



Oregon Women for Agriculture

"Working together to communicate the story of today's agriculture"

AAW Convention

By Andrea Boyer

Attending the American Agri-Women Convention was truly one of the most enjoyable experiences of my life. Not only did my knowledge of agriculture increase, but I also had the opportunity to get to know so many wonderful women throughout the country.

My first activity at the AAW Convention was attending the leadership training put on by Craig Freshley. I found the steps he taught us on problem solving (defining the problem, generating possible solution, choosing a solution, implementing the solution, monitoring the effect, and adjusting the solution) to be beneficial. In many of the organizations I am involved in; we often skip the first step, defining the problem, and proceed directly to trying to generate possible solutions to the problem. However, if we stopped to determine what we knew about the problem, why the problem is worth solving, what the scope of the problem is, and what the causes of the problem are, we would have an easier time finding the correct solution to the problem.

I also found the discussion on the changes affecting AAW to be interesting. The discussion helped me to better understand the problems facing women in agriculture throughout the United States. While every region of the United States has farm wives working off the farm, the aging of farmers, big corporate farming, biotechnology and world markets, and the growing number of urban areas, are all issues facing agriculturalists throughout the United States.

Unfortunately, we did not have time in the workshop to address the issues of volunteer recruitment and management. Nonetheless, I found helpful the handout Mr. Freshley gave us on the specific steps to recruit and manage volunteers.

I enjoyed the opportunity to attend the Roundtable Sessions. The sessions I attended were on forestry, legal issues, biotechnology, fruits, grains and fiber, animal welfare, and the resource center. In the forestry session I had the opportunity to learn about the forest fire problems that were rampant throughout the west this summer. Later, during the cider, wine, and cheese reception, I had the opportunity to visit with the Idaho Timber Woman about other issues in forestry, such as the rhetoric that public land timber sales are subsidized. I also enjoyed the Resource Center session. I was unsure of the role the Resource Center plays with regard to AAW, and the session helped me understand the mission and responsibilities of the Resource Center. The town hall meeting and the affiliate reports also gave me a better understanding of the issues that were important to women in agriculture throughout the nation. For example, I was unaware of the property and water rights problems facing agriculture in Texas.

As a new member, the AAW business meetings were also interesting because they gave me a better idea of the values and positions of AAW on different issues. I particularly enjoyed the panel forum with Lloyd Irand, Cheryl Timberlake, Laurie Jecha, and David Lavway. It was interesting to hear about McCain Foods, and the growth of the potato industry in developing countries. I also found the information on biotechnology useful,

and I am sure that I will use the handouts in my discussions with others at Oregon State University on biotechnology. I also found the presentation on the history of Maine fascinating since I knew very little about Maine before attending the convention.

All of the speakers at the convention were very good. David Mill's speech on the lobster industry was particularly good. I learned so much about lobster. I never knew that a female lobster carries her eggs on the inside of her for a whole year, and then on the outside under the tail for another year. I also never knew that lobsters lived so long or got so large. The steps the lobster industry is taking to preserve lobsters from over harvest, such as notching the tails of some lobsters, also impressed me.

Both Robert Spears from the Maine Ag Commission and Mary Waters' from the USDA were equally as interesting. The steps Maine is taking to promote the consumption of Maine products impress me. I believe that many other states could benefit from adopting an approach similar to that of Maine. Mary Walters' speech was very good as well, and I particularly enjoyed her reflection on the outcome of the recent election and the effect that the election will have on the policy goals of the Bush Administration.

I really enjoyed the opportunity I had to see a little bit of Maine and learn more about Maine while I was there. To demonstrate my ignorance, about all I knew about Maine before attending the convention was that it had lobsters and lighthouses. I had no idea the extent of the potato, wild blueberry, or dairy industry in Maine. Coming from Oregon (where approximately sixty percent of the land is owned by the state or federal government), I was surprised to learn that while Maine is approximately ninety percent forested, only about five or six percent is government owned. I also enjoyed the little bit of touring I was able to do while I was in Maine. It is truly a beautiful state.

The one thing that I will remember the most about attending the AAW Convention, though, is the kindness of the AAW members. All of the members made me feel so welcome, and took a genuine interest in getting to know me. From the moment I arrived, I felt like a part of the organization. All of the women in AAW are tremendous and have accomplished so much in their lifetimes. They are also a lot of fun. I never thought I would see some of those ladies and their husbands dressed up and singing oldies! The convention was truly a wonderful experience. I believe I am now hooked on AAW for life. I look forward to attending more AAW conventions in the future!

