat laboratory with a complete on-the-rail slaughter facility, meat processing equipment, analytical laboratory, and a retail sales outlet for meat products produced during teaching, research, and extension activities. You’ll also be given the opportunity to participate in an interactive session on meat grading and labeling. Close-toed shoes are required.

TOUR A5: ISU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory The ISU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is a national leader in protecting animal and human health. Experience what this fully accredited facility by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians provides using world-class technology, including quality diagnostic and analytical services for animal species.

CONCURRENT SESSION B: Intensive Workshops

GENERAL SESSION 1

OPEN: Cultivating Confidence in Your Roles and Harvesting the Ripple Effect It’s incredibly easy to get placed into a role that you do not love, but feel like you have to be in. There is often so much going on that the goal is to just keep moving forward. You deserve to be in a role that brings you JOY. Finding the zone(s) of excellence and zone(s) of happiness builds the confidence that will flow into all areas of your life as a woman in agriculture, which in turn can pour into those around you and into the next generation. This session will keep it real and cultivate honest conversations with ourselves to really dig deep into what is in our core.

SESSION A: TOURS

TOUR A1: City of Ames Water Treatment Plant Explore the history of the city of Ames water treatment plant and its construction, the collection of groundwater by a network of wells, treatment of water for human consumption, pumping water into the distribution system, and the management of residual solids generated through the process. Providing water treatment to more than 18,000 consumers, the water distribution system consists of more than 248 miles of mains and supports 2,785 hydrants for fire protection.

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SESSION B: Intensive Workshops

SESSION B1: Legacy Stories of Leasing, Conservation and Succession Leasing, conservation and succession or transition planning are three important farmland management tasks that can help women leave a legacy and achieve their goals. In this conversational workshop, three women will share their experiences as farmland owners or aspiring farmland owners, and three women will share their knowledge as extension professionals supporting women with management decisions. The audience will get the chance to ask questions in small groups and engage in meaningful conversations about farmland ownership. Management guides will be provided.

SESSION B2: Generations of Wisdom We can learn so much about our agricultural careers from every generation. Listen as two pair of women representing beginning and established career stages interview each other and reveal insights that can guide all of us in our career journey. Take the opportunity to be part of small group interviews where you can ask the difficult questions as well as share your own hard-earned wisdom. Through personal stories and reflection, you’ll leave the workshop feeling more inspired and confident in your career goals. All ages welcome!

SESSION B3: Real Colors, Real Leadership Join us for a fun workshop where you’ll reflect on your natural leadership preferences and define what leadership is to you. Start by evaluating your leadership strengths, then build on these through group activities. You’ll practice ways to make sure your voice is heard and inspires action. Learn what other Real Colors need to feel successful and empowered. After the workshop, you’ll use this knowledge to create a personal leadership plan that capitalizes on your natural abilities and your goals. All ages welcome!

SESSION B4: Market Your Grain with Experience We’re often asked how farm women manage the job of marketing grain. Our guest speaker Lynn Martz is an Illinois farmer and experienced grain and cattle marketer. She will share her day-to-day tips and tools, and help the audience understand what information is important to pay attention to. To round out the workshop, the committee hosts will engage the audience in activities to help everyone think through grain marketing decisions and provide local resources.
THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30

GENERAL SESSION 2

KEYNOTE: Telling Agriculture’s Story from the Nation’s Capital and Beyond Agri-Pulse editor Sara Wyant talks about how growing up on an Iowa farm helped shape her perspectives on the need to inject science-based and “shoe leather” journalism while covering politics and policy decisions that impact everyday life.

Women Impacting Agriculture Recognition We are excited to honor four amazing women who are making positive changes and creating a more sustainable Iowa by improving economic resiliency and stability, conserving natural resources, and being influential agricultural leaders, family members, and community supporters. We’ll highlight their accomplishments through videos and each honoree will share her story, goals, and encouragement for other women in agriculture.

CONCURRENT SESSION C: Breakouts

Session C1: We Don’t Have a Farm Bill—Why It Matters to You The current farm bill, which covers everything from farm programs to nutrition and even broadband, expired at the end of September. In this session, Agri-Pulse editor Sara Wyant has an update on why a new farm bill is important to farmers and ranchers across the country, how it could change in 2024 and how to have impact on potential reforms.

Session C2: Effective Branding Starts with Finding Your Voice When it comes to branding and business success, knowing your WHY and finding your authentic voice is key. You can have all of the tactical tips and best marketing strategies, but without a strong why and confidence in sharing this, your business and brand will not see the full potential of its success. We’ll break down branding in the sense of what makes you YOU, and find that inner voice to share.

Session C3: Advancing in Your Career As an executive recruiter, guest speaker Laura Blomme is passionate about the agricultural industry and the people that work in it. She offers career guidance and shares how to increase your opportunities for advancement and leadership in agribusiness.

