



Oregon Women for Agriculture

THE Cultivator

Working together to communicate the story of today's agriculture

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Linn-Benton Chapter Hosts 2020 OWA State Convention

By Jordyn Coon

An opportunity to see the vision for modern agriculture

During the final days of February, members from across the state gathered in Corvallis to participate in the Oregon Women for Agriculture State Convention, themed “2020 - A Vision for Modern Agriculture.” Taking advantage of the proximity to Oregon State University, the Linn-Benton chapter organized an engaging day of tours and presenters that showcased a few of the College of Agriculture’s facilities and programs. Tours took place at the Steer-a-Year barn and Swine Unit in the morning and focused on OSU’s Department of Food Science and Technology in the afternoon. The Food Science tours, led by Department Head, Dr. Lisbeth Goddik and both faculty and students, allowed attendees to see inside the OSU Creamery, Pilot Plant, and research winery and brewery programs.

Last year, Oregon State launched the Global Hemp Innovation Center, the nation’s largest research center devoted to the study of hemp. Two faculty members from the center spoke to attendees over lunch, sharing the mission and also educating about Oregon’s place in worldwide hemp production and the future of the



crop. It was a very enlightening discussion. Over dinner, OWA members and their guests had the opportunity to hear from Dr. Alan Sams, Dean of the OSU College of Agriculture. Dr. Sams provided the history of the land-grant university system in the United States and shared his vision on the future direction and role of the College of Ag, both to students who attend and as a resource to agriculturalists around the state.

The final day of Convention served as the 2020 State Annual Meeting. During the board meeting, State Officers were elected and installed. Thank you to those who will serve in their positions for the next two years: President Mallory Phelan, First Vice President Mary Hood, and Second Vice President Michelle Carmony. Recording Secretary Emily Duerst,

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CHAPTER REPORTS

See what the chapters around the state have been up to this quarter

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New plans have been put in place. Learn what they are and thank our supporters

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

This month's spotlight focuses on Dona Coon's contributions to Oregon Agriculture

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OWA A - Z

Deanna Dyksterhuis shares the A - Z of what OWA has engaged in over the years

What a year 2020 has already been, including many firsts - good, unfortunate, and otherwise!

The good? We had a wonderful annual convention in Corvallis this year! We toured three areas of Oregon State University, including the Swine Center with plenty of piglets, the Steer-A-Year Program with Sigma Alpha members, and the Department of Food Science & Technology which included their wine, cheese, and sensory programs. Our speakers were also from OSU including from the Hemp Innovation Center and Dr. Alan Sams, Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences. None of this would be possible without our annual convention sponsors Coastal Farms, Northwest Farm Credit Services, Boshart Trucking, and Columbia Bank. Thank you to the members of the Linn-Benton chapter who made it all happen!

The unfortunate? The global COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted so many aspects of our lives. I hope you and your families are staying home, safe, and healthy. Our state Board of Directors made the necessary decision to cancel our 33rd annual auction for the first time ever. This decision was made during the first state board meeting of my term as President, in which we gathered by way of a video conference in lieu of an in-person meeting in Redmond. We had wonderful participation and I am so thankful for everyone who logged on to discuss the business of this organization.

While I could not have envisioned my first year as OWA president to be kicked off with a global pandemic, I'm so grateful for the encouragement I've received so far and am thankful for all the work our members are doing to adjust in these quickly changing times, including the executive and auction committees' immediate response reaching out to donors, sponsors, and ticket buyers from auction. We are in the process of revising the budget, in which we will still honor our sponsorship commitments to Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom, Summer Ag Institute, and Oregon Ag Fest. Not only will the work our organization does, but also that of others we support, evolve and adapt as we find new ways to reach those unfamiliar with Oregon agriculture in the current times we are living in, as well as what is to come in the future.

Thank you for reading through my first President's Corner. I'll wrap it up by way of a small introduction in case we've never met. I grew up in the grass seed world - more specifically the straw export industry on my dad's farm in Lebanon and our family recently started farming a small vineyard in south Salem. I graduated from the University of Portland with a degree in global business and entrepreneurship. My day job is serving as Executive Director for Oregon Aglink which is a nonprofit that engages Oregonians around agriculture through programs like Adopt a Farmer. I have three nieces and a pup named Drex whom I adore. Agriculture is home and an industry I love. I believe so strongly in working together to communicate the story of today's agriculture because we really are stronger when we're sharing our story together. I'm honored to serve as president of Oregon Women for Agriculture for the next two years and look forward to working with you all!

