



## Women Involved in Farm Economics

*Educate, Elevate and Advocate for Agriculture!*

### Outstanding 45th Annual Convention

Guest Speakers were all women WIFE members with leadership skills making a difference in our world

- **Andrea Hutchison** from Oklahoma and a WIFE member protecting Private Property Rights
- **Angel Cushing** defeating Heritage Area Designations.
- **Debbie Chaves** from Your Faith Votes working with how to help your team work together and make your message count.
- **Paula Sandberg** presented a new marketing idea for your beef and vegetables.



Ladies,  
We had a great convention in McCook Nebraska. Members from six states attended and Nebraska WIFE did a wonderful job at making sure we learned a lot while having fun!

We toured The Wild Ass Hemp Farm and were able to watch them pour and make their special hemp soap which smells wonderful!

We then were also able to tour the Saltwater Hill shrimp hatchery which was fascinating. They order the shrimp and then place them in different tanks of water and move them to different tanks as they grow to maturity. It was quite the operation and very interesting. Something you wouldn't think you would be able to see in McCook.

The next day we were blessed to have small lady business owners come share their business information with us. We

had a very informative talk by Kelly Leggott and Alyssa Erikson who discussed the importance of the bees and much more. The bee pollination is crucial to our world.

We then had Casha O'Byrne present to us her mobile shopping business which had lots of goodies in it. Of course we had to do some shopping of our own. It was very nice and items were well displayed.

Jenifer made sure we had plenty of food and enjoyed our stay throughout the entire convention. I was able to meet many of the ladies in person for the first time and we had a lot of fun! We are blessed to have so many wonderful and talented women in WIFE!

We are getting ready to launch our letter writing campaign and we will be shipping you supplies to get started! I am very excited to get this done!

Thank you for all you do!

Belinda Sturges, National WIFE President



American Stewards of Liberty have been a blessing to Farmers and Ranchers across the United States. Whether in rural America or corporate boardrooms, they help citizens protect their lands and protect our country. From defeating the Trans Texas Corridor and developing the local government coordination strategy, to proactively delisting species— their work is

unique, effective, and has led to some of the successful efforts protecting property rights in America over the last thirty years. They believe as John Adams stated: "**Private prop-erty must be secured, or liberty cannot ex-ist.**" They are hosting the 30 x 30 Summit in Lincoln Nebraska on Friday, April 22, 2022 and have the day full of valuable seminars.

## Women Involved in Farm Economics

### Debbie Chaves- Senior Director of Strategy



Debbie Chaves

Debbie Chaves, Senior Director of Strategy for the National organization, My Faith Votes, presented ways to work together as a team. Debbie is a respected public policy advisor, strategist, and liaison to churches, businesses, and community leaders.

Debbie is fun, loves what she does and is openly a blessing to all she

works with. She understands the challenges of getting people who live in the city to understand our way of life and believes it is very important for us to get our message to the folks in the cities who want quality, American food and could be helpful to us in a legislative manner. Debbie emphasized that organizing our team so we first understand

each other, then strengthen our talents to work together to deliver our agricultural messages is key to our success. Debbie led us in a fun game that identified what type of personality we all had. It was really interesting to see how everyone scored and knowing each other's natural traits makes it much easier to understand each other!

### Andrea Hutchison Protecting Private Property Rights



Andrea Hutchison

Andrea Hutchison is our new WIFE state leader for Oklahoma and is the Vice-President for Chain Ranch. The Chain Ranch is full of tradition and history dating back to 1893 when Oscar Chain traded fifty dollars. The Chain Ranch has de-

veloped into a six generation owned and operated family business, with four ranches in Oklahoma, three in Kansas and several leased properties in both states.

Andrea understands the important of having your

voice heard and has been actively involved in legislation for many years. She is a joy to be around and knows her facts! We are so excited to have her spearheading and growing WIFE in Oklahoma. We have much work to do!

### Angel Cushing Defeating National Heritage Areas



Angel Cushing

Angel Cushing is a grassroots gal, that believes it is her duty to protect her rights as provided in the U.S. Constitution.

She was instrumental in educational and awareness meetings of other landowners. She shared her information with our

group. Spearheaded by Angel Cushing, a series of landowner educational meetings across the 49 counties was initiated. She had the help of Nebraska farmer and radio host Trent Loos, and Colorado landowner, Norman

Kincade, who had successfully fought off a similar designation in his area. As landowners became educated, they opposed the designation, and multiple counties passed resolutions opposing or wanting out of the designation.

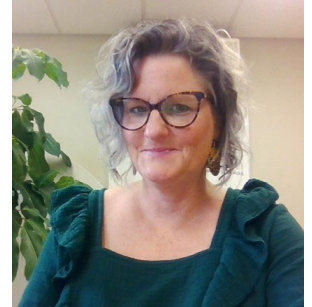
## 45th Annual Convention Edition

### Paula Sandberg Heritage Acres-Drive up Market

Paula Sandberg is the founder and key operator of Heritage Acres which is a drive through farmers market. She is a wealth of knowledge and information and shared with the group the importance of starting a home based business and using the many tools in social media to share your business and what you are doing that is different than

others. Their products include grain-finished beef, pastured eggs, pastured poultry, and open-air pork. They also offer artisan products and are continually adding new producers to join their group to supply local people with farm fresh, quality produced food. The process is simple. You simply place your order

online (\$25.00) minimum, confirm your pickup date, and show up at the designated drive up market, which is currently provided by the McCook Christian Church. Your order will be ready for you.



