

*Women, Land & Legacy*



Women Land & Legacy News

July 2021

## Local Teams Planning Events

It is an exciting time as Women Land and Legacy (WLL) local teams are once again meeting to plan upcoming learning sessions! Many teams have been waiting for COVID-19 improvements that allow planning of events, with hopes of in-person WLL sessions soon.

Quite a few local teams have been meeting in recent months to discuss future events and to do some pre-planning for late summer, fall, and even learning sessions in early to mid-2022. Most are looking at any possible late summer events to be outdoors, just to be on the safe side. Some great and creative events are being developed!

Guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) will be followed for any WLL events. Agency staff WLL team members will also follow COVID-19 guidelines issued by their respective agencies.

Some topics being considered are: farm bookkeeping and technology, stress reduction and mental health on the farm, succession planning, farm tours, farm crawls, conservation practices, and several one-day conferences with multiple presenters and topics.

Women in WLL counties are encouraged to share their learning session ideas with their local team members. WLL events are intended to cover topics requested by local women in the county or counties. A unique aspect to WLL is that it is locally led!

As events are confirmed, they will be promoted through many WLL and partner methods, so be watching for an event coming soon to a location near you!

## Iowa Corn Growers Association and USDA-NRCS Event to Focus on Farm Women

The Iowa Corn Growers Association (ICGA) and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are hosting a field day on July 20, 2021, at the LICA (Land Improvement Contractors Association) Farm near Melbourne in Marshall County. The event takes place from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., with lunch provided by ICGA. Registration begins at 9:30am.

This event will highlight conservation and soil health practices and address needs and resources of farmers and landowners, especially women. Presenters include: NRCS Resource Conservationist Tina Cibula; NRCS State Outreach Coordinator Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen; farmer and land improvement contractor Tim Recker; Tama County farmer Melody Bro; and Minnesota biological farmer Dave Legvold. A tour of the LICA farm is included.

Pre-registration is not required, although lunch is reserved by contacting Ben Gleason at ICGA at 515-225-9242 or [bgleason@iowacorn.org](mailto:bgleason@iowacorn.org).



## What agency staff involved with Women Land and Legacy have gained:

- More awareness of women's unique perspectives and experiences.
- Have become more intentional about reaching women clients.
- Better understanding of the key role social support networks play in providing women landowners professional growth and development opportunities.
- Understanding that “The women of the county now have a venue for participating in meetings that make them feel valued, important and heard.”

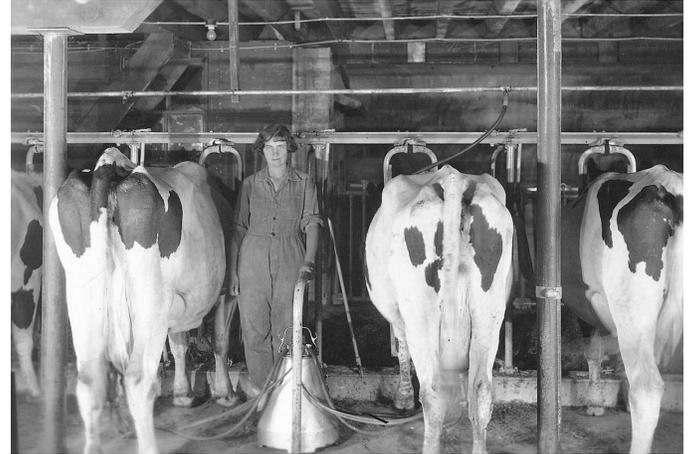
## Interesting Facts About Iowa Farm Women in the 1930's

“Iowa Farm Women in the 1930's” from the Annals of Iowa, belonging to the State of Iowa and State Historical Society of Iowa provides fascinating information about the life of an Iowa farm woman during the 1930's, which clearly connects to the life of an Iowa farm woman now.

During the economic depression of the 1930's, Americans suffered severely. This meant low farm prices, with increased farm debt and farm families were having a difficult time. Although, interestingly, the number of farms remained constant.

Farm women played a vital economic role during this time. Women's production on the farm constituted a larger and more significant portion of the household economy than it had previously. Women maintained large gardens and orchards while also preserving foods for use throughout the year. Women butchered poultry and gathered eggs, helped milk cows, separated cream and churned butter, all for use by the family and for sale.

The economic importance of women's home production for consumption provided tremendous value, 45% of the net family income in 1935-36.



The savings allowed some families to buy their own farmland.

Farm women were also earning cash, which was used for everyday expenses and to help keep the farm operation running. Some items sold included cream, butter and cheese to people living in town or to a local creamery. Eggs and poultry were common sources of cash income for farm women and Iowa led the nation in egg production, all coming from small farms. Women managed the poultry enterprises.

Farm women also picked corn, raked hay, drove horses to the fields, and did animal chores. Additionally, by 1940, 7.4% of Iowa's farm women had jobs outside the home. Many of Iowa's roads were improved in the 1930's, allowing women to travel to town. In the latter half of the decade, electricity was more prevalent, making farm women's work a little lighter.

With the cash they earned from their farm income and reduced household workloads, they now could take part in more organized social activities, including clubs and extension activities. As early as 1913, Iowa author Herbert Quick wrote that farm women were often unhappy with farm life because of its isolation. By the end of the 1930's, that had dramatically changed. As we know even today, social activities are an important part of a farm woman's life and learning.

While the depression intensified economic insecurity and dependency of urban women, it elevated the economic position of Iowa farm women.