~MALLORY



MALLORY PHELAN
STATE PRESIDENT

OWA WELCOMED 11 NEW MEMBERS DURING THE LAST QUARTER. WE ARE EXCITED TO HAVE THESE WOMEN IN THE ORGANIZATION!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

COLUMBIA GORGE
Raelle Broehl

EASTERN OREGON
Kourtney Lehman

LANE
Merissa Calkins
Sheri Francalancia
Amy Ropp
Taylor Stewart

LINN-BENTON
Allison Andrews
Jessica Blakely
Dana Bowers
Debby Gourley

MARION CLACKAMAS
Cheryl Gillson

Treasurer Tracy Duerst, and Corresponding Secretary Jessica Hanna-Locke began the second of their two year terms of service. Thank you also to Helle Ruddenklau for her service to the organization over the past two years, as well as to her continued service as Past State President.

The experience attendees had in Corvallis is thanks to the hard work of the Linn-Benton chapter, as well as Convention sponsors Coastal Farm and Ranch, Northwest Farm Credit Services, Boshart Trucking, and Columbia Bank. Thank you all!



Above: A tour of the Steer-a-Year facility at OSU, given by club participants.

Right: OWA members sample and compare flash frozen varieties of berries in the Food Science Pilot Plant.



Chapter Meetings

Due to Oregon's Stay Home, Stay Safe guidelines and the ever changing circumstances we are facing, please contact your chapter president for the most up to date information on upcoming chapter meetings.

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What's Happening Around the State?

COLUMBIA GORGE

The Columbia Gorge chapter met in February and in March. We are now up to 19 paid members. Three members attended the state convention and really enjoyed the OSU tie-in, especially having the collegiate members present. We discussed sponsoring the local "Bull Tour" again and the annual OWA auction. We have a \$500 scholarship application for high school seniors that will be distributed this spring. We will again send a local teacher to SAI, partnering with the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District. We will meet later this spring to discuss our dessert fundraiser in August for Vintage Dufur Days.

Cindy Brown
Columbia Gorge President

LANE

First, I want to say thank you to everyone who is working to keep things going in these strange and uncertain times.

Here's what our Chapter has been up to:

New Spring crops are being planted and coming up. To me that means it's time to check the crop ID signs. We have around 50 crop ID signs up around Lane County. Some are doubled on the metal holders so you can see what the crop is going in both directions.

OWA supported OWIT by buying a table at the Oregon Women in

Timber auction and dinner. OWIT's proceeds from the auction went to their statewide education program, Talk about Trees. Lane County

Chapter had 4 members attend with their spouses. This was the second year I have attended, and I am blown away by how organized these women are. Thank you to OWA for buying a table and thank you OWIT for a great dinner and entertaining evening.

We had a few members (Sarah Puls, Kelsy Pimm and I) attend the OWA State Convention in Corvallis. The tours on Friday were very fun and informative. Thank you, Linn-Benton it was a great Convention and we had a wonderful time.

Our March meeting was in preparation for Ag in the Classroom. We had around 69 classrooms that we were starting to schedule. It is very sad that we can't go into the classrooms this year. Thank you, Jessica Jansen, for coming and talking about the book and project. We will be ready for next year.

This year's "Function 4 Junction" has, unfortunately, been canceled and will take place again in 2021.

Our April 3rd meeting has been canceled. Our next meeting is scheduled for May 12th at 6:00 pm.

Happy Spring from Lane County. We will get through this.

Mary Howarth
Lane County OWA President

LINN BENTON

During January, we met at the home of Barbara Hauge and our February meeting was held at the home of Betty Jo Smith. During these two months, a committee of L/B ladies worked on getting everything ready for the OWA State Convention which we were hosting this year in Corvallis. Tours to various OSU stops were planned, speakers were confirmed, decorations were put together and a lovely location in downtown Corvallis was where it all happened. We were lucky to have so many wonderful ladies from across our great state join us for those few days of learning, listening, networking and carrying on the business of OWA!