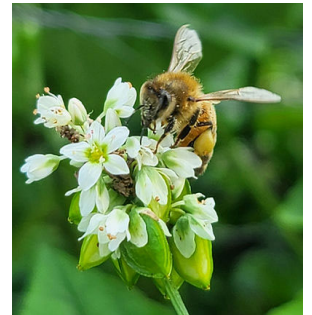
### Kelly Leggott and Alyssa Erickson Beekeepers

These women are beekeepers and shared their experiences about beekeeping and what an adventure it is. Agriculture needs the pollinators and bees are the best pollinators in the world. In the past we relied on wild bees to pollinate our crops but wild bee populations are now in

decline due to disease, extreme weather, competition from invasive species, habitat loss and climate change.

Bees leave their hives regularly and fly back when healthy and happy. In winter, special provisions

have to be made for them to protect them from disease. There is a lot to learn in order to do well with raising bees. There are bee clubs popping up, if interested.



### Casha O'Byrne Impact Mobile Boutique

Casha O'Byrne shared her experience of designing and operating a mobile shopping boutique.

She travels from various communities and does Pop up's where people can drop in and shop for their favorite items. The mobile shopping boutique has been a huge success. Her mobile

boutique is complete with a dressing room, storage area, check out counter and lots of inventory to choose from.

We were able to go out and experience the boutique for ourselves and enjoy the convenience of having the store come to you.

It was so nice to see

such innovation that helped rural communities have an alternative with nice shopping options.

What a great idea! We all enjoyed it tremendously and found a great selection of some really nice clothing!



## Women Involved in Farm Economics

### Lia Bondo Interim Executive Vice President USCA



Lia Bondo

Lia Bondo provided us with a great video update from US Cattlemen's Association. The update was very informative and discussed the immediate need for legislative hearings to review the state of the beef supply chain. Legislators from both sides of the aisle

expressed their concerns. At one hearing it was noted that there is a crisis in rural America. Beef producers are dropping out in record numbers. 40% of the cattle ranches have disappeared since 1980. The family legacy is being lost. Producers are faced with the fear of vertical

integration. One of the key things being supported by all beef producers and multiple organizations is the American Beef Labeling Act of 2021, Beef born, raised, slaughtered in USA. By all cattle producers working together, we can make a difference. Our voice is getting heard!

### Wild Ass Hemp Farm



Chris Anken  
Jenifer Felzien

The Wild Ass Hemp Farm was kind enough to host our ladies and demonstrate how they make their own home-made soap with hemp in it. We were able to watch them heat it and

see how the large blocks were made then cut to bar sized and processed right in their shop! They grow their own hemp on their farm and have various types of wonderful smelling

soaps available. Much fun was had while learning about the process of making the soap.

Most of us found ones we had to have of course! Much fun was had while

### Salt Water Hill Shrimp Farm



Tyler McCarty

Tyler McCarty whose family has owned Mac's Drive Inn in McCook for four generations, decided to add to the family in a different way....he wanted to raise Shrimp! Tyler shared with us the importance of keeping the

water at 82 degrees. His building he chose is perfect as it is underground and has great insulation for his project. When he first gets the shrimp they are in a special tank and fed 4 times a day. They are then moved to other pools as

they grow and are fed twice daily. Timers help the feeding process. Our ladies enjoyed seeing the different pools and how the shrimp were moved as they grew to harvesting size. Very interesting!

## 45th Annual Convention Edition

### New Officers Elected

New Officers' were elected and inducted by Ardyth Anderson. The officers are as follows:

President	Belinda Sturges
Vice-President	Kerry Froese
Secretary	Pam Potthoff
Treasurer	Jenifer Felzien
Area Director I:	Chris Anken
Area Director 2	Judy Trent

Commodity Chairman for 2022 are as follows:

Beef	Andrea Hutchison
Dairy	Chris Anken
Energy	Marlene Kouba
Rural Life	Jennifer Steen
Sugar	Klodette Stroh
Trade	Judy Trent

Pictured Left to right

Belinda Sturges

Kerry Froese

Pam Potthoff

Jenifer Felzien

Judy Trent

Chris Anken

Jennifer Steen  
(hidden)

Ardyth Anderson



A lot of fun was had by all who attended the 45th Annual Convention. We played cards and had a great time. You can tell by the smile on her face, Ardyth Anderson, from Nebraska WIFE had a big win and a big grin. She became known as the card shark of the group!





## Women Involved in Farm Economics

### Beef Commodity Report by Pam Potthoff

During the 45 th WIFE convention, members voted to sign on to a letter in support of The American Beef Labeling Act of 2021 (S.2716 and the companion House bill which is yet unnumbered.) This act would reinstate mandatory country-of-origin labeling for beef.