Session C4: Empowering the Next Generation of Family Agribusiness Owners Working with family members and transitioning a business to the next generation takes conscientious work. It can mean a steep learning curve for all generations. The newest generation needs to pay their dues while the established generation should give them an opportunity to buy into the business. Chris shares her family’s story of passing the family seed business to the 5th generation while maintaining family harmony.

LUNCHEON PROGRAM

Women Leading Agricultural Organizations Panel We are proud to host three amazing Iowa women who currently preside over agricultural member organization boards of directors: Trish Cook, president—Iowa Pork Producers Association, Shelly Kruse, chair—Agribusiness Association of Iowa, and Jolene Riessen, president—Iowa Corn Growers Association. The panel will share insights on each of their roles as leaders and issues they care about deeply.

CONCURRENT SESSION D: Breakouts

Session D1: We Don’t Have a Farm Bill—Why It Matters to You (repeated) The current farm bill, which covers everything from farm programs to nutrition and even broadband, expired at the end of September. In this session, Agri-Pulse editor Sara Wyant has an update on why a new farm bill is important to farmers and ranchers across the country, how it could change in 2024 and how to have impact on potential reforms.

Session D2: Financing Business Startups Panel You’ve got a unique agricultural business idea, but how do you bring together enough financial resources to make it all work? In this session, our panelists will share how they developed business plans and budgets, partnered with others, applied for business grants, competed for investor funds, accessed loans, and sought out advice. They’ll talk about what it means to be self-employed and how they manage business risk. Celebrate the success of these entrepreneurs while gaining an understanding of what it took to get there.

Session D3: Conflict Imagery—Developing a Reflective Framework Experiencing conflict is a natural part of living. Developing language around these thoughts and feelings allows people to engage with conflict in more meaningful and productive ways. Kiley’s passion is to help people reach their fullest potential through reflective practices that encourage self-awareness. Her book Conflict Imagery: Developing a Reflective Framework helps readers authentically name their internal scripts in tangible ways. Through the practice of identifying personal metaphors and images to convey internal belief systems, the creation of shared understanding among parties can form.

Session D4: Understanding and Creating Financial Security Building financial security can be a challenge. As family needs arise, cost of living increases, or farm or other business expenses change, personal savings are often the first to dwindle. Often, women do not have the same level of financial savings or security in other ways (insurance, for example) that men do. Yet life changes or natural disasters can quickly change our financial positions. In this session, learn the importance of financial security, communicating around finances, and understanding the position of the farm or other business and ownership of assets.

GENERAL SESSION 3

CAPSTONE: Harvesting Happiness with 20 Years of Annie’s Project In 2003, Ruth Hambleton created an Annie’s Project course to teach farm women how to use a financial spreadsheet, understand grain contracts, and so much more. She invited educators to join her in teaching agricultural risk management skills to women and freely gave the program to others. As a result, more than 19,000 women from 38 states were empowered to become better farm business owners and managers. Ruth’s journey has taken her to the White House and led her to founding a charitable organization to continue to support women in agriculture.
Guest Speakers

Cultivating Confidence in Your Roles and Harvesting the Ripple Effect

Andrea Flemming is a 5th generation farmer from southwest Minnesota. She farms alongside her family and husband growing corn and soybeans, and raising a commercial cow/calf herd, feedlot cattle, and even a fainting goat herd to keep things interesting. Farming with her family wasn’t always the plan, but life challenges us and the hard moments led her to where she is today. She is a multi-passionate entrepreneur. She started sharing her agriculture journey and story online in 2018 and branded herself as ‘That Fit Agrvocate’. Since then, she hasn’t looked back and her businesses have continued to grow and evolve. Her focus online is to inspire other women to just be their authentic selves and share the day-to-day life in agriculture to bridge the gap between farmers, ranchers, and consumers. In addition to advocating, she also mentors other women with entrepreneurial goals, pours into women in agriculture at events, workshops and retreats, and runs masterminds to connect women in agriculture from all over the rural United States. Now you know why she calls herself multi-passionate! Andrea is a graduate of South Dakota State University.

Legacy Stories of Leasing, Conservation and Succession

Jamie Benning is the assistant director for Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension. She leads a team of 150 agriculture and natural resources extension specialists. She advances important issues such as water quality, sustainability, farm management and profitability, and the education and information that the farm and natural resources community needs. Prior to her role in administration, Jamie served as the ISU water quality program manager. Jamie earned a BS in agronomy and a MS in soil science at Iowa State University. A northeast Iowa native, Jamie was raised on a grain and livestock farm near Wadena.

Emily Boettcher manages a 75-head cow-calf herd at Boettcher Farms. She and her family utilize strip-till, no-till and cover crops to protect the Big Spirit Lake Watershed in Dickinson county. In her family’s Northwest Seed business, Emily runs the seed treater and maintains a seed treatment certificate. She is a 2020 ISU Extension and Outreach Women Impacting Agriculture honoree. Emily’s community involvement includes the Dickinson County Farm Bureau, Blue Water Festival, Spirit Lake High School, and slow-pitch softball. Emily earned a BS in sociology and criminal justice from Northwestern College in 2009. She enjoys fishing and vacationing with her family.