Our chapter's new slate of officers became official on March 1. I now have the pleasure of serving as President and we are very lucky to have Dona Coon as our Vice President, Lori Boshart as our Treasurer, Kristi Miller as our Secretary and Laurie Schrock as our Corresponding Secretary. Many, many thanks to past President Katie Boshart Glaser for her time leading our chapter. We wish her much success in her next adventures!

Our chapter continues to offer our annual educational scholarships – one for \$1,500 for an Ag Major and one for \$500 for a child or grandchild of an L/B member. Application period is open right now!

Our March meeting was held at the home of Pam Toews. Lots of usual business was discussed, mainly focusing on the auction. We also have a few ladies working on how best to represent our chapter and

OWA at our two county fairs later this summer. New business surrounded the starting of our chapter Facebook page (it's officially up and running) and our upcoming summer social were discussed. This meeting was held just prior to the COVID19 situation that now afflicts our counties, our state and our nation. A different time for us all, that will surely leave us with a greater appreciation for each other and a deeper respect for our livelihoods. I hope you all stay well and look forward to resuming our county chapter meetings as soon as we are able.

Mary Hood
Linn-Benton President

MARION CLACKAMAS

In February we held our monthly meeting at Nutrien Ag in Brooks and were excited to be able to talk with their group and get a tour of the facility and their operations. It was a great turnout and we were so grateful to Nutrien Ag for hosting us, giving us a tour and providing lunch! In March, the Marion/Clackamas Chapter voted in new officers for President and Treasurer. Our current officers are President - Lauren Olson, VP - Randi Bural, Treasurer - Tracy Duerst and Secretary - Emily Duerst. We are excited for a new year and new ways we can engage our members and serve our local community. We are currently working on the digital campaign and distribution of the 2020 Farm Guide as we have seen spikes in interest in local farm stands and food providers with the coronavirus outbreak. We hope this year the Farm Guide will be of even more value in connecting our local growers to local consumers. We will be holding our April meeting virtually

in light of social distancing and will be sending out emails and instructions to our members for how to attend and participate soon.

Lauren Olson
Marion Clackamas President

POLK

We began the year focusing on a joint project, Stop the Bleed, with the Polk County Farm Bureau. Last May, our chapter heard from guest speaker, Daniel Van Hook, West Valley Hospital Trauma Program Manager and ER Nurse about this life-saving program devoted to teaching wound triage. He spoke for his co-worker Jennifer Von Derahe, who wasn't able to make the meeting due to a family emergency. The program provides instruction on how to stop severe bleeding until EMTs arrive and specifically how to use a tourniquet, pack wounds and properly apply direct pressure. Kits can be made for about \$25. The class took place January 23rd with 13 attending. A follow up class was planned at Pedee Church. PCWA and PCFB plan to start discussions for another joint class in September.



In February we helped sell tickets to the FFA Alumni Hearts & Wine Banquet. We discussed planning a membership event in May. Suggestions included having a nice

lunch or dinner that could include a tour of a farm facility. Watch for more details as we expand on this idea! Several of our members also attended the OWA annual meeting.

In March we elected the following new slate of officers: Diann Washburn - President, Deb Thomas - Vice President, Arlene Kovash - Treasurer and Carol Marx - Secretary. Our meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. We rotate between breakfast and lunch meetings at Faroll's Restaurant, Rock N Rogers in Rickreall. Contact Diann at diann@ofsonline.org for more information. All are welcome to join us!

Diann Washburn,
Polk President

YAMHILL

In January, several of us attended a surprise 80th birthday party for our long-time chapter member and Secretary Eunice Goodrich. It was a privilege to be part of her special day and hear stories from her community about how she touches their lives as she does each of ours. Please wish Eunice a belated happy birthday next time you greet her!

Our newly designed holiday gift boxes sold out in 2019! We are very grateful to those fellow members who purchased boxes to support our chapter and WILCO for allowing us to sell boxes at their Newberg and McMinnville stores. Our chapter continues to support local high schools, and local 4H and FFA programs, with scholarship and grant opportunities, as well as Ag in the Classroom and Summer Ag Institute, with the funds we raise. In January,

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we awarded Yamhill County's 4H program \$500 for the 2020 fiscal year to upgrade their sound system. We are also still accepting applications from high school students in Yamhill County, and surrounding areas, for our \$750 scholarship for a student attending a community college and majoring in an agriculturally related field. We just extended the deadline for applications to May 22, 2020 to allow more students the opportunity to respond given the current COVID-19 restrictions. Thus, please encourage any students you know that meet the requirements to apply. The application is posted on the Yamhill County chapter page on the OWA website.