Central Oregon Road trip was fun and successful

By Arlene Kovash, President OWA

Central Oregon may have an Oregon Women for Agriculture chapter soon! Thursday, October 17, state board members traveled to Prineville to introduce Central Oregon women who are involved in agriculture to OWA.

Cathy Bartels from Farm Credit Services, is spearheading a drive to get the women organized, so called an informational meeting at the Prineville Library for the Thursday night and asked if our members would be interested in going, to talk about OWA and what we do. It was a great opportunity for a "road trip," so we planned our October board meeting for Prineville the next Friday morning, the 18th, and asked all who could to come and 16 of us (and Baby Jack Ruuddenklau) did!

On Thursday noon on the 17th, members from five county chapters met at Bronco Billy's in Sisters (the old Sisters Hotel) for lunch, then caravanned to the Stafford Inn in

Prineville, Where we spent the next two hours divided into three discussion groups: an executive board meeting with five officers, a county presidents' discussion of what is expected of a president and how to improve, and a discussion on the role of county directors, with the remaining women.

After our meeting, we ate at a popular restaurant next door to the motel, then met at the library to welcome the approximately 15 Central Oregon women who were interested in OWA. We explained how we got started, our purpose and how we've accomplished our objectives throughout the years. We also put up our display of projects and activities, and education chair Tami Kerr displayed Ag in the Classroom information. The women were interested and enthusiastic, so will be meeting in the next month or so to organize their own chapter, which will take in probably four counties, Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, and Wheeler...and anyone else who is willing to drive to the meetings.

Afterwards we all had the opportunity to get to know each other while enjoying coffee and cookies. Those attending the meeting were mainly cattle and alfalfa growers, although the group will probably represent several other crops, too.

On Friday the board met at the library before driving home during the afternoon. Well, Polk members detoured through the Prairie Girls' Quilt shop in Prineville, where they found the perfect quilt to make for the auction. Now that was a productive trip!

In this issue of the Cultivator we would like to introduce you to our new Web Master...Tami Warnick, of Albany

Hi! I am Tami Warnick and I have been assigned the task of updating and maintaining the Oregon Women for Agriculture website. I am originally from Utah where I grew up on a cattle ranch. Growing up I had many opportunities to be involved with agriculture. I helped my dad throughout the year by doing many things such as putting up hay, feeding in the winter, trailing the herd and many other jobs. I continued my involvement in agriculture when I married my husband who taught high school Agricultural Science and advised the FF chapter for 7 years. I got involved with web design during my two years of teaching high school chemistry. I created a web site for my students to get tutoring and missed work/labs. I then taught web design at Bridgerland Applied Technology College for a year. We moved to Oregon to allow my husband to get his PhD while teaching in the General Agriculture and Agricultural Education department. Since this move I have done the Ag in the Classroom web site and the General Agriculture and Agricultural Education department at OSU web site. I enjoy being able to work from home doing what I love, being involved with education and computers. The OWA web site has a lot of potential and I am looking forward to being able to create a well designed user friendly site. I encourage any suggestions to better the functionality of the site.

Book Review

By Karen Goddik

Farming for the Future: Agriculture's next Generation

In the Perc Policy Series, Farming for the Future: Agriculture's next Generation, Grewell argues that agriculture has risen to the challenge of feeding the world. Due to our success

in meeting the basic food needs of many people and societies, it is time to meet the next challenge of agriculture.

He talks about the rise of the “Ecological Agrarian.” The focus is on the mandatory vs. voluntary efforts of these eco-entrepreneurs. Should the government even be involved and if so in what capacity should it serve?

To set up institutions for the success of the eco-agrarians, he calls into question the role of current programs. He shows how the Estate Tax, ag subsidies, Ethanol and the Conservation Reserve Program, actually do harm those they were intended to help, thus demonstrating how unintended consequences from subsidies lead good intentions awry. Using lyric for Travis Tritt, Grewell shows that “It’s a great day to be alive. I know the sun’s shining when I close my eyes. There’s some times in the neighborhood, but why can’t every day be just this good”

Comment:

Why does voluntary work and mandatory stifle? Find out for yourself...

I have been receiving the Perc Policy series by mail, if you would like to receive them contact the

Political Economy Research Center
502 S. 19th Ave. #211
Bozeman, MT 59718-6827

Have a Book Review to share.. send it in!

The Cultivator (Book Review)
P.O. Box 66
Lafayette, OR 97127

OSU Honors Famed Wheat Geneticist, Waren Kronstad

CORVALLIS - Warren Kronstad, Oregon State University wheat breeder and geneticist, died in 2000, leaving a legacy of contributions to world agriculture. As a tribute to the scientist and teacher, the Oregon Wheat Foundation and OSU dedicated the Warren E. Kronstad Conference Room in the ceremony held on the OSU campus as part of this year’s Homecoming festivities, November 2, 2002.

