Getting with the Women, Land & Legacy Program!
By Wren Almitra

Women, Land & Legacy is a highly successful, state-wide program in Iowa. It works at the local level, generally by county, and is led by teams of local women. These local teams provide educational and networking opportunities called “learning sessions” based on feedback received by women in their area. It’s a bottom-up approach to outreach that has impacted over 3,000 individuals over the past 11 years.

So, how do you get with the program? First, do you know if there is a local WLL team doing outreach in your county or a county near you? If you aren’t sure, you can click here to view our map of active counties.

If there is a team nearby, contact them to get on their contact list and attend events when you can. (You can find contact information for each team with the map link above.)

If you would like to get a WLL effort going in your county, we can help with that! Contact us and we will talk with you about next steps and will reach out to agency representatives in your county to let them know there is local interest.

Last, you can help spread the word about Women, Land & Legacy by talking about it with your peers and inviting them to WLL events, sharing our website, and giving a thumbs-up to our Facebook page and encouraging friends to do the same. No matter how you get involved, we look forward to having you as part of our WLL team!

Want to hear more about WLL and how to get involved? Watch our webinar, hosted by Iowa Learning Farms, by clicking here.

Did you know? WLL is active in 24 counties in Iowa! We are always looking to expand into new counties and are also looking to grow into other states. Contact us to learn more! Wren Almitra, WLL Coordinator: wren@wfan.org, 215/384-3094 or stateteam@womenlandandlegacy.org.
Health Survey for Beginning Women Farmers

Are you a new or beginning farmer? Your input is needed through a health survey as part of a study of how on-farm activities contribute to muscle and joint problems, agriculture-related injuries, and overall health and well-being. The study is being conducted by a public health graduate student at the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health at the University of Iowa. Her study will help to understand the job demands of beginning farmers specifically, and will provide an evidence base for future safety and health care tailored to these farmers’ needs.

You will be compensated $20 for your time and effort. You can access the survey here. You may also copy and paste the following link into your browser to take the survey: https://uiowa.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_7P4mxNIuOpzrcXP

Please contact Maya Ramaswamy (maya-ramaswamy@uiowa.edu, 319-384-1519) with questions.

4th Annual Iowa Women Landowner’s Conference

Iowa Co. WLL, along with Iowa Land Sales & Farm Management, are happy to announce their continuing partnership hosting the Fourth Annual Iowa Women Landowner Conference on June 16th, 2016 in Brooklyn, IA.

The conference has addressed a variety of relevant topics the past three years. In 2016, our agenda will feature four powerhouse presenters. Dave Baker, Farm Transition Specialist with ISU extension, will discuss Farm Succession Planning and Legacy. Melissa O’Rourke, Agribusiness Specialist and Attorney with ISU extension will present on Farmland Leasing and Communication Strategies and highlight the logistics of Estate Planning with the Top 10 Estate Planning Mistakes. Angie Treptow, Regional Vice President with Farm Credit Services of America, will talk on Agriculture: Looking Forward. For the 4th year in a row, Mike Pearson, host of IPTV’s Market to Market, will be the Master of Ceremonies, injecting humor and engaging the audience with his local charm.

The conference will be held on Thursday, June 16th at the Michael J. Manatt Community Center in Brooklyn, IA. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Various speakers are scheduled throughout the day, concluding around 3:30 p.m. The conference fee is $30. Breakfast, 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 319-668-2010 ex. 2, or email Jennifer.Ness@ia.usda.gov. Registration fees may be paid in advance or online the day of the event. Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this conference should contact Jennifer Ness at least 7 days prior to the conference. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.
USDA Launches First-Ever Local Foods Survey
*Study will Provide New Data on Locally Grown and Sold Foods*
From USDA April 7th Press Release

USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is conducting this first-time survey to produce official benchmark data on the local food sector in the United States.

“More than 160,000 farms have direct and intermediated sales and industry estimates suggest the value of the local foods market was nearly $12 billion in 2014,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “This is important information that was used to inform support for local and regional food systems in the Agricultural Act of 2014. Now as communities are using these programs to help grow the local food sector, this new survey will help show where the sector is today and help identify future needs.”

Iowa farm families sold $17.5 million dollars of agricultural products direct to consumers in 2012 according to the Census of Agriculture published by NASS. This is more than three times the $5.4 million direct to consumer sales reported on the 1992 Census of Agriculture.