## Recent Successful Learning Sessions

Two successful virtual WLL Learning Sessions took place since the last newsletter in April 2021. Buchanan County WLL offered their third “Connecting Women in Ag Virtual Seminar” on May 13 and the WLL State Team provided a statewide event entitled “The Carbon Market: Soil Health, Carbon Sequestration and Economics” on June 15.

The virtual seminars hosted by Buchanan County WLL have been very successful with good attendance and lots of participation. They follow a “lunch & learn” format being held from 12-1pm and featuring local small agricultural businesses. This provides the opportunity to learn about the business and marketing, which is helpful to current small ag business owners, those thinking of starting a business, and consumers.

The May event focused on local and statewide farmer’s markets and the small business ChopLocal, which is touted as the “Etsy of Meat”. ChopLocal serves as an online marketplace to connect meat producers and businesses with consumers.

The Carbon Market session was also successful with a high number of registrants and attendees. Presenters shared useful information about soil health, carbon sequestration, and federal and state conservation programs. Then it was all connected through a presentation and discussion about carbon credits and other components of the carbon market. Attendees offered many great questions to enhance learning.

The session was recorded and is available through all WLL local teams. You can find your local team contact by clicking on the link provided: <https://womenlandandlegacy.org/participating-counties-contacts/>

A possible future session on the carbon market may be provided when new and updated information is available. Experts predict definite changes in the future.

## New and Renewed Interest in WLL

In recent months, interest in WLL has expanded into new counties and those that haven’t been active for several years that would like to reactivate. A considerable number of counties are currently forming or reforming their WLL local teams and gearing up to plan their Listening Sessions.

To be effective, Listening Sessions require in-person interaction. The pandemic has complicated that part of the WLL process, although things are improving. We look forward to future Listening Sessions with new and reactivating counties when possible.

Any counties that are interested in learning more about WLL and possibly getting started in the WLL process are encouraged to contact either their local USDA Service Center found in the link: <https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=ia> or WLL Coordinator, Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen at [tanya.meyer@usda.gov](mailto:tanya.meyer@usda.gov).

*A past Women Land and Legacy event in Buena Vista/Pocahontas Counties.*

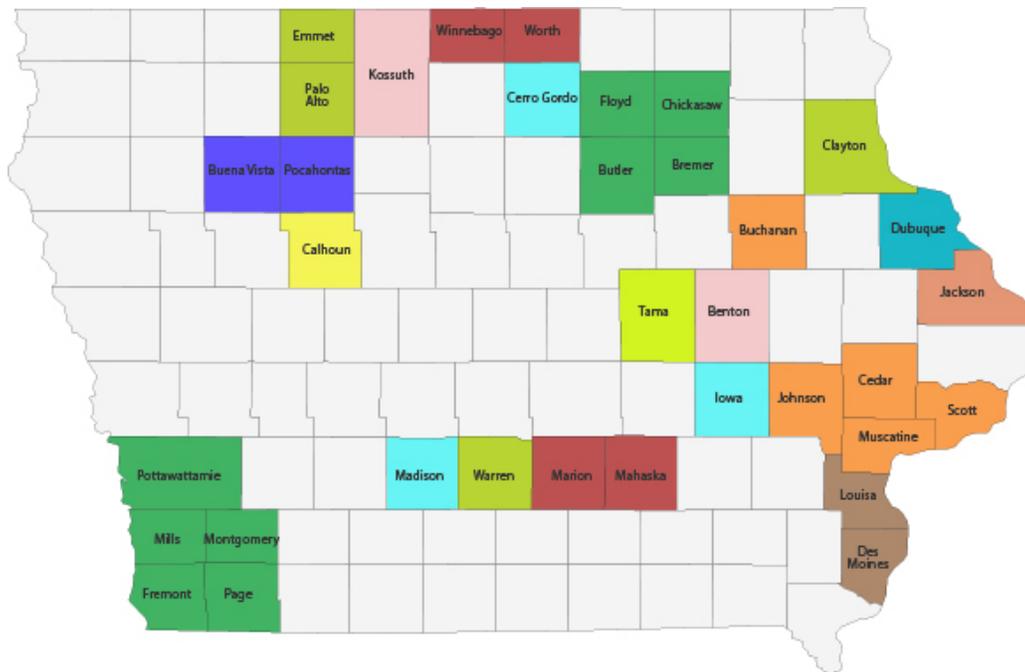


## OPPORTUNITIES

Iowa Women in Agriculture Conference – August 5, 2021, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny, IA. Cost is \$50 through 8/2/2021. Visit [www.iowawomeninag.org](http://www.iowawomeninag.org) to register.

Landowner Bootcamp Series (virtual) – 7/30, 8/6, 8/13, and 8/20 from 12-1:30 p.m. 8/20 session focuses on women landowners. Free events. Visit <https://practicalfarmers.org/events/landowner-boot-camp/> to register.

### Iowa Counties with WLL Teams



### About Women, Land and Legacy

Women, Land & Legacy (WLL) is a USDA-sponsored education and outreach program impacting thousands of Iowa women connected to agriculture. Working at the county level and utilizing dialogue, learning sessions and networking opportunities, WLL empowers women and provides resources for decision-making that impacts women’s land, families and community.



#### Connect With Us

[www.womenlandandlegacy.org](http://www.womenlandandlegacy.org)  
[stateteam@womenlandandlegacy.org](mailto:stateteam@womenlandandlegacy.org)  
[facebook.com/womenlandandlegacy](https://facebook.com/womenlandandlegacy)

#### Want to Start WLL in Your County?

Contact your local NRCS, FSA, SWCD or Extension Office. Or Contact Tanya Meyer Dideriksen, NRCS Outreach Coordinator, at [tanya.meyer@usda.gov](mailto:tanya.meyer@usda.gov).