We elected our 2020 slate of officers at our February meeting, as follows: Tara Jackson, President; Susie Kreder, Vice President; Eunice Goodrich, Secretary; and Helle Ruddenklau, Treasurer.

Agriculture in Yamhill County marches on with spring planting to continue to support Oregonians and Americans with food during the COVID-19 outbreak, while our chapter members not involved directly in farming are doing our part to support Oregon agriculture from home offices. Our chapter meetings will continue the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM, by telephone, details of which are posted on our chapter Facebook page. Sending our good wishes for everyone's health.

*Tara Jackson,
Yamhill County Chapter, President*

Auction Update

Most of you are aware by now that our auction set for April 18th has been cancelled. We will try again next year and already have the Linn County Fair and Expo Center reserved for April 17th, 2021.

Some of our cash donors and people who had already purchased tickets have graciously offered to let us keep the money to help the organization get through the year. Items already donated will either be returned or kept for later use. We might try some mini-auctions or a raffle later on this year, or we may keep the items for the auction next year. If you know of companies and individuals who support us, please thank them for their past support. If anybody currently wants to make a cash donation, we welcome that as well.

If you have any questions or comments about auction, please contact me directly at ruddenkl@viclink.com or 503-932-0558. Helle Ruddenklau, Auction Chair



33RD ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION

CANCELLED

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR
APRIL 17, 2021

 Oregon Women
for Agriculture

Deep Roots and Bright Flowers

By Allison Cloo

Name an organization for education and outreach about agriculture in Oregon and there's a good chance Dona Coon has been involved at some point.

Oregon Women for Agriculture? Past president of state and local chapters.

Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom? Key board member in its early growth and continued development.

Summer Ag Institute? Board member and active supporter.

Oregon Aglink? She's this year's winner of the Ag Connection award.

On November 22nd, at the annual Denim and Diamonds Awards Dinner and Auction, Dona Coon received the Ag Connection award for her decades of work making Oregon agriculture accessible to anyone with a desire to learn more.

Beyond her dedication and passion, Coon has impressed people with other qualities that make her an effective communicator and collaborator.

First, she has a personal understanding of agriculture that puts her in a position to speak from experience. Coon was born as Dona Gnos in West Germany, during her father's military service there, and then raised on the family's sheep ranch in Albany.

"Dad started his business by shearing sheep on the weekends while working at the sawmill," she says. "I would go with him and sit in the eight foot high burlap wool bags and watch him shear. He would tie the fleece and drop it in the back and I would tromp it down."

Almost anyone can learn the facts of agriculture, but according to her son Hans, the chance to see first-hand the high stakes of farm life gives weight to lessons learned and then shared by his mother. "When your dad was trying to build up a sheep herd from whatever he was making at the mill in the 60s, or you were involved in the turbulent grass seed industry in the 80s-- both of those outcomes don't just affect how you thought about



Katie Boshart Glaser, Lori Boshart, Tami Kerr, and Shelly Boshart Davis pictured with Dona (center) after receiving her award.

industry, they really affected how you got food on the table," he says.

Coon understands the physical impact of farm life and policy through that early exposure, but she has also seen many different facets of agriculture in Oregon and even around the world through travel. From her upbringing, raising her own family on a farm, running her business, to being involved in so many organizations, Coon is able to speak about the diversity of agriculture because she has seen the diversity of agriculture.

Still, being an effective educator requires more than just knowledge. There's something special about Coon that makes her able to educate people and bring other contributors back again and again in a group effort to support agriculture.

Her early love of learning, and really teaching, came through helping with her mother's kindergarten, first, and second grade classes at schools in Albany and Lebanon: "Before I was big enough to haul irrigation pipe, I got to go along and tutor kids, put up bulletin boards, and clean blackboards."