Kitt Tovar Jensen is a staff attorney at ISU’s Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation. She focuses on areas of agricultural law including farm succession planning, environmental and natural resource law, regulatory law, and farm policy. Kitt also manages the ISU Beginning Farmer Center. Kitt earned her BS in animal science from Iowa State University and her JD, with honors, from Drake University while completing certificates in Food and Agricultural Law and Legislative Practice.

Monica Lursen is an alumnus of Iowa State University. Her career as a registered dietitian nutritionist spanned 46 years. She is a 2020 ISU Extension and Outreach Women Impacting Agriculture honoree. After Monica’s husband’s death in 2011, she took over management of the family business that began in 1946. She is actively transitioning Lursen Farms and Lursen Trucking, LLC to her sons. Monica chairs the ISU College of Human Sciences Council from 2017 to 2019, is a member of the Order of the Knoll, and is one of 39 ‘Faces of Iowa State’ portraits painted by Rose Franzen in 2017.

Melissa O’Rourke resides in Winneshiek county. As a lawyer, she advised and represented numerous farm families and ag businesses. Along with her husband, she operated Dry Creek Acres Dairy Goats for nearly three decades. In June 2023 she left her position as an Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Farm and Agribusiness Management Specialist. In that role, she was an innovator in transition and succession planning, human resources, women in agriculture, and farmland leasing. Melissa has held leadership roles in the American Dairy Goat Association and Agriculture Sciences at Northeast Iowa Community College. She organized the nonprofit “Promise Community Health Center” in northwest Iowa.

Amy Tlach owns Mid-Iowa Seeds, LLC, along with her husband, where they live the mission of improving customer yields and delivering top-notch customer service. She and her family operate City View Farms with a focus on raising seedstock, show cattle and good kids. Amy is a 2017 ISU Extension and Outreach Women Impacting Agriculture honoree. She served 16 years on the Warren County Extension Council and was instrumental in passing the tax referendum in 2015. As a past employee of the Iowa Soybean Association, she expanded opportunities for Iowa’s soybean farmers. Amy is a Warren County 4-H leader and fair supporter. Most importantly as a mom, Amy is a role model for two girls who will be leaders of the next generation of agriculture.
Generations of Wisdom

Emma Aljets is a financial officer with Farm Credit Services of America in southwest Iowa. Prior to landing her full-time career, Emma completed internships as a crop scout for AgVantage FS, was a financial intern for Balance4ward, and a financial officer for Farm Credit Services of America. At Iowa State University, Emma was an agricultural business peer mentor and a CALS communications office intern. She graduated from ISU in 2022 with a degree in agricultural business, emphasis in finance. Emma enjoys ISU sporting events, cooking, baking, and staying active outdoors.

Lauren Botine grew up on a corn, soybean, and cow/calf operation in Shelby County. She knew she wanted to work in agriculture from a young age. She graduated from Iowa State University in 2015 with a BS in agricultural studies and international agriculture, and a minor in agronomy. Lauren worked with soybean seed production growers, managing relationships, seed quality, and production in previous roles. Today, she works at Bayer Crop Science as a technical agronomist for Channel Seeds and provides agronomic support to the western Iowa sales staff. While working full time, Lauren completed her MS in agronomy and researched soybean gall midge at Iowa State University.

Courtney Fara joined DuPont Pioneer in 2012. Originally from western Iowa, she earned a CPA from Buena Vista University. Prior to joining Pioneer, Courtney worked for Ernst & Young, LLP. At Pioneer, Courtney spent eight years in the finance organization where she supported product lines, FCF, Global FP&A, US FP&A, Digital, and the Western Cornbelt Business Unit. Courtney then joined the commercial team and served as an Iowa Pioneer District Sales Leader for three years. Recently, she expanded her experience as a US portfolio marketing leader. Courtney and her husband Nick live in Polk City and have three children, Avery, Brody, and Oakley.

Stephanie Vinton-Pollock is passionate about all things food and agriculture. She is a financial officer with Farm Credit Services of America. She has a background in commercial and ag lending, sales, account management, public relations, brand marketing, corporate communications, market research, e-business initiatives, and development of effective adult training methods. Stephanie is a 2003 ISU grad and proud Iowa State Cyclone. She co-founded two civic organizations and serves on several local and regional executive boards supporting both civic and professional endeavors. Stephanie and her husband Dan own and operate VIP Droning and actively farm near Emerson, Iowa, with their two children, Will and Viviana.

Real Colors, Real Leadership

Lori Korthals has a doctorate in education leadership with research focusing on the impact of temperament on mentoring relationships. She supervises human sciences extension educators across the state of Iowa and is passionate about growing and empowering others. Lori frequently says she has the ‘best job ever’ and follows up with #WeAreOne. Lori lives in Orange City, Iowa and has three ‘launched’ daughters. She is an avid Audible book user and thinks someday she might like to learn to knit, names of tutors are welcomed.

