



Rural Legacy

A Quarterly Newsletter of Women, Land, & Legacy
Vol. 1 Issue 3 | May 2013

First Annual Iowa Women's Landowner Conference

Women Land and Legacy is happy to announce their recent partnership with Iowa Land Sales & Farm Management to put on the FIRST annual Iowa Women's Landowner Conference.

The conference will take place on Thursday, June 13th at the Manatt Center in Brooklyn, Iowa. Registration begins at 8:30 am. Various speakers and breakout sessions are scheduled throughout the day concluding at 3:30 pm.

There is a \$20 registration fee. Snacks, lunch, handouts and door prizes are all provided. Local experts from central Iowa will be presenting on Estate Planning, Agricultural Tax Issues and Planning, Farm Management/Land Values and Trust and Wealth Management.



All attendees will be given an opportunity to attend every breakout session and listen to each speaker. Mike Pearson, host of Market to Market and local farmer/businessman, will be moderating the event. Annette Sweeney, President of Iowa Agri-Women and Former Chair of the Iowa House Ag Committee will provide an engaging presentation during lunch. Local experts include: Rachelle Johnson-Attorney, Vince Johnson- Land Broker, Matt Mann- Certified Farm Manager, Susan Voss & Julie Yule – CPAs, Jeffrey Ritchie & Dale Farland – Trust Officers

The conference is ideally structured to focus on women and how they learn and interact. Small group breakout sessions are scheduled throughout the day. All speakers will participate in an "expert panel" discussion answering questions at the end of the day. Vince Johnson, host and panel expert...*continued on page 3.*

Progress Update WLL Rural Business Enterprise Grant Project

Our quarterly progress report for the WLL Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) project includes mostly "behind the scenes" work as a follow up to the January 18, 2013 session with the three pilot counties, in which local input was gathered regarding community connections to leadership. The goal of that session was to gather the needed local information that would allow creation of future local team training on leadership development, both within local teams and throughout communities.

The state team learned much from the local teams of Iowa and Tama counties as well as USDA representatives from Poweshiek County. They opened our eyes to various concepts, such as: language and terms make a significant difference in how materials are understood and used; longevity and experience of local teams need to be considered when presenting materials; tools and opportunities should not be seen as a directive, but need to be constructed so that teams have choices about how they use them. One of the most consistent and important themes regarding women's leadership that surfaced during the January 18 session was that women play the role of a connector and the importance of connections provided by women is instrumental in the sustainability and well-being of communities.

Additionally, Carol Richardson Smith (member of the state team), met with Jennifer Vazquez of the Meskwaki Food Sovereignty Project and an Americorps employee to discuss how the WLL project can connect with the tremendous local food work currently being accomplished with the Meskwaki Nation. There are opportunities for the...*continued on page 3*

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: Iowa County

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

The Iowa County Women, Land and Legacy team is excited to be this quarter's spotlight team! We began the Iowa County WLL team in August 2011. Since then, we have hosted many educational seminars. In February of this year, we were fortunate enough to work with Elaine Kub, author of "Mastering the Grain Markets" and regular guest commentator on WHO Market to Market. This marketing seminar was well attended by both women and men (mostly husband/wife combos). Elaine touched on many topics in regards to grain marketing, commanding the audience's attention and respect with her vast knowledge and witty examples. One female attendee commented "I really liked that she presented in our language. I don't usually attend these things because it's all men, but I went with my husband and I'm so glad I did! I didn't realize that Monsanto was investing in Africa's infrastructure or that ground is so expensive in North West Iowa with manure rights. I learned so much about the 'big picture' and on what influences the markets."

We are currently planning another learning session this summer on "Computer Skills." Our goal is to teach participants different levels of computer/internet usage. We will showcase different websites that women in agriculture may find helpful and interesting and create a resource catalog composed of experts/contacts, books, internet sites, etc. To ease the financial cost of providing these seminars for free, the Iowa WLL team published the first ever Women Land and Legacy cookbook as a fundraising event. This was a huge success, with many local women contributing recipes. Profits from this venture should help sustain the group for several years, easing the burden of finding yearly sponsors and relying on local businesses for financial support.



The Iowa County local team with Elaine.

Left to Right: Jennifer Ness, Lucy Stevenson, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, Leslie Osweiler, Cindy Landuyt, Sharon Hudepohl, Christy Axmear, Mellissa Zuber, Elaine Kub, Jody Peek and Terry Heinichen

Elaine Kub's Grain Marketing Lessons Video Now Online

Ever wondered how grain futures worked? A new video on YouTube helps explain the basics of successful grain marketing as well as provides a general outlook for 2013 marketing strategies.