In her teenage years, Coon redirected to more work on

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THANK YOU TO ALL THE GENEROUS
BUSINESSES, ORGANIZATIONS,
AND INDIVIDUALS WHO MADE A
CASH DONATION IN LIEU OF OUR
AUCTION TO SUPPORT OWA IN
COMMUNICATING THE STORY OF
TODAY'S AGRICULTURE.



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Legislative Committee Update

Tami Kerr, Chair, Linn-Benton

Lane County – Marie Bowers Stagg and Jenny Hitner

Linn-Benton – Shelbie Coon

Marion/Clackamas – Dianne Wood

Polk – Diann Washburn and Kathy Hadley

Yamhill – Tara Jackson and Maren Davis

At Large – Abby Fitts

Executive Committee Representative – Helle Ruddenklau

Open Positions for Central Oregon, Eastern Oregon and the Columbia Gorge

Decisions are often time sensitive. Committee members need to be responsive and decisive. Different points of view are welcome however, decisions must be based on OWA's Approved Policy Positions.

The next important date is May 19 – the 2020 Primary Election. In this tumultuous time when we are living through the coronavirus threat, the upcoming election might not be top of mind. However, there are contested races at the House, Senate and Congressional level. A few positions will be determined by the outcome of the Primary Election. It is critical you know who is running for office in your area. Invest time in learning about their positions and get to know the candidates. Elections require a lot of resources, both time and money. Consider making donations to candidates, put signs on your property and help them get elected.

Committee highlights on activities over the last few months were shared at the OWA Convention in late February. If you would like a copy of the report, please email Tami Kerr at tami.kerr@oregondairyfarmers.org.

The OWA Legislative Committee has been active at both the state and federal level on legislation and regulations. OWA was one of 11 organizations that signed onto comments regarding a DEQ Water Quality Assessment report.

The most recent committee activity was to sign onto a letter to the Oregon Food Bank expressing concern about their recent political activity. Hunger should not be political. Members of our committee have previously testified in favor of legislation to support the Oregon Food Bank, have written personal checks and donated food to support their efforts. Hunger should not be political.

Thank you to Katie Boshart Glaser for her service on the legislative committee. She recently resigned from the committee. Katie is running for election to the Oregon House of Representatives to represent District 11. We wish Katie the very best with her campaign!

the farm and becoming the first girl to serve as president of the FFA chapter at her high school as well as serving as a state officer in 1977-1978 and being the first female FFA member from Albany to earn her state farmer's degree. It wouldn't be long before she brought education back into the plan, though, when she began attending Oregon State University in 1979 to graduate with a Master's Degree in Agricultural Education.

Her professional career as a teacher spanned the mid-to-late eighties, right around the time she and her husband Donald had their first child, Hans. In hindsight, that seems like a prelude to her main act: serving and building up several organizations dedicated to teaching Oregonians about agriculture.

Take Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom, for example.

Ag in the Classroom - AITC for short - started out in the state as a "resource trunk" in every county that educators could use if they were interested. While Hans was still an infant sleeping in a car seat on the floor, Coon sat on the board and got involved with multiple projects. In the thirty years she sat on the board between 1987 and 2017, Coon helped get booths at teacher conferences, moved file cabinets between several offices until they landed at Oregon State University, helped begin the Fall Harvest fundraiser, and spent years revising new editions of the Get Oregonized history book and Student Activity Guide.

The transition from a collection of trunks housed in garages to a textbook in classrooms around the state is one that many people cite when speaking of Coon. "She really is the person who kept the program alive" says Tami Kerr, chair of the Oregon Dairy Farmers Association and the first hired staff, serving as director of Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom. Recollecting the early days of Get Oregonized and the Fall Harvest fundraiser, she credits Coon with dedication and focus for the projects, but also a leadership quality that made everyone want to pitch in.

"People trust her," says Kerr, "They like her and they want to work with her because she's right there in the trenches getting the job done."

The current director of Ag in the Classroom, Jessica Jansen, agrees. "When I began my position with Oregon AITC in 2014, Dona was the first person to guide and

mentor me through the role. She's consistently been a source of encouragement, knowledge and probably most significantly, passion for agriculture literacy."

The Ag in the Classroom program has grown to the point where hundreds of volunteers read books and lead activities in classrooms, reaching hundreds of thousands of Oregon school children each year. Similarly, the Summer Ag Institute (SAI) is another organization where a little bit of agricultural education goes a long way. In SAI, Oregon school teachers earn three graduate credits over a week of courses about integrating agriculture into their own class planning.