An Action Alert has been issued for all WIFE members to contact their elected Congressional Representatives asking them to support this bill.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act has passed and was signed by President Biden.

It is important for cattlemen to note this legislation includes an exemption for livestock producers from the restrictive Hours-of-Service regulations.

Livestock haulers are now granted 150 air-miles radius from the origin AND destination of their trip. This effectively allows livestock haulers to travel an additional 300 miles while exempt.

The Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act will

while exempt.

The Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act will provide producers with information they need to make informed marketing decisions.

This bill directs coordination between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Justice, the Federal Trade Commission, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. It grants subpoena power to aid in the investigation and prosecution of violators of the Packers & Stockyards Act, and bolsters the legal power of the USDA by maintaining a staff of attorneys and other professionals with relevant expertise that can elevate cases of corruption.

The Cattle Market Reform Act would require the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultations with the USDA Chief Economist, to establish mandatory levels of negotiated cash and negotiated grid trade for each USDA AMS designated cattle region, seek public comment on those levels, then implement. Under this new program, covered packers—on a plant

by plant basis—will be required to procure a certain amount of cattle from the cash market.

The Cattle Contract Library Act of 2021 (HR 5609) would create a contract library at the USDA for the beef industry. A similar library exists for pork producers yet cattle ranchers don't have access to a similar listing of contract terms being offered by packers.

The bill would require packers to report terms of alternative marketing agreements between packers and producers, equipping ranchers with additional market data needed to make Beef informed marketing and business decisions.

The Food Security is National Security Act has been introduced in the Senate to give top U.S. agriculture and food officials permanent representation on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS). It also includes new agriculture and food-related criteria for CFIUS to consider when reviewing transactions that could result in control of a U.S. business by a foreign company.

The legislation adds new criteria to the CFIUS review

process to ensure that proposed transactions are reviewed specifically for their potential impact on American food and agricultural systems, including availability of, access to, or safety and quality of food.

**The Growing Climate Solutions Act** would address credits for carbon sequestration. This program would be voluntary. WIFE needs to be diligent in watching what role beef has in carbon sequestration. Promisingly, researchers, in a 2015 paper in Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment, estimated that improved grazing methods could sequester perhaps 300 million tons of carbon dioxide a year worldwide.

**Beef prices** in the stores are reported to be 20 percent higher than twelve months ago. While feeder calf prices are up slightly, the definitely are not 20 percent higher than last year!



## 45th Annual Convention Edition

### Dairy Commodity Report by Chair Chris Anken

Milk supply was strong and on an increase and the price was not to where it should be.

The Coronavirus Challenge was front and center in NYS; with the recovery in the US economy; and civil unrest in a number of cities across this Great Nation. "ALL LIVES MATTER." Farmers are just too busy producing good food for this country. The Amish have great faith in God and their communities are busy working; like the English. We are one of the greatest countries in the world; and yet there are people going hungry. There is no food shortage in America. In NY most of the Events that usually happened were canceled, because of the Coronavirus Epidemic, County Fairs, State Fairs, yet people came up with ways to help support their local communities in different ways. Doing Take out Dinners (Chicken BBQ, Pork) as fund raisers, Take out Soups (Like Clam Chowder) as fund raisers for their churches, virtual online Festivals to sell items over the internet for the event, all while wearing masks and practicing social distancing. It was certainly a different kind of year. Schools are back in session with crazy schedules that the children and parents are trying to

figure out and make sense of. It is frustrating for the children and the parents with the virtual learning. Some children don't have good access to the internet; where my oldest grandson lives he has trouble connecting and staying connected. Some of the children have been getting lunches dropped off to them by school buses all summer with milk (Skim and 1%).

This fall 2021 kids are back in schools where they should be.

Restaurants, hotels, schools and college cafeterias are into need of bulk items for delivery. Most Americans were preparing meals at home. Bottle caps were hard to get for the gallons jugs. Milk sales have increased in the grocery stores; and now the sale of milk to colleges, schools, restaurants, and hotels are starting to increase. We could not find a gallon of whole milk in our local Stewarts Store had to buy 2 half gallons in cartons. Fall 2021 things seem to be turning around some.

The battle the dairy industry has been fighting over saturated fats for 60-plus years. Started with studies in the 1950's belief that saturated fats were unhealthy. Focused heavily

on cholesterol and the build up of plaque in the blood stream that was believed to cause heart trouble. Low-fat and skim milk products began to be marketed as alternatives to whole milk; and fake milk. Nina Teicholz, a journalist, in 2014 came out with the now well-known book The Big Fat Surprise that these long-held erroneous beliefs were seriously challenged. Her book conclusions clearly demonstrated that reputable research and science focused in saturated fats had never actually provided any evidence that saturated fats have any affect on cardiovascular disease or death. Besides alternates to whole milk; now we got fake burgers to really hamburgers. The nutritional value doesn't hold up to the really whole Milk and Real Beef Hamburgers.

