



Rural Legacy

A Quarterly Newsletter of Women, Land, & Legacy
Vol. 1 Issue 2 | February 2013

2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

Be Counted!

America's farmers and ranchers have the opportunity to make a positive impact on their communities by taking part in the [Census of Agriculture](#). Conducted every five years by USDA's [National Agricultural Statistics Service \(NASS\)](#), the Census captures a complete count of all U.S. farms, ranches and those who operate them.

America's producers have a story to tell, and the Census gives them a voice to tell it with. NASS recently launched "[Share My Story](#)" on the Census website to ask farmers how the Census impacts their lives, operations and communities. A row crop and hog farmer from Indiana posted a story telling us the data is a tool to track, "how our herd numbers, acreage, technology use and practices...compare to other local farmers, farmers across the state of Indiana and farmers across the country."

The Census also helps tell the whole story of U.S. agriculture. Without the information collected we wouldn't know that 3 million farmers in the United States, only one percent of our total population, provide feed, fuel, and fiber to the other 99 percent. While that seems like a huge task, we know that farmers are stepping up to the challenge because the data tell us that
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Progress Update

WLL Rural Business Enterprise Grant Project

Each quarter, we will provide an update on the progress of this project that was introduced in the November 2012 newsletter. Work began earnestly on the grant project in the summer and fall of 2012 as ideas were developed by the WLL State Team for upcoming leadership development training for the WLL local teams in Iowa, Tama and potentially Poweshiek counties.

On January 18, 2013 the first session of the three pilot counties took place in Brooklyn, Iowa as a means to gather local input regarding community connections to leadership, how women lead in their communities and what support is needed for the type of leadership that women feel most comfortable with. Also discussed was how to connect women's leadership to not only community development but also business and economic development. The input gathered will be utilized to develop actual leadership development training sessions for these pilot counties in the near future. The three pilot counties had good representation from their WLL local teams at the session and provided valuable information that will lead to useful training in the coming months.

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INTERESTED IN A FACEBOOK PAGE FOR YOUR WLL GROUP??

We would be happy to set one up for you from the WLL Facebook page. Just email us at stateteam@womenlandandlegacy.org & we will get started!

It's an excellent way to share ideas, meeting times, other events, & more.



Team Spotlight: Tama County

Each quarter we will share a WLL team from somewhere in Iowa.

Women, Land & Legacy (WLL) came to Tama County six years ago. Since then, 136 women and men of all ages from in and around Tama County have attended at least one event hosted by our local group, with a total event attendance of 290 people at Tama County's eighteen events.

Tama County's attendees have requested event topics similar to those in other Iowa counties: farm leases, estate planning, beginning and advanced grain marketing, livestock handling and



Learning to vaccinate in Farmhand 101: Livestock.

vaccinations, USDA/Extension websites using Iowa Women in Agriculture's mobile computer lab, a summer monthly farm safety series, conservation practice tour, farm generational succession, local marketing and farm equipment hands-on.

But our September 2007 event is one which piqued the interest of several other WLL county programs.

Farmhand 101 developed from requests for several on-farm skills. Time and daylight for the evening event allowed for attendees to rotate through three mini-workshops, so attendees pre-registered for three of the four concurrent sessions offered: electric fencing, automotive, household electricity and fire extinguisher training. Hosted by Gladbrook-Reinbeck Middle School, we utilized the school's life skills room, indoor shop, and two outdoor locations.

The Farmhand 101 concept was well-attended, and with many more on-farm skills requests, Tama County plans to hold Farmhand 201 soon. Consider the Farmhand series in your county, too!

Be Counted, continued from page 1...

U.S. agriculture is growing.

As preparations continue for this year's Census of Agriculture, we call on farmers and ranchers to [share their stories](#), [ask questions](#) and talk to their fellow producers about this critical effort. Your answers to the Census help grow your farm future; shape farm programs; and boost services for your, your community and your industry.