Market Your Grain with Experience

Lynn Martz and her family operate Larson Farms Partnership near Maple Park, Illinois. She met her husband Mike while attending the University of Wisconsin. Lynn sold veterinary supplies while Mike raised cattle. They joined her family’s partnership in 1980. Lynn manages the grain side of the business, which grows corn, soybeans and wheat. She enjoys working alongside multiple generations including her son, Justin, and his family. She is responsible for marketing the crops, as well as logistics, financing, and landowner relationships. Lynn is treasurer of both the DeKalb County Soil and Water District and the Waterman United Methodist Church.
**Guest Speakers**

**THURSDAY**

**KEYNOTE**

**Telling Agriculture’s Story from the Nation’s Capital and Beyond**

Sara Wyant is an award-winning agricultural journalist, entrepreneur and founder of Agri-Pulse Communications Inc., a unique digital media firm she launched in 2004 to focus on farm, food and rural policy issues. As Editor-in-Chief, she oversees the nation’s largest team of agricultural journalists covering Capitol Hill and Sacramento, California. An investigative reporter who has written many groundbreaking stories, Wyant has covered almost every farm and food policy debate since the 1980s. She is well-recognized on Capitol Hill, as well as by farm, ranch and commodity associations across the country, as a veteran journalist and sought-after speaker. Throughout her career, Wyant has been a trailblazer through several glass ceilings. In 1995, she was the first female to be named to the senior management team in agricultural publishing as vice president for editorial at Farm Progress. She served as the first female chairwoman on the Farm Foundation’s board of trustees and as president of the American Agricultural Editors Association, where she also earned an Oscar in Agriculture award for excellence in agricultural reporting. Wyant was named to Folio’s “Top Women in Media” in the Entrepreneurs category in 2015. A graduate of Iowa State University, Wyant gained first-hand knowledge of crop and livestock production while growing up on a century farm near Marengo, Iowa, which she now owns and manages. She and husband Allan Johnson also own the farm where her husband’s family originally established a homestead near Almont, North Dakota. They are the parents of two sons and three grandchildren.

**Advancing in Your Career**

Laura Blomme is an executive recruiter at Hedlin Ag Enterprises. She previously worked for DuPont Pioneer, first as the commercial unit digital sales lead for Encirca Services, then as a territory sales manager for Pioneer Seed. Prior to that she was the director of marketing for Balzer Inc., an equipment manufacturer. Before joining Balzer, Laura held roles in sales, training management, and marketing at Kinze Manufacturing. Laura was born and raised on a family farm in Illinois. She played basketball at Truman State University and earned an MBA at the University of Iowa. Laura and her husband farm with their four daughters.

**Empowering the Next Generation of Family Agribusiness Owners**

Chris Cornelius of Cornelius Seed located near Bellevue, Iowa, is a native Iowan and grew up on a diversified farm in Guttenberg, Iowa. She earned a bachelor’s degree in ag journalism from Iowa State University in 1983. Alongside her husband Chuck, two sons Will and James, and daughter-in-law Janie, she co-owns and manages her family’s independent, fifth generation seed business. The business is celebrating 88 years of success. She recently served as president of the Independent Professional Seed Association. Chris is also an active partner in their farming entity, Cornelius Land & Cattle.

**Women Leading Agricultural Organizations**

Trish Cook is the president of the Iowa Pork Producers Association. She and her husband Aaron run their family farm in Buchanan county. It includes a 1,200-sow, farrow-to-finish pig farm and they also grow corn and soybeans. They have been recognized as Iowa Master Pork Producers, Pork All-Americans, and Wergin Good Farm Neighbors. Trish has served on the IPPA board of directors since 2019, working on several IPPA committees and participating in the Iowa Pork Leadership Academy and the Pork Leadership Institute. Trish has an accounting degree from Iowa State University and an MBA from the University of Iowa.

Shelly Kruse is chair of the Agribusiness Association of Iowa, one of the largest agribusiness associations in the US. As GROWMARK’s executive director, she works with Canadian members and Southern States Incorporated. During her 39 years with the company, she represented GROWMARK on 25 separate boards of directors and served in multiple company roles. Shelly grew up on her grandparents’ farm in Illinois. She holds a BS in business from Lewis University and an MBA from Northern Illinois University. Shelly and husband Jim reside in Waverly. They have five grown children and eleven grandchildren.