Ruth and I talked about the fake burgers and what was in them. Look how the egg revolved, look how good it is for you now. Without an endorsement on saturated fats, 2% and whole milk cannot be included in school meal programs. Kids do not like skim milk, the taste is not the same. My husband will not drink skim milk he wants whole milk. The struggle continues many issues facing competition

from other products. "Why children and the public can not have 2% and whole milk in schools and institutions as a mother and grandmother I can not figure out; especially if it is healthy for you." We will still continue to try to change back to whole milk and 2% in schools.

RUTH LARIBEE

Will be Greatly Missed.

**Women Involved in Farm Economics** and I lost a close and dear friend on August 11, 2021 Ruth Laribee passed away. She was an angel and she always pointed out the best in a person. Ruth was a true friend and had a great compassion for the American Farmer.





## Women Involved in Farm Economics

### Energy Commodity Report by Chair Marlene Kouba

With supply down and demand up, prices of gas are rising. On March 11 crude oil was \$109.31. At least 8 Russian oil tankers were loaded but no port would accept them since they invaded Ukraine. Russia has supplied one-third of natural gas for Europe. Price of natural gas in the U.S. increased 72 percent on March 10.

In October the president asked OPEC to drill more while he has our own shut down. Even though prices for oil and gasoline have soared to seven-year highs, US oil production remains below pandemic levels. The American Petroleum Institute told him that we should be encouraging the safe and responsible development of American oil and natural gas.

On November 23, the president ordered 50 million barrels of oil to be released from the strategic reserves to bring down energy costs in mid to late December. The U.S. uses about 18 million a day so that is barely three day's supply. India released 5 million barrels, British did 1.5 million, while Japan and South Korea also participated. OPEC has made it clear they will control prices. Prices at the pump were about 50 percent higher than a year ago. All of this, as our own pipe-



lines are shut down and we should be exporting as we did two years ago.

On December 6 the president instructed the Federal Trade Commission to find if the oil and gas companies are doing any wrongdoing that may have fueled the rises in energy prices. He blames them for anti-consumer behavior. He told CNN in June 2007 that he would use the Justice Department to study any price-gouging. In the meantime he stopped the Keystone XL Pipeline, halted oil leases in a tiny corner of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, stopped oil and gas leases on federal lands, proposed a methane tax could cost the industry up to \$10 billion annually, encouraged defunding oil companies. In September 2019 he guaranteed to end fossil fuels. In October 2020, White House Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy said "I want fossil fuels out of products."

Geothermal technology is just below our feet where it keeps a constant temperature. A series of up to 1800 feet of pipe is buried several hundred feet below ground for a small house could cost up to \$20,000. It would take up to 7 years to get back the investment in energy costs. As water passes through those pipes, it absorbs the heat and moves it to heat the house. It can work in reverse to cool when needed. Steam can also be produced in pipes to generate electricity. Iceland gets all of their energy through wind, hydro and geothermal. It does not freeze there.

Natural gas reserves in Europe are running low and prices are high. Cold weather means they would need to import up to 10 percent more gas than recent years to avoid shutoffs but they figure they can get by. Officials say they need to invest in more solar and wind power.

Installing a residential

solar panel system costs an average of \$24,733 and they will last up to 25 years. Labor is about 15 percent of the installation cost. Some tax credits might be available.

The U.S. has been getting oil from Russia recently but now with their war on Ukraine, we might be getting it from Saudi Arabia.

The price of gas, fuel and fertilizer has dramatically increased in past few months. Anhydrous ammonia, phosphate and potash prices are all up. Farming is costing more.

The average wind farm has about 150 turbines. Each one needs 80 gallons of a synthetic oil based on crude as a lubricant every year or 12,000 gallons per farm. Each turbine has a lifespan of about 20 years. They are made of glass and carbon fibers with plastic and cannot be reused, refurbished, reduced, repurposed or recycled so they go into giant landfills, such as grassland prairie in SD, IA and Wyoming. Each blade is 120 feet to over 200 feet and there are three per turbine with 8000 being removed annually. Only 7 percent of the nation uses wind energy so what happens as more are built and where will the bad ones go?



## 45th Annual Convention Edition

### Sugar Commodity Report by Chair Klodette Stroh

We are truly living in a great country. I believe America has been blessed by our loving God. He guides and works in partnership with farmers to provide food, fiber, clothing and shelter for our people. Food doesn't come from the grocery store. The outbreak of the CORONA Virus or COVID -19 took us all with a surprise and we were not prepared for this pandemic. Many businesses were forced to close their doors to stop the spread of COVID-19. People stayed home to be safe and worked from their home.

As a farmer there is no way Rick and I could shut down our farm. Farming is a unique business. Food producers in this country have been working to make sure America has a strong domestic supply of essential goods such as meat, milk, corn, sugar, which has been taken for granted. Without farmers, grocery store shelves would be empty. In reality, far too many people are unaware of the role of American agriculture in their daily lives and what it really takes to assure our grocery stores are full.

