



Rural Legacy

A quarterly newsletter of Women, Land & Legacy
Vol. 5 Issue 3 | May 2017

Inside This Issue

- pg. 1 Tama Co. Celebrates 10 Years of Programming
- pg. 2 NASS/USDA Reports
- pg. 3 Summer Events
- pg. 3 Conservation Corner
- pg. 4 State-wide News
- pg. 5 Upcoming WLL Events

Women, Land & Legacy's vision is to help agricultural women come together to converse, listen, & become empowered to act on their landscape & in their community.

WLL State Team

Carol Richardson Smith, *Consultant*
Clare Lindahl, *CDI*
Laura Crowell, *NRCS*
Sarah Paulos, *Interfaith Power & Light*
Susan Kozak, *IDALS*
Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen *NRCS*
Wendi Denham, *FSA*
Wren Almitra, *WLL Coordinator*

Visit us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/womenlandandlegacy

We invite newsletter suggestions & contributions from participants & readers. Send submissions to stateteam@womenlandandlegacy.org

Subscribe or Unsubscribe

www.womenlandandlegacy.org/newletters
or e-mail
stateteam@womenlandandlegacy.org
or call 215/384/3094

Tama Co. WLL Celebrates 10 Years, 30th Event for Local Women

By Wren Almitra

Women, Land & Legacy (WLL) has been a growing program since 2004, made possible by the commitment and great outreach efforts from our local teams across Iowa. Tama Co.'s WLL team has been one of the longest-running groups, now celebrating 10 years of local programming for women in Tama and surrounding counties. Their 30th event, or "Learning Session", on beekeeping was held April 6th (and had a whopping 52 people attend). WLL Coordinator Wren Almitra recently interviewed Melody Bro, a member of the Tama team and previous WLL Coordinator. An excerpt is below; the full interview can be read [here](#).

What, in your experience, makes a strong, long lasting WLL team?

We gather each January to review the prior year's events and the list of Learning Session topic requests. Then we work together to prioritize topics and divvy up responsibilities for each session. I think it's also really helped that our agency members have farm backgrounds.

Your team is celebrating its 10th year, making you one of the longest running WLL chapters still active today. What has kept you going?

Plain and simple—the incredible people on our local team are what makes it all click.

What would you say are some of the key things women are getting from your events?

It's interesting visiting with attendees and seeing how people come away with different highlights from attending the same session. But no matter the event's topic, I think networking and the large group, small group and individual conversations have tremendous impact on attendees.

Continued from pg. 1

What do you feel WLL has to offer women in Tama Co. that may be unique from other programs and resources available to them?

I feel event time for conversation is what sets Women, Land & Legacy apart from other organizations. Also, it's not just scientific data—attendees request female presenters, so we do our best to provide them for our sessions.

How many women do you estimate you've reached through 10 years and 30 events?

Of the 247 individuals we've served, 174 have been women from in and around Tama County or absentee inheritors of local land.

WLL operates on continual feedback from local women. Have you seen those needs changing over the years in Tama Co.?

We've definitely seen a shift toward more women with hands-on farm operation and management. And there's always been great interest in farm business topics.

Have you had any big learning curves or eye-opening moments through your WLL efforts?

During introductions at last year's Red Earth Gardens event, a woman shared how what she'd learned at our 2008 estate planning session had later helped her work through her own parents' deaths and estates. That's when it really, truly hit me that our local project isn't just providing information and a chance to network. It's positively affecting people's lives! What an incredible testimony assuring us that our local project *has purpose!*

What an influence we can have on our landscapes and communities!



You can connect with The Tama Co. WLL team on [Facebook](#).

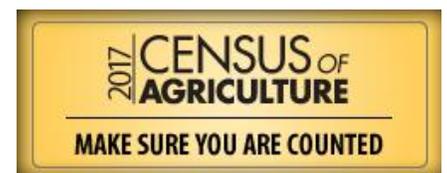


Census of Agriculture: Three Reasons to Participate by the Women, Food & Ag. Network

In each issue of Rural Legacy we've included a section with information on NASS (National Agricultural Statistical Service) and the Agricultural Census the agency is in charge of.

The Women, Food & Agriculture Network recently [wrote a story](#) on 3 reasons you should participate as women landowners and farmers, including helping get the most accurate, representative, and impartial ag. data nationally. This helps provide support for funding opportunities for programs that WFAN and other great women in ag. groups support! Read the whole story [here](#) and make sure you're counted!

The next data collected for women farmers, organic agriculture, small farms, local foods, and specialty crops will be in this year's Census of Agriculture. To submit your information to receive the survey form, click [here](#).



Get connected this summer with women in agriculture across Iowa!

Are you looking for ways to connect with more women in ag. this summer season? Lucky for you the opportunities are abundant!

- [FarmHer](#) and [Iowa Women in Agriculture](#) are both hosting great, information-filled conferences;
- ISU Extension's [Women in Agriculture](#) program will hold [Agronomy in the Field](#) and [Women Marketing Grain](#) workshops around the state;
- The Women, Food & Agriculture Network's [Harvesting Our Potential](#) program will host a workshop and farm tour for aspiring and beginning women farmers;
- many events will be offered through [Women, Land & Legacy](#) (see pages 5 & 6 to find an event near you).



A recent ISU Extension Agronomy in the Field session.

Conservation Corner

Get free conservation assistance from your local NRCS office.