The survey will be mailed to a random sample of farmers in early April 2016. Producers who receive the 2015 Local Food Marketing Practices Survey from NASS are strongly encouraged to respond. Farmers and ranchers can fill out the survey online via a secure website, [www.agcounts.usda.gov](http://www.agcounts.usda.gov), or return their form by mail. More information on the survey can be found online at [http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/Local_Food/](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/Local_Food/).

National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) supplies NASS with data collectors for the whole country. In Iowa, there are approximately 60 NASDA part-time staff collecting data in all 99 counties. What are the current surveys? NASDA field staff are busy collecting data for a Local Foods Survey and will be collecting data for June Area, Quarterly Hog Survey, and Quarterly Crop Survey in early June. In July, look for orange flags in fields near you as enumerators layout plots and make field counts until November as part of the Corn and Soybean Yield Surveys.

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**Women Caring for the Land to Hold Two Learning Circles in June**

On June 1st, a Soil Health meeting will be held at the Benton Co. Nature Center. Women landowners who attend this meeting with learn how to assess and improve the health of their soils. RSVP’s due by May 27th to Karen Phelps at kphelps@bentoncountyparks.com or call 319-472-4942.

On June 21st, a Legacy Planning meeting will be held in Hampton. More information coming soon on the WFAN [calendar](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/Local_Food/).
Two Outreach Programs, One Goal: Women, land & Legacy and Women Caring for the Land

Two outreach programs – Women, Land & Legacy and Women Caring for the land – are different in origin and focus, but identical in their goal: empowering women to become decision-makers about their farms. Below are some of the main similarities and differences between these two successful programs.

Women, Land and Legacy:

- created in 2004, Women, Land & Legacy is a USDA program coordinated through the Women, Food & Ag. Network since 2014.
- uses a “listening and learning sessions” model designed by the WLL State Team, giving agricultural women in Iowa the opportunity to inform agencies of their needs, network with other local women, and learn about farm-related topics.
- led, funded, and driven at the county level by “local team” leaders who develop learning sessions based on input from local women.
- currently includes 18 local teams in 24 Iowa counties, each providing continuous programming with 1 to 4 events every year.
- supported by a state team, including a project coordinator who has been managed and paid through WFAN since 2014. The state team supports new and existing teams with guidance and resources and promotes the program.
- Produces Rural Legacy, a quarterly newsletter highlighting WLL and other agricultural news statewide.

Women Caring for the Land:

- created in 2007 by the Women, Food & Ag. Network to provide conservation information to female non-operator landowners.
- based on a peer-to-peer “learning circles” model designed by WFAN staff and Dr. Jean Eells of E Resources Group.
- brings together groups of women landowners with female resource professionals to share information and support on conservation topics.
- field-tested in Iowa, now operating in 8 upper Midwest states and soon Kentucky (beginning in 2016).
- funded through grants and presented in partnership with local hosts such as the USDA NRCS, local soil and water districts, and state departments of agriculture and natural resources.
- usually includes one meeting in each community.
- publishes Patchwork newsletter twice a year, offering information and profiles for women landowners about conservation topics.

For more information about these programs visit womenlandandlegacy.org or wfan.org/our-programs/women-landowner-outreach. By email, contact stateteam@womenlandandlegacy.org (WLL) or info@wfan.org (WCL).
Grain Marketing 101 Learning Session held in NW IA.

The Buena Vista/Pocahontas WLL group held a learning session on “Marketing 101” on March 22nd. This program was led by Jamie O’Hearn with Pro Coop and was held at the West Iowa Bank in Laurens. 11 people participated.

Cerro Gordo WLL Hosts Session with Iowa Author

Cerro Gordo County NRCS, FSA, SWCD and Farm Bureau held a Women, Land & Legacy Discussion Meeting on March 31st. Free supper and registration was from 5:30-6 pm followed by the program from 6-8 pm. The program about her book, “Like a Haystack,” was presented by Margaret Grguric Smolik. Margaret writes and presents on surviving life in mid-twentieth-century Europe. 31 people attended. More about Margaret and her work can be found at: http://roots.traces.org/margaret-grguric-smolik

Jackson Co. WLL Team Hosts Fred Meyer with Backyard Abundance

On March 31st 118 people joined the Jackson Co. WLL Team for an informative session on edible landscaping, Permaculture, soil health, pest management, and more. The presenter was Fred Meyer of Backyard Abundance, an organization based in Iowa City. The team partnered with the Jackson Co. Conservation Board and Master Gardeners.