Coon joined the board of SAI in 1987 and still serves on it today. During that time, she has recruited, transported, and hosted teachers, making them feel welcome and ready to learn.

Why would it be so important to get teachers involved in a program about agricultural education? "We can educate a teacher" says Coon, "and that teacher touches the lives of an entire classroom of future decision makers every day of the school year for as long as they teach."

The agricultural education offered by AITC and SAI is a valuable way for Oregon farmers and ranchers to know that their stories are reaching the lives of children throughout the state. As anyone who has stood in front of a classroom or a field trip group knows, providing that education can be an education in itself.

That's why programs like the masters in agricultural education exist at Oregon State University, where Coon got her degree, but also why organizations like Oregon Women for Agriculture (OWA) and FFA are so valuable, since they ultimately support people within agriculture telling their own stories to reach even more listeners, readers, and consumers.

Coon's involvement in both programs makes perfect sense. What better way to put your passion for education and agriculture to good use than to make sure it continues on through the rest of the community and the next generation?

Past president of OWA, Helle Ruddenklau, thinks Coon embodies some of the most important qualities of leadership that others can learn from: "She is a strong-

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willed person, yet is able to get a diverse group of people to work towards a common goal. She is willing to work hard herself and sets an example for others to follow.”

Part of that example she sets is her willingness to welcome any and all to the work of agricultural education. As Tami Kerr recalls from one of her first OWA meetings over twenty years ago, Dona was “one of the first people that was extremely welcoming to me when I first joined. That’s always appreciated when you go into a room and you really don’t know anybody. You have a lot in common but you don’t know anyone.”

One simple but important facet of Coon’s reputation is a flair for artistry and craft that led to her creating floral arrangements for numerous industry events and then a business selling flowers at events and farmers markets in Corvallis and Albany.

At first glance, it’s hard to square including floral arrangements in the same list as serving as a board member or officer for multiple agricultural organizations.

Take a minute, though, and consider Coon’s flowers have appeared at a myriad of events over the years and the opportunities they present. The flowers are more than just a stunning addition to a fancy dinner or wedding. Every one of them was an investment of time and skill to grow, and then an arrangement of smaller pieces into a more cohesive whole. We can all appreciate the product in the moment, but we should recognize the diligence and talent that brought it to us.

Beyond that, every bouquet on a finely set table or under a tent at a farmers market has been an opportunity for someone to learn about agriculture from Coon while appreciating the beautiful product.

Some people might be satisfied with a high-level involvement that delegates the work of education and communication to others, but Coon’s business shows a different strategy. As others have said, she earns respect by working alongside everyone else, and her cut flower business demonstrates the same principle: use your gifts to reach out and make a connection.



Newly installed State Officers pose with the first commemorative blanket off the production line

Have You Ordered A Pendleton Blanket?

Oregon Women for Agriculture is excited to offer this custom-designed 64” x 72” Pendleton blanket to members and friends of Oregon Women for Agriculture.

This custom blanket is a beautiful representation of Oregon agriculture and celebrates the diversity and bounty of our state.

Please, share this with family and friends. This blanket would be perfect as a birthday or wedding gift.

The blankets are ordered, but not yet produced. As a result, there might be a small delay from your order to delivery.

In order to cover the credit card processing fees, there is a small fee associated with an online order. To avoid this fee, you can print the order form located on page 14 and mail it along with a check payable to OWA, 630 NW Hickory Street Suite 120; PMB 50 Albany, OR 97321.

If you have questions you can contact Katie Boshart Glaser • 541-936-0688 or katieboshartglaser@gmail.com.



Dear Oregon Women for Agriculture,

On behalf of the Talk About Trees forest education program and Oregon Women in Timber, we thank you for your purchase of a reserved table of eight at our annual auction, held Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at the Graduate Eugene Hotel & Conference Center.

The event was a great success! Ritchie Bros. helped us bring in over \$93,000 which is dedicated to Talk About Trees, our statewide forest education program for pre-kindergarten through 8th grade students. Since 1991, we have reached over 3.5 Million Students! The auction clearly plays an important role in Oregon Women in Timber's ability to keep Talk About Trees growing!