Farming is an underappreciated profession; however, we have a chance to say thanks to our agriculture producers this year, as



National Agriculture Day is celebrated on March 21. National Agriculture Day was established on March 21, 1973. Few may realize that less than 1.5 percent of the U.S. population are engaged in agricultural productions. One American farmer supplies food and fiber for 140 people in the U.S. and abroad. It is without say the impact agriculture has on national as well as global economy. Locally, the economic impact of agriculture in Park County is over 100 million dollars a year. We grow Malt barley, dry edible beans and seed beans, oats, corn, sugar beets, variety of grass seed and alfalfa hay for livestock. Majority of the cropland is part of Shoshone Irrigation Project that was authorized by the Congress as part of the Reclamation Act and was built in the early 1900. The Sho-

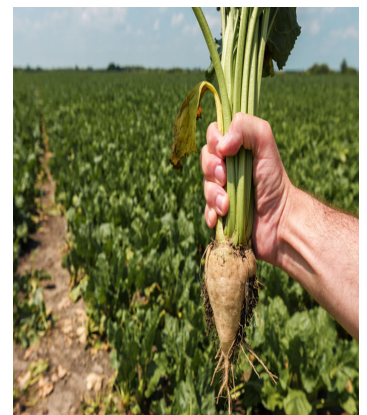
shone Irrigation Project is the largest federal project in the State of Wyoming.

Our local farmers hold quite impressive production numbers in the state. My beloved Park County ranks number one in production of sugar beets, barley and beans among 23 counties in Wyoming. Wyoming farmers rank nationally for Pinto beans production in the 4th place nationwide, barley 7th and sugar beet production in 8th place. The value of agriculture sector is estimated over 1.5 billion in Wyoming. Looking at our nation's economy farmers and ranchers contributed over 1.10 trillion to the U.S. gross domestic products in 2019 before the CORONA virus entered our country. CORONA Virus been very hard on every one especially on businesses and our

overall economy.

Throughout America's history, agriculture has generated strong and positive economic activities as well as provided jobs. Our mother's famous saying was 'history is full of true stories' she certainly was full of wisdom.

Looking back through the pages of history such as the Great Depression, the outbreak of World War II in Europe and all the difficult times in our country, God has always blessed us with his farmers. American farmers have proven their efficiency in providing food and fiber for our country. The farm family was the basic unit shaping life in America for over 200 years. Farmers are the backbone of this country and as American taxpayers we have to protect our farming industry and we have to stand united as we advocate for farmers.





## Women Involved in Farm Economics

### Rural Life Commodity Report by Chair Jennifer Steen

It is that time of the year when calves are being born and we are working around the clock to make sure they are all doing well. First year heifers are a main concern as they are learning to be Mom's for the first time. We are blessed that most of ours did well despite the weather challenges this year.

Although exhausting, we all end up smiling when that cute wobbly calf is up and nursing. I never get tired of witnessing the miracle of birth of the newborns and the natural ability of the heifers to know what to do.

It is hard to believe that before long they will be up and about and we will be getting ready to brand.

Branding is a great social time for our neighbors. From the youngest one in the family to the oldest one, we all work to brand. Branding happens in many different ways in various areas.

Most of the ranches still gather with horses and cowboys and rope and brand the calves in a



traditional manner. Of course, there is great food for the people branding cattle and everything happens very quickly.

Other ranches gather with 4 wheelers and run them through a chute to brand. There is still a lot of good food prepared and neighbors helping neighbors as it should be. It is a great time to catch up with fellow ranchers on how they have been doing.

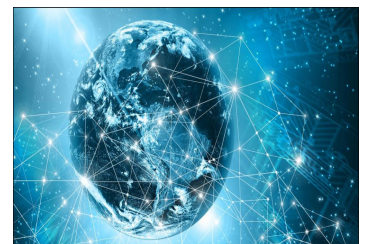
This is a great time of the year and a celebration of the hard work we have done so far and what has been accomplished.

This year was extremely challenging due to the weather. We have had extreme heat, drought, then unbelievable wind. Some of the challenges

we face in rural life include the steadily increasing price of fuel which drives the cost of all feed, mineral, salt, and vaccines up to extremely high prices. As producers, we will be struggling to break even in the current economic situation. However, we love what we do and some ranchers are doing creative marketing to increase their profit margin. Some are selling directly to hometown grocery stores, some to the public, some at farmers markets. Overall ranchers are some of the most resilient people I know. We work hard and are proud to be producing food for friends and neighbors. Since ranches are remote, only about 65% of them have internet access due to

lack of broadband. The federal government is working to increase the allocation to help bring broadband and internet access to the farmers and ranchers. Broadband is very necessary because after COVID, people discovered a whole new way to communicate and do business. Broadband will be a must have for farmers and ranchers. Some courts are still letting people appear by phone or remotely through the court internet for hearings, settings, etc. Some FSA offices are doing business by email and completing paperwork through the internet. Our old way of communication is going away and the days of ranchers and farmers carrying cell phones and having internet are quickly becoming a necessity.

Please be watching for the broadband and see what is going in in your state with the mapping of it in your area.