The video features a 90-minute presentation by Author Elaine Kub, sponsored by the Iowa County Women Land and Legacy (WLL) team as described in this month's Team Spotlight. Kub, a well-respected grain market expert, is known for her appearances on the Big Show and Market-to-Market. Her book *Mastering the Grain Markets: How Profits Are Really Made* provides a 360-degree view of grain marketing for a broad audience.

The video may be viewed at the following link, on the Iowa Natural Resources Conservation Service YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKibSM-79ml&feature=youtube>.

WLL helps agricultural women come together to converse, listen and become empowered to act on their landscape and in their community. Through small group dialogue and focused conversation processes used by WLL, Iowa agricultural women are given the opportunity to inform agencies and organizations of their strengths and needs and what specific outreach strategies would serve them best.

Great Attendance in Howard County

Howard County's Women, Land, and Legacy group drew 34 women from the area for the "Seniors Against Investment Fraud" workshop on Thursday, April 11th at Cresco Bank & Trust.

Amy Bouska from ISU Extension, representing Seniors Against Investment Fraud (SAIF) and the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) gave a presentation about the costs of Medicare and investment fraud, common scams, and how to protect against it. She also addressed identity theft, common ways criminals can steal your identity, and steps to help keep safe.

Women, Land, & Legacy is a collaborative group consisting of the ISU Extension, Howard Soil & Water Conservation District, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency. Equal opportunity employers, lenders, and providers.

Future workshops will be announced in the newspaper and online.

Benton County Making Plans

Benton County will be holding a Listening Session!

June 4, 2013 -- 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
(Registration begins at 6 pm)
Central Lutheran School, Newhall, Iowa

Pre-Registration is appreciated, call the Vinton NRCS office at 319-472-2161.

Refreshments will be provided.

Come Visit!

We continue to improve our website to provide better resources!

www.womenlandandlegacy.org



PLUS
We added a Facebook page!

www.facebook.com/womenlandandlegacy

AND

An email address:

stateteam@womenlandandlegacy.org 

Project Update, continued from page 1...

...native women involved in gardening and interested in being part of the local food system.

Since that time, work has been almost completed to develop the next step of a training curriculum for these three counties based on the theme of women's leadership. The "connector" role of women in families, communities and on the farm will be an important frame for this training. The "curriculum" will be shared during the summer and will provide information, tools and opportunities for the pilot local teams that can be used locally to enhance partnerships, promote and expand their WLL efforts and become more widely known in the communities by getting more people involved.

As a reminder, one of the accomplishments of this grant project has been the development of the WLL Facebook page. Please use this tool as a way to inform others of your upcoming events and the successes you've experienced! Also, some members of the state team are available to assist local teams to develop their own local WLL Facebook page. Contact us for more information at stateteam@womenlandandlegacy.org!



Landowner's Conference, continued from page 1...

...expert shared, "Our goal is to target the educational needs of women in Iowa, focusing on their empowerment and encouraging local contacts and relationships. If I can save one family the heartache and stress that often accompanies family farm transitions by opening the lines of communication and helping them be better prepared – then this forum will be a success!"

Anyone interested in attending or learning more about this event may call 641-623-5263 and ask for Whitney or email her at whitney@iowalandsales.com.

You may also register online by visiting <http://iowalandsales.com/>.

If you wish to receive a hardcopy invitation in the mail, simply call or email Whitney as mentioned above and give her your mailing address.

Registration fees may be paid in advance or on the day of the event.

“Funeral Planning” Topic of Women, Land, & Legacy Meeting

On November 1st, the Worth/Winnebago Women, Land, and Legacy committee hosted a meeting for area women. The topic of the meeting was “Funeral Planning”. Yes . . . not a popular topic, but organizers were amazed by the response of the attendees.

Suzanne Gebel, Executor Director of Iowa Funeral Directors Association, was the presenter. Six funeral homes within the two-county area sponsored the meal. The WLL committee is made up of volunteers from ISU Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Division of Soil Conservation, Winnebago/Worth County Soil & Water conservation District, and community members.