We look forward to seeing you again next year and hope that you had a great time at the event. Thank you again for your support!

Sincerely,
Diann Washburn, Auction Chair
Oregon Women in Timber

Ag in the Classroom Literacy Project Update

Looking back at this column for this edition for the past eleven years and Oregon AITC has always been promoting our Spring Agricultural Literacy Project and encouraging Oregon Women for Agriculture members to be involved and visit a local classroom. It goes without saying, this year is a bit different!

At this point, our Agricultural Literacy Project is on hold. There is still so much uncertainty about school closures and even if schools do reopen this school year (I'm praying they do), "extra" projects, like this one, will be sidelined. With these considerations, our board will meet soon and determine the direction for this year's project. Brittany Capell and I will be in touch with everyone who has materials and determine next steps as soon as we know more. One thing is for sure, we want to connect volunteers with classrooms and share the story of Dr. Temple Grandin and we will, one way or another! Thank you, in advance, for your understanding as we work through the changes together!

In the meantime, Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom has been working to provide teachers and parents with virtual learning resources. Visit our website, oregonaitc.org/resources/elearning to explore our offerings including Virtual Field Trips, an online version of the Get Oregonized history book and more!

It's also a perfect time to submit calendar contest entries! Kindergarten through sixth grade students are invited to submit art related to Oregon agriculture. Full contest details, including online submission, is available on our website, oregonaitc.org/programs/calendar. Submissions are due May 6.

Finally, I would like to thank the Oregon Women for Agriculture Board of Directors for honoring their contribution to our program this year. There is no doubt our program, like all businesses and individuals, will be financially impacted by this pandemic. The financial and moral support from Oregon Women for Agriculture is humbling and appreciated. Thank you for your confidence in us as we work together to create a more agriculturally literate world! I am honored to be a member of this wonderful group, thank you!

Stay well, friends! We will see each other, in person, soon!

Jessica Jansen, Executive Director
Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation
Jessica.jansen@oregonstate.edu or 971-832-2096 (cell)

Educating, networking, and communicating our story from A - Z

By Deanna Dyksterhuis

- A.** Activity color/books, Ag Conference Days, Art About Agriculture, Auction
- B.** Brochures, Buttons, Bandanas, and Barns tours at State Fair
- C.** Crop ID Signs, Cultivator newsletter
- D.** Defeated a state controlled "Food Policy Project" in 1979 and an "Ag Practices Act" in 1991
- E.** "Every Day is Earth Day for Farmers and Ranchers" bumper stickers and radio ads
- F.** Farm Expo, which evolved into Ag Fest. "Farm Trek" highlighting animal by-products at Oregon State Fair 1997
- G.** Gift baskets for first baby born on Ag Day, "Get Oregonized" through Oregon textbook adoption process 1985
- H.** "Have You Thanked a Blade of Grass Today?" 1970 film. Hosted 1983, 1994, 2009, and 2019 AAW Conventions
- I.** Inserts: "These are Farm Dollars"
- J.** JOIN! Oregon Women for Agriculture
- K.** KVAL-TV "Northwest Farmers Growing for the World" 1995
- L.** Legislative Days and Oregon State Capitol
- M.** Membership Teas, Market Basket highlighting the farmer's share
- N.** Notepads, N.E.W.S Team, Networking
- O.** Oregon Women for Agriculture organized 1969
- P.** Placemats, Parade Ag Day 1979, Property Rights brochure and signs, Pet Campaign for National Pet Week
- Q.** Quilt, patterns and stationary
- R.** Radio ads
- S.** Straw boards, Sheepskins (first fundraisers), Sharing the Harvest 1987-88
- T.** Table Tents, Teacher In-Service Days, which eventually evolved into Summer Agriculture Institute, Truck Wraps
- U.** Urban-Rural Conference at OSU 1970
- V.** Volunteers for events, mall exhibits, Ag Fest, Ag in the Classroom, Fair booths, Summer Ag Institute, etc.
- W.** "Will There Be Enough?" Theme for the 1981 Ag Conference Days Luncheon
- X.** eXhibits everywhere OWA could find to showcase our story
- Y.** Y? If we don't tell our story, who will?
- Z.** Zoo project discussed, never finalized

OWA has accomplished much in our 50 years as an active volunteer organization.