## 45th Annual Convention Edition

### Legislative Commodity Report by Chair Marlene Kouba

Please join me on congratulating **Marlene Kouba** on becoming our **Legislative Chair!**

Marlene has worked diligently to support WIFE over the years. She was state secretary for ND Homemakers for 5 years, president for county Farm Bureau for 32 years and secretary of my district political party for about 30 years. For ND WIFE she has been state editor since 1985, secretary since 1987, treasurer since 1997, plus was president, publicity chairman, cookbook chairman, and coordinator of national WIFE convention in Bismarck in 1991. On the national level for WIFE she was secretary in 1996-97, vice-president in 2003-2004 and chairman for education, endangered species, natural resources, transportation, homeland security and energy. I have only missed 3 national WIFE conventions since 1988. I compiled the history book of National WIFE for their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and again for the 45 anniversary.

During the meantime I ran for the ND House and Senate and was defeated by the incumbents but met lots of people. Three governors appointed me to the NDSU's President's Advisory Council (even though I never attended college

there), ND Children and Youth advisory Council, State Soil Conservation Committee (was elected as first female president since 1936), and State Health Council for 12 years.

**The Employee Rights Act of 2022** modernizes and updates the Employee Rights Act to protect independent entrepreneurs, contractors, franchisees, and anyone else pursuing flexible work options. It would ensure employees more rights and protection, not union bosses, and they would take home more money they earn since union dues would not be subtracted.

**March 24 was recognized as National Women in Agriculture Day** to emphasize that agriculture is one of the most impactful industries of the U.S. and acknowledges the countless women who help agriculture prosper both at home and abroad, stated the resolution by 55 senators.

**In June 2021, Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) introduced an amendment to the Agriculture, Rural Development Food and Drug Administration and**

**appropriations bill " to prohibit the purchase of agricultural land by the People's Republic of China (PRC) and make agricultural lands currently owned by PRC ineligible for farm payments. They now own 192,000 agriculture acres. Six states already have laws against foreign owned lands— North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Hawaii.**

**Repair rights are tied to federal copyright laws in Canada and the U.S. Changes at the federal level are required to allow private citizens to have independent repair services or fix things themselves.** Last July the Federal Trade Commission voted to make it a priority to address the issue of manufacturers pushing consumers to use licensed dealers to repair items ranging from smartphones to farm equipment. On February 3 several bills were introduced. One said it would require all tools and equipment, wireless transmission of repair and diagnostic data needed for repairs be made available to independent repair industry. It



would end manufacturer's monopoly on vehicle maintenance and repair. Farm groups are watching the bills.



Senator Joni Ernst

Sponsor

III

117th CONGRESS

2d Session

**S. RES. 562**

IN THE SENATE OF  
THE UNITED STATES

March 29, 2022

**RESOLUTION**

Designating

March 24, 2022,  
as National Women in  
Agriculture Day.



# Women Involved in Farm Economics

## Trade Commodity Report by Chair Judy Trent

Trade is a very important part of agriculture. We all try to buy things locally or made in the U.S. but without trade we would not have the opportunities to grow and make a difference in the world. As I was writing on trade, I came across the Quad Summit 2022 and thought this would be great information to share.

The new economic framework and what it means for ag trade.

During the Quad Summit 2022 in Tokyo, Japan Biden announced a dozen Indo-Pacific countries will

join the U.S. in the economic initiative termed IPEF (Indo-Pacific Economic Framework), with a focus on countering primarily with China. The IPEF will consist of Australia, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand, among seven other Southeast Asian countries (not including Taiwan). According to the White House, these countries account for roughly 40% of the global GDP.

The goal of the IPEF will be to negotiate lower tariffs and help remove barriers to market access. This is to be achieved

through **four pillars** of trade according to the Biden Administration.

1. Supply chain resiliency
2. Clean energy and infrastructure
3. Tax and anticorruption
4. Fair and resilient trade

So, what does the IDEF mean for us in agriculture.

U.S Trade Rep Katherine Tai says IDEF will fast-track the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement, which claims to improve the movement of goods across borders. "We will see commitments with

IPEF partners that facilitate agricultural trade through science-based decision making and the adoption of sound, transparent regulatory practices," she says. "This will help our farmers, our ranchers, and our fishers gain certainty for getting their products to the region." (Farm Journal AGWEB)

While learning more about trade I found this article on the Farm Journal Agweb. ([www.agweb.com](http://www.agweb.com)).

This is a great resource and full of all kinds of information.



## 45th Annual Convention Edition

### Publicity by Pam Potthoff

**Pam Potthoff** has been sounding off of some great Agriculture topics on local radio in Nebraska. I wanted to share what she is doing as an incentive for other State Presidents to do the same. Educating the public on agriculture is a big job. Thank you Pam for your diligence in keeping folks informed!

#### Radio News on Women Owned Businesses

Look around you and think about how many of the businesses are owned by women. According to the publication, Nebraska Workforce Trends of May 2022, across the United States, only 20.9% of businesses were owned by women as of 2019. This data comes from the 2019 Annual Business Survey conducted by the United States Census Bureau. In Nebraska, 16.1% of the 42,990 total businesses were owned by women, and the state ranked way down there at #45 nationally in terms of percentage of businesses owned by women. However, 20.4% of businesses in Nebraska were owned equally by men and women. I figure many of these are represented by farms and ranches owned equally by a couple. By this metric,

the state ranked #3. When combining the two categories, Nebraska ranked #16, with 36.5% of businesses having at least 50.0% female ownership.

