



THE PLAIN TRUTH

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Newsletter 1

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CAW Members Attend AAW Convention

by Janell Reid

Three members of Colorado Agri-Women attended the AAW convention at Niagara Falls, New York, on November 6-9. Those attending were Janell Reid, CAW President, Dianne Clark, CAW Treasurer and Kelly Plozin.

On Thursday, November 6, AAW members headed to Canada to hear from several speakers and tour various ag facilities. Speakers included Cherilyn Nagel, who spoke about communi-

cating Ag to a non-Ag world; Leslie Stanier who spoke about recruiting Women for Agriculture positions; Anita Stewart who gave an entertaining talk about Canadian Food

and cuisine; and The Honorable JoAnne Buth, a Senator in the Canadian Parliament who spoke about Advocating for Agriculture. The group also heard a fun presentation from Stephen Bourne about the war of 1812. After lunch the group divided into 3 groups and headed out on the tours. Group one went to the Prins Growers greenhouse. This greenhouse grows fabulous amaryllis stems which the ship wholesale all over Canada. This



CAW members at AAW Convention. From left, Kelly Plozin, Janell Reid, and Dianne Clark.

CAW Annual Meeting

The Colorado Agri-Women will hold their annual meeting on Saturday, February 15, 2014. The meeting will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will feature speakers as well as the business meeting. The place for the meeting has not been set so watch your email for further information. This meeting promises to be informative as well as fun.

group also toured the Upper Canadian Cheese factory and shop. Group 2 visited the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre and Group 3 visited the In-niskillin Winery. Before returning to the states, the ladies were able to see the Canadian side of Niagara Falls and its beautiful horseshoe shape.

On Friday, November 7, AAW members heard from Tami Forero, a strategic event planner and CEO of a Colorado Springs-based company. Forero gave a great presentation on building your business to create the life you want. She also did a personal development workshop on delegating. At lunch on Friday we heard from Mitzi Perdue, past AAW president who spoke on tips for success in communicating Agriculture to a non agriculture world. Meetings on **AAW Con't pg. 2**

Relief for Farmers and Ranchers Affected by Colorado Floods by Brittaney Hudson

In mid June and early July of this year, the farmers and ranchers of Colorado were constantly sending up prayers for rain to come down on their crops. Multiple summers of little or no rain caused major heart ache for producers across the state. On September 9th, 2013 the rain came down in gallons, to the point farmers and ranchers were praying for it to be turned off. According to the Denver Post, in Boulder County within one week, they received 17 inches of rain in comparison to the 20 inches of rain they receive annually. The flooding spread across 200 miles and devastated over 17 counties within the state with Weld County, the largest agricultural producing county in the state and part of the nation, being one of the main areas of damage.

Weld County was mostly affected by the overflow of the South Platte River, which damaged over 3,000 homes, 350 commercial properties, and 2,377 agricultural parcels. In Morgan county, immediate evacuation was ordered for the communities of Goodrich, Orchard, and Weldona, with Fort Morgan and Sterling taking devastating hits as well. In other words, farmers and ranchers will not be asking for rain any time soon.

The main damages being seen by agricultural producers within the state are revolving around crop production with some livestock damage being assessed as well. With the aggressive flooding of the rivers surrounding Weld and Morgan County, many water treatment facilities were damaged causing contaminants and waste to be rushed through the rivers, submerging crops, hay, and stored feed. This in return, means hardly any corn, wheat, or hay is consumable by humans or livestock. Farmers and ranchers also face feed shortages due to their hay and grain being washed completely away. As for livestock, not many reports have shown devastating losses of cattle, pigs, or sheep but, due to the contaminated water supply, animal health and well being is a large factor being taken into consideration.

The ladies of Colorado Agri-women noticed the need for help and support within the state and the damaged counties. The organization knew it was their responsibility to play a part in advocating and providing relief and support, for the agriculturalists

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Friday included Membership Committee, Affiliate President's Caucus and the Board of Directors meeting. A town hall discussion of issues was also held during the afternoon. The evening speaker was Tom DeWeese, Founder of the American Policy Center who gave a very informative talk on Agenda 21.