We were unable to prevent a ban on grass seed field burning (a management tool), but we did support research and successfully buy time (decades) for alternatives.

The crop ID signs created in 1973 as small hand letter "little wooden" signs are one of the most successful projects. No matter how many times we contacted the Department of Transportation, we could only place them on Peoria Road, no major highways! We received a feature story in the August 1984 Sunset magazine. Today's professional crop ID signs are awesome and much appreciated by the public.

Tours of farms and ranches, timber operations, fisheries, wineries, etc. continue to be popular and great opportunities to visit with the non-farm public.

Adopt-a-Legislator was an idea. Try? Issues affecting agriculture can be tackled in the off-year legislative session before they become bills, which is how OWA helped stop a proposed Ag Practices Act bill in 1991.



Glenn Miller Seed
Transag, Inc

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE OWA MEMBERS WHO PLANNED FOR MONTHS LEADING UP TO OUR ANNUAL AUCTION. YOU ARE APPRECIATED AND WHAT MAKE OWA A STRONG VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION!

Have you renewed your Oregon Women for Agriculture membership this year?

IF NOT, ON THE NEXT PAGE YOU WILL FIND A FORM THAT CAN BE PRINTED AND FILLED OUT AND A LINK TO RENEW ELECTRONICALLY

SUMMER AGRICULTURE INSTITUTE 2020

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Summer Agriculture Institute is a week long, professional development program for Oregon educators with little to no experience with agriculture!

| UNIQUE & IMMERSIVE |

Meals, boarding, transportation and CREDITS are all included with registration!



"DO IT! Best hands-on and practical class I've taken post grad. Any subject and grade level can benefit."

"One of the best classes I have ever taken!"

"The experience I had during SAI was unforgettable and unmatched by any other PD opportunity."



- Past Participants



Rachel Noble, West Session Coordinator
JUNE 21-26 | CORVALLIS, OR
sai.west@oregonstate.edu
541-231-5348

Kim McKague, East Session Coordinator
JULY 12-17 | LA GRANDE, OR
sai.east@oregonstate.edu
541-805-9946

Mail checks made out to
Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation to

1320 Capitol St NE, Suite 200
Salem, OR 97301



Summer Agriculture Institute is a unique and immersive, five day professional development program for teachers with little to no knowledge of agriculture. Throughout the week, participants tour numerous farms and ranches and hear presentations from a wide variety of agricultural professionals. They get the opportunity to ask the producers questions and at the end of the week, submit a lesson plan that they will use in their classroom based on what they learned!

"Summer Agriculture Institute is moving forward as planned and we are optimistic that we will be able to have a program this summer."

- RACHEL NOBLE, WEST SESSION COORDINATOR

**CLICK HERE TO RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP ELECTRONICALLY**

**CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE
ELECTRONICALLY**

OWA Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

County: _____

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

I would like to receive The Cultivator and AAW Voice
by:

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Please indicate any areas of interest:

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☐ Promotional Items*

☐ Conventions

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☐ School/Farm Tours

☐ Legislative*

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☐ Membership*

☐ State Fair Booth

* Denotes standing committee

**DUES ARE \$45 PER YEAR
(INCLUDES AAW MEMBERSHIP)**

March 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021

*Make checks payable to:
Oregon Women for Agriculture*

Mail to: 630 Hickory Street, NW Suite 120; PMB 50
Albany, Oregon 97321

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Date _____

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OREGON WOMEN FOR AGRICULTURE • 1969-2020

OWA defines a family farm as: a form of business enterprise in which the entrepreneurial decisions are made by a family engaged in the production of food, feed, fiber, fuel, forest products and/or flora for profit, which provides a major source of income and capital for reinvestment.

OWA defines sustainable agriculture as using farm practices and resources that produce safe, high quality food and other products for America and the world resulting in profitable operations that improve the land and environment for future generations.

OWA PURPOSE

- To educate and inform the membership and the public about the importance of agriculture.
- To educate and inform the membership and the public about the importance of agriculture to the economy and to the environment.
- To engage all phases of Oregon agriculture having mutual concerns.
- To communicate the story of today's agriculture.
- To do everything possible to see that agricultural interests are heard and dealt with fairly.
- To support and encourage research that will benefit agriculture.

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