Jolene Riessen is president of the Iowa Corn Growers Association. Jolene farms in northwest Iowa with her two sons Cory and Lee. Their operation consists of corn, soybeans, alfalfa, custom cattle feeding and a cow/calf herd. She gained experience in crop insurance and different ag related jobs that complement her farm roots. Jolene serves as an Ida County District Soil Commissioner and served on the Governor’s task force for carbon sequestration. Jolene is an advocate for what farmers are doing to help improve water quality and received the NCGA 2023 Corn Advocate of the Year award.
Financing Business Start-Ups

Mikayla Mooney is a founder and investor in Iowa. She is co-founder and CEO of KinoSol, a food technology company focused on reducing food waste. She was the senior associate at ISA Ventures, Iowa's first multi-stage venture capital studio. Today, she is consulting throughout the Iowa startup community, and loves working with early-stage founders. In her free time, she can often be found training for half Ironman races or planning her next international adventure.

Katie Oltchoff is a long-time advocate for agriculture and the co-founder of ChopLocal, an online store bringing together local farmers, butchers, and consumers. Her company works to create a more resilient supply chain for meat. Previously, she served as senior director of communications at the Iowa Cattlemen's Association. Katie is the author of a non-fiction children's book series about agriculture: the My Family's Farm series. She resides in Stanhope with husband Bart and their three children. Her family raises cattle and turkeys.

Shelby Smith founded Gym-N-Eat Crickets in 2018. She grew up on a family farm while competing in soccer, basketball, swimming, diving, and power tumbling. She played basketball at Saint Joseph's University, then traveled to Ireland to be part of the Sport Changes Life program and earned an MSC of finance at Trinity College Dublin. She gained experience at the National Bank of Canada before returning home and exploring niche farming. When she is not tending to daily cricket chores or trying out new flavors of protein bars, she can be found hiking, biking, running, and lifting heavy weights.

Conflict Imagery: Developing a Reflective Framework

Kiley Fleming is the executive director for Iowa Mediation Service and the founder of outSIGHTin. In these roles, she oversees statewide mediation and conflict management efforts, and provides consultation services through private individual and group coaching. Kiley's passion is to help people reach their fullest potential through reflective practices that encourage self-awareness. She is the author of a new book, Conflict Imagery: Developing a Reflective Framework. As a certified life coach with a professional in human resources designation, Kiley helps individuals and groups align with their purpose so that situations involving conflict can serve as growth opportunities for change and improvement.

Understanding and Creating Financial Security

Erin Herbold-Swalwell is the senior counsel for advanced markets with the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation and Affiliated Companies. She maintains a private practice at Wickham & Geadelmann law firm. Previously, she served as staff attorney for Iowa State University Center for Agricultural Law and Taxation, and then ten years private practice law. Admitted to the Iowa Bar in 2006, she attended Iowa State University and obtained her law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law. She is an active member of the Polk County and Iowa State Bar Associations and a past board member of the American Agricultural Law Association.

Amanda Van Steenwyk is the farm business development manager for the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. She leads educational programs including beginning farmer and profitability workshops, and the “Take Root” program which focuses on family farm succession and business planning. Prior to that she worked at MidWestOne Bank and AgCareers.com. Amanda graduated from Iowa State University with a BS in agriculture business and an MS in agriculture education. She serves the Iowa Army National Guard as a senior paralegal at Joint Forces Headquarters at Camp Dodge. Amanda, her husband, Seth, and four children live on a small farm in Madison County.

CAPSTONE Harvesting Happiness with 20 Years of Annie’s Project

Ruth Hambleton is the founder of Annie’s Project—Education for Farm Women and serves as the treasurer of the board of directors for the charitable organization. The Annie’s Project program is modeled after the life of her mother, Annette Kohlhagen Fleck. Ruth recognized farm women were interested in learning more about business management and marketing. With a passion of providing women in agriculture with resources, she designed the educational program based on her experiences as an educator and growing up on a dairy farm in Illinois. Ruth retired from the University of Illinois in 2009, after 30 years as an extension farm business and marketing specialist. She recently retired from teaching at her alma mater, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. In recognition of the Annie’s Project program success and impact on family farm risk management, Ruth and her leadership team received the 2010 American Agriculture Economics Association Distinguished Extension/Outreach Program Group Award. In 2011, the White House named Ruth as a “Champion of Change” and appointed her to the White House Rural Committee. Following her father’s passing in 2014, Ruth accepted responsibility as the new manager of the family farm trust that preserves the legacy that Annie and her husband Frank Fleck worked towards. Ruth and her husband, Ken, raised three children on their small farm near Woodlawn, Illinois and now enjoy their three grandsons and three granddaughters.
**Kellie Blair** operates Blair Farms with her husband and two children in Webster county. Blair Farms grows corn, soybeans, and cereal rye, while also managing a 500 head cow/calf operation and finishing 2,400 head of cattle annually. The Blair farm is committed to the long-term preservation of the family farming business by increasing productivity and profitability through efficient and environmentally conscious management. Kellie is well recognized for her practices that build soil health and increase productivity of the soil, including strip-till, no-till, and cover crops. Blair Farms conserves soil nutrients with extended rotations and drainage water management. On the cattle side, Kellie feels it is important to work directly with the local locker to provide quality beef to local consumers. Kellie is an Iowa State University graduate with BS degrees in forestry and agronomy. She serves as a trustee for the Iowa State University Agricultural Endowment Board. Kellie has contributed to carbon sequestration and smart agriculture working groups and serves as an experienced farmer in a strip-till/no-till discussion group to support others adopting similar practices. Kellie served on the Webster County Extension Council for seven years. She enjoys ISU extension and outreach programs and works closely with the extension field agronomists. Blair Farms earned several awards, including America’s Best Young Farmers from Progressive Farmer, Iowa Environmental Leader Award through IDALS, and Environmental Stewardship Award from Iowa Cattlemen’s Association. Kellie received the New Leader Award from Iowa Soybean Association and the Growing Leaders Recognition from ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Kellie is an active philanthropist in the agriculture industry. She hosts field days for Iowa Learning Farms to help others learn about conservation practices and is a Common Ground advocate for agriculture. In her community, Kellie is actively involved in church leadership and kid’s activities.