#### Radio News on Gasohol

Do you remember when ethanol was called "gasohol"? I couldn't find out why it was changed but I remember the gasohol era.

The use of corn to replace petroleum products began during World War II when corn was used to make rubber. The industry grew, and in no time, three-fourths of U.S. rubber was a product of ethanol – not petroleum. In fact, about 600 million gallons of corn based ethanol was produced during World War II, according to a July 2006 Metro Times article in Detroit. After the war, the industry slowed.

Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) was organized in December of 1976 in Sidney, Nebraska. During the 1978 convention, members voted to support and promote gasohol as a use for our corn and way to promote prosperity in agriculture. At the 1979 convention, gasohol was selected the number one priority for WIFE. A WIFE member began

serving on the National Gasohol Committee and members attended gasohol meetings in Washington, D.C.

But the world was slow to accept gasohol. In 1984, WIFE sponsored a media tour across the Eastern United States. The women carried little vials of alcohol. When they filled up their gas tanks, the women, with great fanfare, would add the vial of alcohol to their tanks and jump up and down on the bumpers to mix it. This was to show the world that gasohol was a viable fuel.

By 1985, the first Nebraska ethanol plant was in production. But ethanol-skeptics were vocal that ethanol would ruin motors. In 1987, WIFE sponsored an Ethanol Convoy and Conference in Denver. A convoy of forty cars, carrying over 100 people from over eleven states using ethanol-blended gasoline brought attention to ethanol. The theme was "Ethanol: Enhancing Environment, Economy and Energy".

By 1997, ethanol was again in focus of WIFE. WIFE worked to oppose the proposed end of the Ethanol Tax Incentive. The Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit was passed in 2004. The initial bill gave ethanol blenders a tax credit of 51

cents for every gallon of ethanol they mixed with gasoline. Congress reduced the tax incentive by 6 cents per gallon, to 45 cents, as part of the 2008 Farm Bill.

Just one Nebraska ethanol plant in 1985 has grown to 24 ethanol plants today. Spread throughout much of the state, these plants have a capacity of more than 2.5 billion gallons – making Nebraska the No. 2 ethanol-producing state in the country.

Combined, these plants use more than 700 million bushels of corn per year – and produce more than 6 million tons of distillers grains, a high protein feed ingredient used for cattle.

These ethanol plants represent a \$5 billion economic impact in the state and provide direct full-time employment for more than 1,400 Nebraskans.

WIFE salutes the ethanol industry in Nebraska.





## Women Involved in Farm Economics

### Homeland Security Report by Marlene Kouba

On November 25, U.S. Customs stopped a Mexican truck advertising automotive body parts in California. But it contained 17,584 pounds of meth and 388 pounds of fentanyl. It is the largest bush in the U.S. for the past two years. The driver was arrested.

Seizures of the synthetic fentanyl soared 525 percent since 2018 with 7,710 pounds. Meth seizures have more than doubled to 275,000 pounds. Mexican authorities say part of the increase globally which Mexican drug cartels obtain via organized crime in China to press into pills or mix into other drugs. There has been a change in consumption and drug markets due to the ease of producing synthetic drugs. Cartels no longer have to pay farmers to grow opium poppies and collect the opium. The U.S. had over 100,000 overdose deaths between April 2020 and April 2021. Border Patrol reported a 42 percent increase in the seizure of fentanyl. Senator Rob Portman (R-OH) has asked the president to address the issue and stop drug trafficking with Mexico and China but he seems more concerned about the pandemic.

Non-citizens in New York City would gain the right to vote in municipal election under a measure approved December 9 by the



City Council that would give access to the ballot box to 800,000 green card holders and so-called Dreamers. More than a dozen communities across the nation already allow noncitizens to cast ballots in local elections in Maryland and Vermont. They still can't vote for president or members of Congress in federal races or in state elections that pick the governor, judges and legislators. If Governor de Blasio signs it, it may be challenged.

The foreign-born population in the U.S. is currently projected to hit a record nearly 70 million by 2060 if current legal immigration levels go unreduced. According to Census data, we now have an annual flow of about 1.2 million green card holders and another 1.5 million foreign nationals are provided with temporary work visas. Hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens are added to the nation annually. Some estimate the

total is anywhere between 14 million and 22 million. In 1970, immigrants made up less than 5 percent of the nation's population but today they make up about 14.2 percent. Between 1900 and 1920 there were very few but between 1925 and 1966 the annual immigration level did not exceed 327,000. Now with no border wall, more are coming through by the caravan and hundreds at a time.