Census forms were mailed out in late December, and responses are due by February 4th, 2013. Producers also have the option to complete their forms [online](#). After all, the Census is your voice, your future and your responsibility. For more information about the Census, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call 1-888-4AG-STAT (1-888-424-7828).

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Additionally, the WLL State Team worked with the social media company, Lava Row, from Des Moines to gather input, assistance and resources regarding social media and its use as a resource for WLL. This resulted in the development of a statewide WLL Facebook page that will continue to serve as an informational resource and a format for all local WLL teams to share information, ask questions and become more connected with other local teams. Lava Row provided some general social media training for the WLL State Team that included Facebook and websites. Through Lava Row's assistance, the WLL website is being/has been renovated and is becoming more useful and user friendly. Additional information sharing and training will continue as this work progresses. Also, Mitchell County WLL offered to work with the state team to initiate the first local WLL Facebook page and will be working toward that goal in the coming months.

We are excited about the forward movement of WLL and anticipate the success of future progress!

Iowa County Women, Land and Legacy is sponsoring an event. You are invited:

Lessons in Grain Marketing: 2013 Market Strategy

February 12, 2013 — 1:30 to 3:30 pm

Williamsburg Recreation Center
939 South Highland Street
Williamsburg, Iowa

Elaine Kub, Presenter

Elaine is well known for her presence on The Big Show, Market to Market and as the author of “Mastering the Grain Markets.”

RSVP’s are encouraged to 319-668-2010 or 319-668-2359.

Rural Legacy is a quarterly publication of **Women, Land, & Legacy**. Our vision is to help agricultural women come together to converse, listen, & become empowered to act on their landscape & in their community.

We invite newsletter suggestions & contributions from participants & readers.

The newsletter is published each February, May, August, & November.

Email submissions to stateteam@womenlandandlegacy.org, no later than the 15th of the prior month.

www.womenlandandlegacy.org

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AND

An email address:

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SORTING OUT THE PIECES: A CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN LANDOWNERS

If you are a woman who owns farmland in Iowa or Nebraska, you are invited to a one-day conference on Friday, March 1, at the [Best Western Holiday Lodge](#) in Clear Lake, IA.



The conference, titled “Sorting Out the Pieces,” will offer several workshops and panel discussions for women landowners on topics such as using leases, setting rent, fencing and drainage issues, land stewardship, dealing with wind energy developers, and how to work productively with your tenant.

The conference is intended especially for **non-operator women landowners** who work with tenant farmers to manage their farmland.

In addition to the speakers and workshops, the conference will have a lunch featuring locally grown foods, and following the workshop at 5:30 p.m., “Look Who’s Knockin’” – a one-act play and discussion by Doug Nopar, [Land Stewardship Project](#) policy program organizer, about who will farm the land in the next generation. The play is also open to the public; a free-will donation is suggested.

The cost for the conference is \$15 before February 24, \$20 after and at the door. For more info or to register, visit www.wfan.org or contact WFAN program assistant Carol Schutte at 641 357 3394, or carol@wfan.org.

Attention Hispanic *and* Women Farmers and Ranchers

If you, or someone you know, believe the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has improperly denied you farm loan benefits between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic or female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

Claims MUST be filed between September 24, 2012 and March 25, 2013 to be considered for cash payment or loan forgiveness.

If you think you might be eligible to file a claim, please access the Farmer and Rancher Call Center or Website: 1-888-508-4429 or www.farmerclaims.gov.

For guidance, you may contact an attorney or other legal service provider in your community. If you are currently represented by an attorney regarding allegations of discrimination or in a lawsuit claiming discrimination, you should contact your attorney regarding this claims process. USDA cannot provide legal advice.

Tidbits

- ☞ Newsletters & more may be viewed online at www.womenlandandlegacy.org.
- ☞ Check out our Facebook page www.facebook.com/womenlandandlegacy
- ☞ Please send us your ideas, requests, group news, pictures & success stories!
- ☞ The next newsletter deadline is April 15, 2013.

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