**Joanne Roepke Bode** is a proud promoter of Iowa agriculture in Kossuth county. Her family operates the specialty crop business Bode’s Moonlight Gardens. After growing and selling produce for several years, Joanne and her family were mentored into the pumpkin business by neighbors who were ready to retire from it. Joanne is passionate about engaging with her community and youth around food and farming. She enjoys introducing people to new produce and recipes. Joanne’s social media pages educate and advocate for local agriculture by sharing daily activities on the farm. She hosts a pumpkin patch each October with several community outreach events. Joanne is an Iowa State University graduate with a BS in journalism and mass communication. She was actively involved in the Iowa State University Extension Lead Community Visioning Project completed in Algona in 2022 and continues working to implement the plans. Joanne is a frequent attendee at Algona Chamber Coffees hosted at the Kossuth County Extension Office and attends Women in Ag programs when they are available. Local extension uses her farm as an example to showcase to gardeners, value added ag operators, and traditional farmers that extension is a valuable and cost-efficient resource. In her leadership work, Joanne is the organizer of the Kossuth County Farmers Market and fosters its growth. She is a past board member of the Iowa Specialty Crop Growers Association, recently joined the board of Healthy Harvest of North Iowa, and has worked with Practical Farmers of Iowa to host North Iowa horticulture meet ups. Joanne is an enthusiastic asset to every committee and event in her community. She volunteers for the Frostbite Olympics and developed the Algona Young Professionals Organization with the Algona Area Economic Development Corporation. She has served on the Algona Chamber of Commerce board, and was part of a team that created the World Food Festival, an event that occurs during Algona’s Founders Day.
**Meredith Nunnikhoven** is the owner of Barnswallow Flowers, a sustainable fresh-cut flower farm located in Mahaska county in its 13th year. Her mission is to grow flowers with sustainable agricultural practices that focus on regenerative farming and carbon reduction. The chemical free operation also plants cover crops to improve soil health along with using landscape fabric to retain moisture and reduce weed pressure. Supported by years of growing trials, the entire flower production is grown outdoors without hoop house support. A majority of the seedlings are germinated on the farm, reducing environmental impact overall. Meredith utilizes resources from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach-Mahaska County to help her floral business prosper. She is a 2023 graduate of ISU Extension’s Annie’s Project farm management class. Barnswallow Flowers is a proud donor of materials for Mahaska County Extension floral arranging classes and Mahaska County Master Gardeners annual plant sale. She also helped start a local chapter of Women, Land, and Legacy in both Mahaska and Marion counties. She is passionate about inspiring farmers to diversify their whole-farm operation with value-added crops and products. Her love for environmentalism launched her patent-pending invention for the Barnswallow compostable vase. The vase will reduce recycling processing costs of glass, plastics and metal while being commercially grade compostable on farms and facilities. Meredith partners with Practical Farmers of Iowa to host field days, assist in government policy-making and participate in PFI’s Labor for Learning program. In partnership with nonprofit FACE of Mahaska County, the farm brings art to its rural location by hosting sculptures. Meredith connects with the community through CSA programming. Since 2018, various products provide fresh flower experiences and conservation education. The flower farm is now dedicated to her late mother, Kerrilyn Loynachan Nunnikhoven, who believed that small farm diversification was the key to succession and survival.

