



Rural Legacy

A Quarterly Newsletter of Women, Land, & Legacy
Vol. 2 Issue 3 | May 2014

Women, Land, & Legacy (WLL) Mini-Grant Opportunity for Hosting WLL Events

Through the Women, Land and Legacy Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG), the State WLL Team is able to offer WLL local teams the potential for mini-grants to assist in their WLL efforts. Applications are due to the state team no later than July 31, 2014, and can be sent to stateteam@womenlandandlegacy.org. The state team will prioritize and make selections based on the type of session and topic, expenses requested for reimbursement, date of session, and other information provided by the applicant local teams.

Applications can be made for up to \$500. Funds can be used to reimburse WLL local teams for event expenses such as: speaker fees, facility rental, postage, printing, and promotion. Funds cannot be used for expenses related to food or door prizes.

Qualified events include listening sessions and learning sessions, as well as innovative partnership development or strategic planning meetings designed to support local women-owned rural and/or agriculture business development. All events must take place between May 1, 2014 and September 15, 2014. Receipts for costs must be submitted for reimbursement to the state team no later than September 15, 2014.

Local teams making application also must agree to, and cooperate with, the state team on evaluation of the events. Please direct any questions to the State WLL Team at stateteam@womenlandandlegacy.org.

Women, Land, & Legacy Resources for Your Local Teams Webinar

Tuesday, June 10, 2014 @ 9:00 AM

Register by emailing
stateteam@womenlandandlegacy.org
to receive connection information.

*Log in from home
or contact your local
USDA office or
ISU Extension partner
as an option.*



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Stay Connected Between the Newsletters!

Share upcoming events, share stories, email them to us at stateteam@womenlandandlegacy.org.

We are glad to post events on the website calendar and the Facebook calendar.

We will also share stories on the blog!

www.womenlandandlegacy.org and www.facebook.com/womenlandandlegacy

Second Annual Iowa Women's Landowner Conference

Women Land and Legacy (WLL) along with Iowa Land Sales & Farm Management are happy to announce their continuing partnership to host the Second Annual Iowa Women's Landowner Conference on June 19th, 2014 in Brooklyn, Iowa.

With women owning or co-owning nearly half of Iowa's farmland, they have the potential to transform Iowa's landscape and farm communities in significant and positive ways. Women, Land and Legacy is partnering with Iowa Land Sales & Farm Management to provide information to those who want to learn more about how to care for and pass on the land. Every effort is made to target the educational needs of women in Iowa, focusing on their empowerment and encouraging local contacts and relationships.



We are building on last year's successful conference by utilizing feedback from those 120 attendees. Two sessions will discuss estate planning with local experts from central Iowa. The other sessions will cover the 2014 Farm Bill programs with local USDA experts. This will be one of the first public meetings in Iowa to feature 2014 Farm Bill information in detail! The casual atmosphere and focus on local experts and resources make this a uniquely personal experience. A participant from last year's conference described the event as "an informal gathering of friends with lots of good food, networking and useful information." Another attendee wrote "Great presenters and great facilities! I will encourage women connected to Ag in banking, insurance and Ag business to attend as well (not just farm owners)."

Mike Pearson, host of Market to Market and local farmer/businessman, will be moderating the event. Liz Mathis, current Iowa Senator, and former college professor and television news anchor, will kick-off the conference with an engaging keynote address. Joan Johanson, Humorist from Gowrie, Iowa will close out the day. Local session experts include: Rachele Johnson, Attorney; Mark Hubbard, Financial Advisor with Farm and Business Financial Services; Jennifer Ness, Iowa County Executive Director – USDA FSA & Iowa County WLL team member; Kate Timmerman, Iowa County District Conservationist & Iowa County WLL team member; Kevin McClure, Chief Agricultural Program Specialist at the Iowa State FSA Office.

The conference will be held on Thursday, June 19th at the Michael J. Manatt Community Center in Brooklyn, Iowa.