Highlighting the program and Kronstad’s career, were Jim Peterson, the current head of OSU’s wheat breeding program, D. Thayne Dutson Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences, a representative from the Wheat Foundation and members of Dr. Kronstad’s family.

At Kronstad’s retirement in 1999, Nobel Prize winner Norman Borlaug described his colleague as “one of the greatest wheat scientists and most effective teachers of this century.” Their work contributed to the Green Revolution in cereal production in developing nations around the world.

Besides teaching thousands of U.S. students during his 40 years at OSU, Kronstad was the major professor for more that 100 graduate students from 27 countries. These foreign students returned to their homelands to lead cereal-breeding programs or joined

international research centers to develop high-yielding, disease-resistant cereal grains around the world.

The Leadership Oregon Institute

By Julie Morrison, Class I (The Pioneer Class)

Standing on the steps of the West Wing of the White House and waving at the President as he walked down the steps of the old Executive Building... learning... Communication skills from a world-class trainer. Walking the halls of our state capitol discussing agriculture issues with our legislators... receiving a briefing from the leaders of the American Farm Bureau Federation in their Washington D.C. high-rise office. These are truly just a glimpse of the incredible experiences that the first class of the Leadership Oregon Institute (LOI) has had since we began almost a year and a half ago.

When our class began, I was living in Union, Oregon, working on my Masters degree in animal science and natural resources law and policy. Since then, I have taken a job working with cattle and hay producers on watershed issues and will hopefully be part of the agricultural extension service soon. The LOI program has been invaluable in providing the skills and contacts I've needed to launch my career. Because of the tremendous experience I've had in LOI, I'd like to share with you just some of the benefits of being part of this program. I hope it will encourage you to apply to be part of Class II! Leadership Oregon has helped me establish:

- A network of agriculture and natural resource contacts across the state. Not only have the members of our class become tremendous resources for one another, but the program has also put us in contact with legislators, agency leaders, and natural resource professionals from across the state.
- An increased understanding of the broader context in which agriculture and natural resources exist within the state and the nation. Learning about social and cultural issues has helped us understand the "bigger picture" in which our industries operate.
- Better communication and public speaking skills. We have received excellent training in being effective communicators and have had numerous opportunities to practice these skills within the "safety" of our class sessions.
- The confidence and ability to step up and provide leadership when needed. One of the great things about the LOI program is that it provides both knowledge and training. This combination has really helped us improve as leaders. It has been wonderful to watch the members of our class grow and see how they are becoming or continuing to be tremendous assets to their communities and their industries.

Our class is incredibly grateful for OWA's support of Leadership Oregon. We have all gained a tremendous amount and are looking forward to using what we have learned from this program to ensure the sustainability of the agriculture and natural resource industries within our state. This program offers opportunities that just can't be found anywhere else! I hope many of you will sign up to be part of the second class!

We Thank you Liz

By Karren Cholewinski

Although Oregon Women for Agriculture is a nonpartisan organization, members are always encouraged to seek outside leadership positions. Liz VanLeeuwn, a founding charter member of OWA took the bold step this spring and filed to oppose incumbent Peter DeFazio for Oregon's 4th District U.S. Congressional seat. This was a huge task! For over six months Liz thought, talked and slept (when she could) about changes that needed to be made in the 4th Congressional District. With her 18 years of experience in the Oregon Legislature, Liz was a candidate who could honestly represent the concerns and needs of Oregonians. However, on November 5th, the incumbent was reelected. Your sacrifice of time, energy and resources, on behalf of all Oregonians, is always greatly appreciated. **Liz, we are proud of you!**

OWA Convention ...Theme

“Reclaiming our lands”

By Gwen Mulkey, Convention Chair

Oregon Women for Agriculture's annual convention will be held March 2-4 in Troutdale at McMennamins Edgefield. This year's theme is, “Reclaiming our Lands.” This is a powerful message which will be echoed by our speakers throughout the three days. Registration will start at 3 p.m. Sunday, March 2. Not all details have been made, but Phil Ward, ODA director will be the moderator for the Town Hall that evening. Monday we will resume with more of the business meeting. C.J Hadley, editor and publisher for RANGE magazine will be our speaker after lunch. After round table discussions in the afternoon, Lars Larson, popular radio show host at KXL will be our speaker Monday evening. Tuesday will be more business and installation of officers. We should finish around 1-2 p.m. There is a mall with a lot of shops across the highway for plenty of shopping before you travel home. Space is limited, so when we get the registration program planned and costs, we are recommending you send in your registration ASAP to be sure of getting a room.