**Melissa O’Rourke** resides in Winneshiek county and recently retired from her position at Iowa State University where she served as an extension and outreach farm and agribusiness management specialist for 13 years. In her early career, Melissa taught vocational business and agriculture, mentoring youth anticipating careers in agribusiness. Later, Melissa earned her Juris Doctor degree and practiced law in South Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa representing farm operators and ag businesses in litigation and providing counsel on farm business management. At ISU Extension and Outreach, Melissa was a leader and innovator of several educational programs including farm transition and succession planning, human resources, farmland leasing and conservation, and beginning and early-career farming. Melissa provided consultation for individuals and wrote many popular publications for the ISU Ag Decision Maker website. Melissa received the 2021 Bob Wells Memorial Award for her many contributions to women in ag programs from the national Annie’s Project–Education for Farm Women organization. Melissa and her husband operated Dry Creek Acres, a registered Toggenburg dairy goat operation, for nearly three decades. She served on the American Dairy Goat Association board of directors and led an initiative to update the linear appraisal classification system to improve genetics. She also served on the American Goat Federation board. O’Rourke was instilled with the belief that volunteer service builds our communities. Recognizing the need for a nonprofit community health center to serve all persons, Melissa established the Promise Community Health Center in Sioux Center, Iowa and served as its president. Melissa is passionate about providing services to the immigration community and has volunteered as an attorney and advocate for the Center for Assistance, Service, and Advocacy in Northwestern Iowa and Northeast Iowa Peace and Justice Center-Immigration Working Group. She also advocates for domestic violence victims and survivors of crimes via nonprofit agencies.
Kiley Allan is an intern with the ISU Extension and Outreach Women in Ag Program, while working towards her BS in agriculture education communication and animal science at Iowa State University. On campus, Kiley is involved in the Block and Bridle, Collegiate Cattlemen, and Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow clubs. She grew up on a small farrow-to-finish and cow/calf operation in Le Mars, Iowa. In high school she stayed active in 4-H, FFA, band, orchestra, choir, speech, and thespians. During her free time, Kiley enjoys listening to music, showing pigs and cattle, and volunteering for the Iowa FFA Association.

Julia Brenizer is a producer services coordinator with the Iowa Soybean Association. She grew up on a 5th generation row crop and hog farm in Illinois. Her passion for agriculture led her to study agronomy at Iowa State University. Julia now lives in Allison, Iowa with her husband. She is still involved with her family's farm, helping to make management decisions, market grain, and harvest crops. Julia enjoys using her ag background to get involved in the community by co-leading a local 4-H club. Julia fills her free time with house projects, walking her dog, and listening to live music.

Sharon Chism is a grain farmer and 1991 Iowa State University graduate in ag business. She has worked with soil throughout her career. As an ag consultant, she works with absentee landowners and farmers. Sharon specializes in repairing and improving fragile areas of fields to make the soil more profitable and the land easier to farm through field efficiency and drainage. Sharon volunteered to help plan the leadership conference to sustain the learning and networking opportunities this conference provides to farmers and agribusiness owners across the great state of Iowa.

Krista Downing is the co-owner of Triple Downing Cattle LLC, and works as an MPCI underwriter with Rain and Hail Insurance. In her cattle company role, she assists with daily decisions and operations. As an underwriter, she examines crop insurance documents for producers across the nation. Krista earned her BS in agricultural education communications from Iowa State University in 2017. She is a passionate advocate for the agriculture industry. Krista fills her free time dabbling in wine making with her significant other, Matt, baking with the fruits and vegetables they grow at home, and spending time on the family farm.

Marilee Jones was raised with pigs and dairy cows. She began farming with her husband in 1994 and recently purchased the family farm she grew up on. Her family raises cattle and grain and operates a custom spraying and farming business. She is committed to transitioning a strong farming legacy to her five children. With so many changes in the industry, Marilee is always willing to learn and adapt to new methods. Marilee earned her real estate license and hopes to be a resource for women landowners. She is always encouraging women and girls to pursue opportunities in agriculture.

Debbie Kassel was raised on a farm in Illinois and earned her BS in Agriculture from the University of Illinois. She spent 10 years with American Cyanamid, DuPont, and Pioneer before leaving corporate America to become an active business partner farming with her husband in northwest Iowa and raising four children. Debbie’s roles include operating farm machinery, managing bookwork, landlord relationships, and volunteering in the community. Debbie currently serves on the county 4-H youth committee and is a church trustee. Their youngest two children are students at ISU. She enjoys walking with girlfriends, reading, baking, and traveling with her husband.

Sara Lira is a senior research scientist with Corteva Agriscience. Sara has a BS in ecology, MS in genetics, and a PhD in plant breeding all from Iowa State University. She was a corn breeder for ten years before taking on her current role leading sustainable cropping systems research at Corteva. Her research focuses on perennial and annual cover crop systems and double crop systems in the US cornbelt. In her free time she enjoys mentoring graduate students and interns in ag research, breeding and raising Simmental cattle with her husband, gardening, hiking, and training her English Shepherd.

Chelsea Llewellyn has been with the ISU Marshall County Extension and Outreach office for seven years, working with both adults and youth. Her passion is bringing women in ag programs to the area to help women become more successful in their ag careers. Chelsea grew up in town but now has a passion for agriculture, playing a large role on the Tama county farm where she and her husband raise cattle, hay, and row crops. She manages bookwork and cattle records, and during the busy calving season you can catch Chelsea juggling mom life, farm life, and her full-time job.