Registration begins at 8:30 am. Various speakers are scheduled throughout the day, concluding at 3:30 pm. Early registration is \$30 for those registered by June 9th. After June 9th, the registration fee is \$40. Snacks, lunch, handouts and door prizes are all provided.

To reserve your seat at the conference, register online by visiting <http://iowalandsales.com/>.

You may also call [641-623-5263](tel:641-623-5263) and ask for Whitney or email her at whitney@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.



Women, Land and Legacy Around Iowa

We have asked for your groups' updates, news, & pictures. Thank you for the wonderful response!

Mills & Fremont County

The Mills and Fremont County Women, Land and Legacy committee came together to host its first event in August 2012. The group has been innovative in designing programs that are interesting, educational and fun throughout 2013.

Because it is important to understand best practices for making decisions about farm leasing, the group invited professional Pam Grap to share her expertise with participants. Topics included leasing alternatives, rental terms, written leases, and managing risk. In addition to this education, small business entrepreneurs were on site to discuss their ventures and share their local products, such as honey, wine and homemade soaps. Women were able to sample products and learn about the businesses while they networked with other community members.

The WLL committee sponsored another event at Sugar Clay Winery. This event combined education, food, wine and entertainment. A presentation was given about nutrient reduction to improve water ways and systems. Participants also learned about ways to maintain high quality drinking water at home. A local swine producer shared information about the livestock industry, and how neighborhoods and communities can adapt and thrive through growth.

The attendees were treated to entertainment as they experienced the latest country fashion modeled by our very own committee members.

In Iowa, the summer months provide an opportunity for families to enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables. There are financial and health advantages to growing and buying locally grown foods. The WLL committee brought in Dr. Kathleen Delate, ISU Extension Organic Specialist, to share information about organic agriculture. She discussed components of growing organically, outlined what it takes to become a certified grower, and addressed the impact of growing methods on food quality. After the presentation by Dr. Delate, the group moved out to David and Therese Sunderman's farm to tour their working high tunnel and local food farming operation.



The Mills and Fremont County WLL is looking forward to providing more learning opportunities for rural women in 2014!

Cerro Gordo County

The Cerro Gordo County Women, Land and Legacy meeting was well attended by 39 people. Sterling Young gave a brief overview of his company, Hertz Farm Management. Ann Johanns gave a presentation, "Ag Decision Maker, Farm Management Tools and Resources from ISU Extension and Outreach," for the ladies. Ag Decision Maker is an agricultural economics and business web site. The web address is www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm. Hertz Farm Management graciously sponsored the meal.

Howard County

Howard County's Women, Land, and Legacy group saw a great turnout of 32 people for a tour of the Cresco Regional Health Services hospital on Thursday, April 10th, 2014. Connie Kuennen started off the meeting with information about the "Create Tomorrow's Care" campaign. Steve Burke and Brenda Moser (pictured) gave a walking tour, highlighting 18,000 square feet of renovations and 18,000 square feet of new construction. The facility boasts improved privacy, larger patient rooms, and updated state-of-the-art equipment. Refreshments were served afterwards. See more pictures online!



Tama County

While speaking of this fabulous USDA outreach program at a local business recently, one Tama County Women, Land & Legacy core committee member was asked, "So are you involved in it because of women, land or legacy?" to which she promptly replied, "All three!"

Tama County WLL began with its Level I meeting in February 2007. 46 people braved frigid winter weather to attend. Thus began an event topic list that is constantly growing and has guided this group through 21 events. 164 women and men from in and around Tama County have attended the local events a total of 356 times, an average of 17.0 people per event.

"Accurate and factual information that was presented in dialogue that was understandable," shared one audience member of Montezuma attorney Rachelle Johnson. "I enjoyed the speaker. She was able to state her information clearly and also in an entertaining manner," said another at Tama County Women, Land & Legacy's Winter 2014 event, Land & Lease Lingo. Rachelle had captivated the group all evening with her legal know-how and wit on the topic of farm leases during the March 26th gathering where 29 women and men were in attendance. A number of lease aspects were discussed that night including rental types and rates, signing and payment schedules, tenant rights and responsibilities and a landowner's entitlement to conservation measures and nutrient levels on their land. Special thanks go to Sara Berges of the Allamakee Soil & Water Conservation District for recommending materials for this lease event.