Immigration now says there are 372,000 anchor babies in all 50 states in the past year—more than born to American citizens. Anchor babies are rewarded with birthright American citizenship despite their parents having no legitimate ties to the U.S. Years later when the child becomes an adult they can sponsor their parents and foreign relatives to come to the U.S. anchoring their family for generations. The Supreme Court has never explicitly ruled that the U.S. born children of illegal aliens must be granted automatic

citizenship and legal scholars dispute the idea. Today there are at least 4.5 million anchor babies under 18 years old and costing taxpayers about \$2.4 billion every year to subsidize hospital costs.

Beginning in October, illegal immigrants are being flown from southern states to suburban airports across the nation during the night, then transported to busses to a large business center then into cars and into the community. Employees of MVM, Inc., a private security firm that signed a \$136 million contract with the federal government last year to transport migrants around the country were also on the flights. They are not allowed to take photos but wear lanyards around their necks. They are put out by the Department of Homeland Security! Our own government is betraying the American people. Over two million migrants crossed our southern border in 2021.





45th Annual Convention Edition

Join Us!



Join now!

Mail to: **Jennifer Felzien**  
 2946 CR 53, Sterling, CO 80751  
 970-522-1429 [gjfelz@kci.net](mailto:gjfelz@kci.net)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Input from grassroots producers**  
 is essential in shaping agricultural  
 policy.

National dues are \$60.00  
 Colorado State Dues \$10.00  
 Kansas State Dues \$10.00  
 Nebraska State Dues \$ 20.00

Please check the website for  
 updates on State Dues and  
 additional information.

[www.nationalwife.org](http://www.nationalwife.org)

You can join online and pay  
 with a credit card if you  
 prefer.

### National WIFE Officers

#### President

Belinda Sturges

1001 County Road G Lamar, Colorado 81052  
 belinda.sturges@gmail.com 719-691-8747

#### Vice-President

Kerry Froese

30377 County Road HH, La Junta, Colorado 81050  
 kerry.froese33@gmail.com 719-469-7749

#### Secretary

Pam Potthoff

35807 Drive 714, Trenton, NE 69044  
 coyotepp@bwtw.com.net 308-737-7840

#### Treasurer

Jenifer Felzien

2946 County Road 53, Sterling, Co 80751  
 gjfelz@kci.net 970-522-1429

#### Area 1 Director

Chris Anken

9423 Steuben Valley Road, Holland Patent, NY 13354  
 cowcafe54@gmail.com 315-794-7321

#### Area II Director

Judy Trent

Area II Director

P O Box 61, Litchfield, Ne 68852  
 jutrent@hotmail.com 308-293-1725

#### State Presidents

**Alabama** Mary Ann Sheppard  
 334-727-7737

**Arizona** Sue Krentz

krentz.sue@gmail.com 520-558-2252

**Colorado** Kerry Froese

kerry.froese33@gmail.com 719-469-7749

**Kansas** Ann Looney Schlereth

maschlereth@gmail.com 620-682-5276

**Montana** Phyllis Hoskin 406-662-3518

**Nebraska** Pam Potthoff

coyotepp@bwtel.com.net 303-737-7840

**New Mexico** Tammy Pompeo

mtpompeo@vct.net 575-548-2644

**New York** Chris Anken

cowcafe54@gmail.com 315-794-7321

**North Dakota** Phyllis Howatt

howphy@midco.net 701-256-2151

**Oklahoma** Andrea Hutchison

bossybovine@yahoo.com 580-886-5139

**South Carolina**

Nancy Koehler

myfarmilove1@gmail.com 864-578-5372

**Texas**

Naioma Benson 956-574-0624

**Wisconsin**

Deborah Esselman

debessel@pcpros.net 715-613-5556

**WYOMING**

Klodette Stroh 307-754-5864

## Women Involved in Farm Economics

Belinda Sturges , Editor  
1001 County Road G  
Lamar, Colorado 81052

719-691-8747  
Belinda.sturges@gmail.com



## Educate, Elevate, and Advocate for Agriculture!

Ladies, we are so blessed to have each other to share your talents, wisdom, and kindness with each other. Everyone of you are important to WIFE and bring something special to the group. I am excited as we move forward to grow our organization and work legislatively to improve agricultural profits in our group in the United States. We will be starting a very important letter writing campaign to our legislators as well as email campaign beginning in July of this year. There is much to do and I am confident you ladies will make a difference in Agriculture. Thank you for all you do!

Belinda Sturges

National WIFE President

[www.nationalwife.org](http://www.nationalwife.org)

You can now join on the web!

---

## Special Thanks to Nebraska WIFE Members

**Special Thanks go out to the all of the Nebraska WIFE State Members for hosting the 45th Annual Convention!**

Jennifer Steen did a great job at setting up tours, and making sure everyone had fun while learning lots of information and meeting exceptionally nice agricultural producers in the McCook area. Throughout the convention she was extremely thoughtful of everyone who attended.

Pam Potthoff worked very hard to make sure everyone had convention materials they needed. Harold worked to get extra sponsors for the convention.

Donna Boltz did a great job of being the Convention Chair and making sure everyone was registered and taken care of for the convention.

Ardyth Anderson inducted the new officers for 2022 and did a very nice job.



*Pam Potthoff  
and  
Jennifer Steen*