Melissa O’Rourke is an attorney and owner of Dry Creek Acres. She is a 2023 ISU Extension and Outreach Women Impacting Agriculture honoree. As an attorney, Melissa practiced in the fields of business and estate planning, human resources, and commercial litigation. She and her husband have raised registered Toggenburg dairy goats for three decades, receiving the American Dairy Goat Association Herd of Distinction award in 2021. She was an ISU Extension and Outreach farm and agribusiness management specialist from 2009 to 2023 where she taught Annie’s Project courses and assisted farmers and agribusiness owners on an expansive array of topics.
**Chinwendu Ozoh** is passionate about women’s development and all conversations around food. She grew up in Nigeria and earned her BS in agricultural engineering at Obafemi Awolowo University. Chinwendu received an MS in agriculture and biosystems engineering at Iowa State University and is currently a PhD student in food science and human nutrition. She won 1st and 2nd place for yogurt and butter judging, respectively, at the 2023 Collegiate Dairy Products Evaluation Contest. Chinwendu plans to join academia and continue researching consumer behavior. She resides in Ames with her two-year-old daughter and enjoys sewing and reading realistic fiction.

**Kylie Rosonke** is an undergraduate student in agricultural studies production and management at Iowa State University. She grew up in town but very soon realized her passion and drive for the agricultural industry. In high school she was involved in FFA and showed dairy cattle the summer before her sophomore year. She keeps herself busy during the collegiate school year with her involvement in the Block and Bridle club, working two part-time jobs, and attending classes. During her free time she enjoys finding/trying new recipes, spending time with friends, being outdoors, and listening to country music hits.

**Lisa Scarbrough** is the Women in Ag communications specialist with the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach farm management team. She works with extension professionals across the state to produce videos, design marketing materials, coordinate promotion, manage websites, create program impact reports, and publish an online newsletter. She serves on the board of the Women, Land, and Legacy program led by USDA-NRCS in Iowa. Lisa earned a BA in communication studies with a minor in journalism from the University of Iowa. She continues to be a Hawkeye fan and enjoys going to sporting events with her dad.

**Madeline Schultz** is the Women in Ag program manager with the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach farm management team. She designs educational programs, increases connections among women, builds the professional capacity of educators, and stewards program funding to improve the lives of women and their families while increasing agricultural sustainability. Madeline serves as national board president of Annie’s Project—Education for Farm Women, and board secretary of Iowa Women in Agriculture. She received a 2023 Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. Madeline earned a BS in economics and an MBA from Iowa State University.

**Luci Sheriff** is a true city girl turned farm girl. She found her place alongside her husband in their corn and soybean operation. Due to the seasonal nature of farming, Luci found substitute teaching was a perfect off-farm job for her. As a substitute teacher, she’s able to share her passion for agriculture with FFA members and other students. Serving on the Cerro Gordo County Farm Bureau board also provides her with opportunities to connect with young people. Luci loves showing students that you don’t have to grow up on a farm to find a place in farming.

**Rylee Sloss** is an Iowa State University student and an intern with the Women in Ag program. She is working towards a BS in multidisciplinary agricultural studies with emphasis areas in animal science, agriculture business, and communications, and minor in animal science and general business. On campus, Rylee is involved with the Farm Operations Club and Collegiate Cattlemen. Rylee grew up in Guthrie Center where she was active in 4-H and FFA. She maintains a cow/calf operation with her younger brother. In her free time she enjoys spending time with friends and family, reading, and working on the farm.

**Janette Smith** is the GROW Grain Marketing Advisor Lead for Landus. She has experience originating grain, creating marketing plans with farmers, and leading within the agricultural industry. Her previous roles with West Central Cooperative included regional manager, senior marketing specialist, grain operations manager, agronomy sales/marketing manager, and location manager. Janette graduated from Des Moines Area Community College with an AAS in agribusiness. To further her skills, she earned her Board of Trade certification in 1998, certificate in strategic agri marketing from Purdue University in 2003, and completed the Institute of Cooperative Leadership program at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2014.

**Alexis Stevens** serves ISU Extension and Outreach as a farm management specialist in west central Iowa. In this role, Alexis provides research-based information on farm business management, grain marketing, land leasing, government programs, cybersecurity, and Women in Ag programs. She has a passion for helping people succeed in business as well as sharing agriculture’s story with the world. She is a certified farm succession coordinator and member of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers. Alexis is an Army veteran and graduate of the University of Maryland with a BS in psychology as well as an MBA.

**Ann Wolf** serves as co-program director for MidwestHealthyAg.org, a division of Regeneration International, a research team studying rural communities in the midwest. Ann is the owner of a 300-acre family farm in Jackson county where her partnerships in soil and water conservation include NRCS, FSA, DNR, IDALS, and Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Ann earned her BA from the University of Iowa, and MA in philanthropy and nonprofit development from University of Northern Iowa. She is a certified fundraising executive and certified nonprofit professional. Ann enjoys furthering her knowledge of community building and agricultural conservation and management.
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