Tama County WLL invites you to attend its remaining 2014 programming.

Early June will find the group touring Hinegardner's Orchard, rural Montour in southwestern Tama County. This family-operated business began with an apple orchard planted in 1960 and has grown to 3000 apple trees in 20 varieties. Besides the orchard, Tama County WLL will be touring the family's raspberries, melons, squash, pumpkins and strawberries. The Hinegardners' fruits and vegetables are available as pick-your-own or pre-picked and may also be found at local Fareway and Hy-Vee grocery stores as well as the Grinnell and Des Moines farmers markets. A date is yet to be announced. Watch for more information on this fun event!

The group's fall event will be a pasture walk scheduled for August 26 at the Rebecca Dostal farm near Clutier in central Tama County. Rebecca is putting the finishing touches on a number of newly-installed pasture practices including permanent paddock fencing, interseeding, brush control, a pond and a livestock watering facility. Iowa State University Extension Livestock Specialist Denise Schwab will be among the event's speakers. Wear footwear suitable for "pasture conditions." Please join us!



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 & may be viewed at www.womenlandandlegacy.org.

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

Visit us on our **Facebook** page www.facebook.com/womenlandandlegacy.

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Iowa Women Caring for the Land Meetings



These free meetings, for women only, will focus on Soil Health. Each meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and go until 3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided, and during an afternoon field tour participants will travel to a nearby farm to watch a demonstration of soil testing. The tests will measure for soil structure and stability and infiltration. We will walk a short distance into a field, so wear or bring appropriate clothing and footwear.

Maintaining healthy soil is the key to productivity and environmental health for our farmland. Women landowners will learn at this meeting how to assess and improve the health of their soils through practices such as cover crops, no-till and strip-till, among other conservation practices. *Over half the farmland in Iowa is currently owned or co-owned by women.* Women, Food and Agriculture Network's program Women Caring for the LandSM offers a peer-to-peer, informal discussion format to allow women landowners to talk about your individual farm management goals, facilitated by women conservationists.

Tuesday, May 13th – Creston

Super 8 Motel, 804 West Taylor, Hwys 34 & 25, Creston

RSVP by 4 p.m. Friday, May 9th, to Deb at [641-782-8426](tel:641-782-8426) or debruby@ia.edu.

(Funded by a grant from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's Division of Soil Conservation)

Friday, May 16th -- Wellman, Iowa

Wellman Banquet Center, 525 13th St, Wellman

RSVP by 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 14th, to, Vanessa, vfixmeroraiz@gmail.com or [319-656-2310](tel:319-656-2310) or [919-923-6211](tel:919-923-6211) cell phone.

(Funded by a Conservation Innovation Grant from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.)

<http://womencaringfortheland.org/iowa/>

Women, Food and Agriculture Network (WFAN) has developed a program called **Women Caring for the LandSM** (WCL), designed to serve female non-operator landowners who are interested in learning more about conservation.

The program is successful, popular, and in increasing demand among both women landowners and agency partners such as NRCS and state departments of natural resources.

2012 Census Report is Available

The Census of Agriculture is the leading source of facts and figures about American agriculture. Conducted every five years, the Census provides a detailed picture of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. It is the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the United States. Participation by every farmer and rancher, regardless of the size or type of operation, is vitally important. By responding to the Census, producers are helping themselves, their communities and all of U.S. agriculture.



The 2012 Census of Agriculture collected information concerning all areas of farming and ranching operations, including production expenses, market value of products, and operator characteristics. This information is used by everyone who provides services to farmers and rural communities - including federal, state and local governments, agribusinesses, and many others.

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