There were several bullets of information listed on the brochure for the meeting:

- Pre-Funeral planning and advance payment for funeral costs
- Transportation cost after death, especially if long distance
- Insurance possibilities for funeral & burial expenses
- Typical services that are generally offered
- Cremation versus traditional funerals
- Who should be involved in making end of life pre-planning

Suzanne spent the most time on the final bullet.

She recommended a designee be appointed to be in charge of coordinating with the funeral home at/after the death of the individual.

She also recommended that the designee be notified ahead of time and agrees to assume these duties. If a designee is not appointed, one will be appointed by the order of inheritance. There are funeral insurance plans available through funeral directors; any funds from the policy not used for the funeral are returned to the inheritors.

Reasons to choose a specific designee:

- With a large number of inheritors, planning/agreeing may be difficult
- No family member is willing to take on the duties

Suzanne stressed that even if the person who died had preplanned the type of funeral (i.e. embalming, visitation, cremation) - the designee is not legally obligated to follow those plans. However, if the plans were discussed with the designee ahead of time, there would be a better chance of those wishes being carried out.

There are numerous things to consider when planning:

- Is there a funeral plot already purchased? Most cemeteries are managed by a board. Requirements for burial may vary from cemetery to cemetery.
- Visitation, church service, graveside services only, etc.
- Who will speak?
- Are pallbearers required? If so, how many and who?
- Will there be music? Are there songs requested?
- Who will sing/play?
- Is travel time needed for distant family members?

Suzanne recommended meeting with a funeral director and just begin asking questions. He/she can tell you what services they offer in helping with funeral planning.



The Worth and Winnebago County Women, Land and Legacy group sponsored a program this year on funeral planning. The meeting was sponsored by Funeral Directors pictured above left to right: Mel Schroeder, Schroeder and Sites Funeral Home, Gary Nerlien, Conner Colonial Chapel, Kirk Winter, Winter Funeral Home, Suzanne Gebel, Executive Director Iowa Funeral Home Association, Dennis Johnson, Worth County Extension Education Specialist, Bart Winter, Mittelstadt Funeral Home and not pictured John Lund, Petersen Lund Funeral Home.

Housekeeping Note - Mailing Lists

As WLL continues to grow, it is clear that a number of entities would like to contact the women that are involved. The State WLL team would like to remind everyone about the mailing list policy that was established.

The principles of the policy were to ensure confidentiality and security for women involved in this outreach project.

In today's environment, every agency and group is concerned about releasing personal information and we too need to remember the importance of FOIA and PII policies.

For more information on the mailing list policy refer to page 4.1 of the development guide at <http://womenlandandlegacy.wordpress.com/how-it-works/> or contact a state WLL team member directly or via stateteam@womenlandandlegacy.org.

Thank you!

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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Women, Food and Agricultural Network

Want to learn more about wildlife management and hunting rights on your farmland? Women, Food and Agriculture Network has developed a booklet with information to help you.

Wildlife on Your Land (8 pp) is available *free* as a PDF at www.womencaringfortheland.org. You can also order print copies by emailing info@wfan.org.

Women Caring for the Land is a program that helps women farmland owners learn more about managing conservation. Check out the calendar of upcoming events at www.womencaringfortheland.org to find out about meetings in your area.

2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE
 YOUR VOICE. YOUR FUTURE. YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

Census of Agriculture Nearing Completion

*As of April 24th, 77% of Iowa farmers have returned their Census forms. **If you have not received a form, please contact 800-772-0825 and one will be mailed to you.***

The information you supply through your Census of Agriculture response, regardless of how large or small your operation, is important.

Results from the 2012 Census of Agriculture will play a role in determining future decisions about:

- Farm programs
- Transportation and marketing locations
- Telecommunications connectivity
- Rural economic development
- Production practices
- New agricultural technologies
- Conservation programs
- And more

Make a difference for the future.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Webinar for Women Farmers & Landowners

Women, Food and Agriculture Network (WFAN) will host a *free* informational webinar on CRP for women farmers and farmland owners on Thursday, May 23, 2013, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

Presenters will include conservation professionals from the United States Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, plus Iowa's Department of Natural Resources. To register for the webinar, please visit:
<https://womenfoodagnet.wufoo.com/forms/z7p7m5/>.

For more information on conservation for women farmland owners, visit WFAN's Women Caring for the Land website, www.womencaringfortheland.org.



Tidbits

- ☞ Newsletters & more may be viewed online at www.womenlandandlegacy.org.
- ☞ Email us your ideas, articles, upcoming events at stateteam@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 July 15, 2013.

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