If you haven't become familiar with the staff and resources available to you at the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) in your county, we highly recommend it! This branch of the USDA provides **free technical assistance** to landowners and producers in every county in the state, helping them identify the best conservation practices for their farmland. A few highlights of what your local NRCS staff can offer:

- create a conservation plan;
- have staff visit your farm to discuss areas of concerns and possible solutions;
- sign-up for state and federal cost-share assistance;
- attend educational events on farm-related topics.



A farmer near Harpers Ferry (center) meets with two NRCS staff. Photo credit: Jason Johnson



How do you find your local office? In almost all counties, the NRCS office is housed in the same service center as your Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. Use this [USDA Service Center Locator link](#) if you aren't sure where to find your local agencies! Learn more about NRCS [here](#).

Updates and News Around the State

Our Women, Land & Legacy teams kicked off 2017 with awesome events! Read about some of the winter and spring sessions below.

SW WLL, Women Gaining Ground Conference

On March 11th the SW WLL team (made up of Fremont, Mills, Montgomery and Page counties) held their annual Women Gaining Ground conference. Nearly 100 women participated to learn about a range of topics from food preservation, to communication in the family, repurposing “junk” into useful garden pieces and more. Stay tuned to their [Women Gaining Ground Facebook page](#) for upcoming events and next year’s conference.



Warren Co. WLL, Green Houses 101

On March 30th 40 women gathered to learn more about growing plants in greenhouses with the Warren Co. WLL team and presenter Diana Bedwell of Bedwell Gardens. Participants had fun making their own succulent planters that they were able to take home with them. More photos can be viewed [here](#).



Johnson Co. WLL, May 5th, Solon

The Women, Food & Agriculture Network hosted a Learning Circle for 25 aspiring and beginning women farmers in Johnson Co. on May 5th. Members of the Johnson Co. WLL team, some of whom are aspiring farmers themselves, assisted in providing a smooth event, where participants learned about programs and resources available to them as they consider starting a farming operation or diversifying an existing ag. business. The afternoon tour of three female-owned and/or operated farms provided examples and lessons of the hard and rewarding work that goes into farming. You can read more about this event [here](#).



Upcoming WLL Events

More details may be found on our on-line calendar, www.womenlandandlegacy.org.



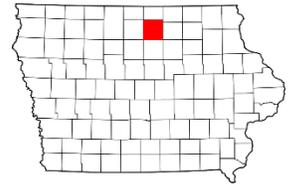
SW Cluster WLL to Hold Fun Hops Event June 1st, Plattsmouth, NE and Glenwood, IA

Join Women, Land & Legacy of Southwest Iowa on Thursday, June 1st to learn how ag. producers play a critical role in the emerging industry of craft beer production in southwest Iowa and southeast Nebraska. RSVP by May 25th. More details [here](#).



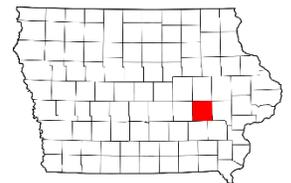
Cerro Gordo WLL to Host Event on the CLEAR Project June 8th, Clear Lake

The Clear Lake Enhancement and Restoration (CLEAR) Project is a community-led project to improve the water quality of Clear Lake that has been underway since 1995. Free dinner, 5:30 - 6:00 p.m., Lakeview Room, Clear Lake, IA. Program from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.



Iowa County to Hold First Annual Farm Crawl June 11th, Various Locations

The Iowa County Women Land and Legacy invites you and your family to “crawl” from farm to farm experiencing a glimpse of Iowa County agriculture as you shop local vendors and meet new friends at the 2017 Iowa County Summer Farm Crawl. 1-4 p.m. For more information and a map, contact the Iowa County Extension Office at 319-668-1052 or visit the Iowa County Women Land and Legacy Facebook page.



Iowa Co. to Host Annual IA Women Landowners Conference June 22nd, Brooklyn

Join the Iowa Co. team for their 5th annual conference. 8:30a.m.-3:30 p.m., featuring Marji Gulyer-Alaniz with FarmHer, the Iowa Finance Authority, presentations on Estate Planning and Trusts, and more! For more info. and to register on-line, click [here](#).



**Palo Alto/Emmet Team to Present Tax Info. Session
June 29th, Emmetsburg**

Join the Palo Alto/Emmet WLL team for an educational event on tax info. Located at The Shores Poet Room in Emmetsburg. 6 p.m. doors open, 6:30 a free will be served, and the program will begin at 7 p.m. RSVP to 712-852-2865 or paemmetwll@gmail.com.



**Pocahontas/Buena Vista Team Will Hold a Crop Walk with Field Agronomist
June 29th, Location TBD**

The Pocahontas/BV WLL next learning session will be June 29th. Join them for a "Crop Walk" with ISU Extension and Outreach Field Agronomist, Paul Kassel. More details will be posted [here](#).

Women, Land & Legacy is on Facebook!

Have you checked out and "liked" any of the Women, Land and Legacy Facebook pages yet? If not, we highly recommend it!



Dubuque Co. www.facebook.com/DBQWLL/

Iowa Co. www.facebook.com/IowaCountyWomenLandandLegacy/

Johnson Co. www.facebook.com/womenlandandlegacyjohnson/

Madison Co. www.facebook.com/MadisonCountyWLL/

Palo Alto/Emmet Counties www.facebook.com/paloalto.emmetcountywomenlandlegacy/

Tama Co. www.facebook.com/womenlandandlegacytamacounty/

Warren Co. www.facebook.com/warrencountywomenlandandlegacy/

State www.facebook.com/womenlandandlegacy/

Women, Land & Legacy is a USDA project coordinated through the Women, Food & Ag. Network. More at wfan.org.
USDA is an equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA,
Director, OCR, Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call 866-632-9992 or 800-877-8339.