Saturday's events included a hearing from Sheila Marshman, a Professor of Ag Business. She highlighted several ways to promote Agriculture. One of the ways they promote the dairy business in New York is they had a tent at the state fair where dairy cows gave birth during the fair. This tent was one of the most popular places on the fair grounds. The annual business meeting took up most of the rest of the day. The lunch speaker was Larry Gearhardt who explained the Affordable Healthcare Act for Agriculture.

In addition to meetings, tours and speakers the group enjoyed a Sweet W(h)iners session with cheese and chocolate as well as the banquet at the close of Saturday's events. New officers were introduced at the banquet. They include AAW President Sue Mc Crum, 1st Vice President of Resolutions and Vital Issues Doris Mold, Vice President of Communications Lynn Woolf and Treasurer Peggy Clark. Other AAW officers include Kris Zilliox and Secretary Lisa Condon.

The AAW mid-year meeting will be April 3-6 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, so if you are interested in becoming more involved with this great organization make your plans to attend. **CAW**

"Cultivators are the most valuable citizens...they are tied to their country" - President Thomas Jefferson.

CAW Elects New Officers

by Becky Ravenkamp

With any organization changing leadership helps renew vigor and excitement. Previous officers still hold CAW near to their hearts staying active by supporting and promoting the organization. New officers bring fresh ideas and interests to the group, making sure the group doesn't stagnate. The Colorado Agri-Women are lucky to have had great officers in previous years and have new officers this year.

The new leadership consists of President Janell Reid of Ordway, Vice-President Becky Ravenkamp of Hugo, Treasurer Dianne Clark of Karval and Secretary Brittany Hudson of Bennett. All four of these agri-women are active in their communities and bring enthusiasm and experience with them.

President Janell Reid farms and ranches with her husband John, and son and daughter-in-law, Chip and Nikki Reid, and grand kids near Ordway. Janell has been active in the Lincoln County Republican Party for many years, running the county caucus and organizing Republican visits. She is also very active with the Colorado Independent Cattle Growers and has been a long time supporter of the local 4-H and FFA programs.



CAW members at AAW Convention. From left, Becky Ravenkamp, Janell Reid, Dianne Clark, and Brittany Hudson.

Vice-President Becky Ravenkamp and her husband, Scott, have a dry land no-till farm and ranch near Hugo. She is currently on the Genoa-Hugo School Board serving as the vice-president and the past treasurer. She organizes the Colorado Conservation Tillage Association's annual High Plain No-Till Conference and is passionate about soil health. She also serves on other community boards while supporting her three kids and husband in their school and community activities.

Treasurer Dianne Clark is no stranger to being busy! Her and her husband, Cody, farm and raise red angus cattle near Karval with the help of their son and daughter-in-law, Jamie and Ryan. Dianne is a member or an officer of six community organizations, including the property rights group CARR who recently helped defend property rights for eastern Colorado landowners. As if being involved in all the community events is not enough she also happily volunteers to watch her grandson Wyatt, while anticipating the arrival of a granddaughter in December and another in March.

If you watched the 2013 National FFA Convention you may have seen Secretary Brittany Hudson. As a past Colorado FFA state officer she was selected to be on the national nominating committee and was honored to announce the new National FFA Officer Team. Brittany grew up in Bennett on her family's beef cattle and dry land hay operation and is currently an intern for Colorado Corn. Her experience with both the Colorado and National FFA organization shows in her professional conduct in the community. **CAW**

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**Colorado Agri-Women:
A Force for Truth in Agriculture!**

Floods con't who were placed a little bit behind in media coverage. Multiple approaches were re-searched, and ultimately it was voted in the November meeting that up to \$3,000 would be matched by donations given to Colorado Agri-women, but that \$1,000 would be immediately donated at this time. Colorado Agri-women and Colorado Farm Bureau are partnering in efforts to make sure as much help and support are given to those who sacrifice so much, to make sure we all have fuel in our cars, clothes on our backs, and food in our stomachs. Donations were made directly to Colorado Farm Bureau so the appropriate amount could be dispersed to as many who need it.

The next time you are enjoying a meal, driving your car somewhere, clothes shopping, putting on your make up, or enjoying any of the numerous products brought to you by agriculture, remember to thank the men and women who work tirelessly to provide those commodities to us. **CAW**



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