SW IA team holds 2nd Annual Women Gaining Ground Conference

On April 30th nearly 120 women from around SW Iowa joined the WLL team of SW Iowa for their second annual Women Gaining Ground Conference. The team is made up of women from Fremont, Mills, Montgomery, and Page counties. The event was held in Glenwood, IA and topics ranged from farm management to professional development to landscaping. Vendors, agencies, and ag. groups lined two hallways of the Glenwood High School while participants networked. The keynote, Laurie Guest, kicked-off the conference with a motivational speech filled with laughs and some teary-eyes as well.
Upcoming WLL Events

2016 Women, Land & Legacy Statewide Learning Sessions
More details can be found at our on-line calendar.

Cerro Gordo Co. Hosts event on Monarchs and Beekeeping:
May 12th, Mason City
Cerro Gordo WLL team will host two speakers. Todd Von Ehwegen will give a presentation on “Monarch Mania”. Randal Elsbernd will present on “Beekeeping”. This event will be held at the Lime Creek Nature Center, Mason City. 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Tama Co. Hosts Tour of Red Earth Gardens:
June 2nd, Tama
Join Tama County Women, Land & Legacy for an evening tour of Red Earth Gardens at the Meskwaki Settlement on June 2nd! Registration begins at 6:00 with the tour beginning at 6:30. The Gardens are part of the Meskwaki Nation’s Food Sovereignty Initiative. They market TSA (Tribally Supported Agriculture) shares to tribal members and surrounding communities and provide fresh produce to local restaurants, farmers markets and farm stands. Top off the evening with dessert and some of REG's own brewed teas! Please RSVP by June 1 at 641-484-2702, ext. 305 or melody.bro@ia.nacdnet.net.

Buena Vista/Pocahontas Counties Provides Learning Session on Tax Credits:
June 7th, Pocahontas
Buena Vista/Pocahontas team will hold a learning session on tax credits with Steve Ferguson, a presenter from the Iowa Finance Authority. Program begins at 6:30 p.m. at the ISU Pocahontas and Outreach Meeting room, 305 North Main St., Pocahontas. RSVP's can be made to Colleen Schwanz, 712-732-3096 x3 or colleen.schwanz@ia.nacdnet.net.

Iowa Co. Presents 4th Annual Women Landowners Conference:
June 16th, Brooklyn
Iowa Co. WLL team will co-host the 4th annual Women Landowners Conference in Brooklyn. More details are included on page 2.
SW IA Cluster Hosts Field Day
June 16th, Various
Join the SW WLL team, made up of Fremont, Mills, Montgomery and Page counties, for a visit to the Will and Deb Frazee farm, 1080 230th St. Emerson, in western Montgomery County to learn about raising a cow-calf herd. A meal will be provided by the Mills-Montgomery Cattlemen’s Association. After supper a tour will be given of Gregory Feedlots in northern Fremont County. Cost to attend is $5. Call 712-527-3316 by June 13th to register or request special accommodations. For directions to the farms and more information about the event, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/fremont.

Madison Co. Joins Women, Land & Legacy with Two Listening Sessions: June 21st, Winterset
The newly formed Madison Co. WLL team will hold two Listening Sessions in Winterset at the Madison Co. Historical Society center. The first session will start at 2:00 p.m., the second at 7:00 p.m., with doors opening 1/2 hr. before each. Registration details to come; stay tuned to the WLL calendar.

Tama Co. Holds Farmhand 201 Workshop: July 26th, Toledo
Tama Co. WLL will hold a Farmhand 201 workshop that will include three concurrent sessions covering three different topics: grain handling, farm engineering, and cover crops. Participants will pre-register for two of the three. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. and will be held in Toledo at Van Wall Equipment at Midway.

Women, Land & Legacy is on Facebook!

Have you checked out and "liked" any of the four Women, Land and Legacy Facebook pages yet? If not, we highly recommend it! Below are the links to Tama, Iowa, and Johnson County pages, as well as the state WLL page.

Tama Co. https://www.facebook.com/womenlandandlegacytamacounty/
Iowa Co. https://www.facebook.com/IowaCountyWomenLandandLegacy/
Johnson Co. https://www.facebook.com/womenlandandlegacyjohnson/
State https://www.facebook.com/womenlandandlegacy/