

**Volume 40**

**December 2016**

**No. 4**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Women Involved in Farm Economics is rapidly winding down its' 40<sup>th</sup> year, and it has been my privilege to be "at the helm" for this historic milestone of farm and ranch women cheer-leading for Agriculture and our rural communities.

We, just recently, celebrated this great accomplishment at our National WIFE Convention in Sidney, NE in early November, where it all started 40 years ago. I would like to thank Pam Potthoff and all of the Nebraska WIFE members for making this such a memorable event.

We had great speakers, both, entertaining and informative....please peruse the rest of this issue for a synopsis of each of them. We also learned much about the history of the Sidney area from Martha Ellwinger, Sidney Historian, and from tours of the Fort Sidney Museum and Post Commanders Home and the Historic Downtown area. It was also interesting to learn of the history of how Cabela's began and to have them provide their meeting room for our Convention meetings and to host several of our lunches and coffee breaks.

In our discussions of what WIFE needs to do to move forward in this newfound position we find ourselves in of dealing with the advent of social media, continuing onslaught of government regulations, and continued depressed market prices, etc., many members professed what WIFE has done for them, personally, as well as for Agriculture, in general. After many overwhelming testimonials, we discussed several plans of action to put forth to begin the next 40 years of supporting Agriculture!

As with many organizations, we are going through some challenges, but I feel that we have made some positive changes that will help WIFE to move forward and continue what we have done in the past, which is to effectively educate and "advocate" for Agriculture!

I have enjoyed serving as National President for the last 2 years. It has been very challenging and hard at times, but I am proud that we were able to come to terms with what tools we need to have in place to continue to be a viable women's Ag organization for the future!

Congratulations to Kerry Froese from Colorado on being elected National WIFE President for 2017. I feel that the organization is in great hands, as Kerry is very passionate about Agriculture, has a great work ethic, and has some great, fresh, young, new ideas!! I am excited and pledge to support her when and wherever possible and hope that all other WIFE members will do so as well!

Also, I would like to thank all the WIFE members, Commodity/Topic Chairwomen, Standing Committee Members, Executive Committee, WIFEline Editors, and everyone else that helped out with whatever needed to be done this last 2 years...you all are very much appreciated!

**THANK YOU!**



**Linda Newman**

## **2017 WIFE OFFICERS**

### **PRESIDENT**

**Kerry Froese, CO**

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### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

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### **SECRETARY**

**Mary Ann Murray, MT**

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### **AREA I DIRECTOR**

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### **AREA II DIRECTOR**

**Donna Bolz, NE**

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## **THE SUGAR REPORT**

By Klodette Stroh



The 2016 International Sweetener Symposium was held in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. This year, a study showed the ten years' comparison of cost of a candy bar in the United States. The cost for customers has more than doubled since 2006 even though the sugar in that candy bar is cheaper today than a decade ago. The information was according to an annual survey of sweetened product prices conducted by the American Sugar Alliance (ASA).

Jack Roney ASA economist explained "in 2006, a chocolate bar cost 72 cents, and the cost of the sugar in that bar made up just 1.6 percent of its price. Now, the same chocolate bar costs \$1.49 and the cost of sugar in that bar is just 1.1 percent."

There are also other products surveyed by ASA which included ice cream, which is 60 percent more expensive than 10 years ago; strawberry gelatin, which is 152 percent more expensive; hard candy, which is 40 percent more expensive; and vanilla cake mix, which is 30 percent more expensive.

Meanwhile, the price that food manufacturers pay for sugar has declined by 14 percent over the same period, according to USDA data.

U.S. sugar farmers should be able to recover their cost of sugar production and some profit to enable them to stay in business. The United States market is already oversupplied with unneeded sugar from foreign countries. The U.S. Department of Commerce found Mexico's sugar industry guilty of dumping subsidized sugar onto the U.S. market and harming American producers. The 2014 settlement forged between the two governments to avoid retaliatory tariffs isn't working.

The bottom line is that shoppers are paying more at the checkout line, food makers are seeing bigger profits, and farmers are making less and less of each food dollar.

America's economy is in red. Our current debt is over 30 trillion. Thousands of Americans are struggling to pay their bills. We should be proud of our agriculture. Farmers and their crops insure America's freedom. My mother used to say farmers are in partnership with God to be Steward of his land and feed his people.

## **2017 WASHINGTON DC LEGISLATIVE TRIP (Tentative Schedule)**

### **Sunday, March 19th**

Arrive in DC; WIFE Board of Director's meeting that evening.

### **Monday, March 20th**

USDA Briefings and or Senate/House Ag Briefings; Farm Bill Summit hosted by Agri-Pulse;  
Agri-Pulse reception that evening

### **Tuesday, March 21st**

National Ag Day Press Club Breakfast; Taste of Ag Celebration; meetings with your  
Congressmen and Congresswomen

### **Wednesday, March 22nd**

USDA Briefings and or Senate/House Ag Briefings; meetings with your state  
Congressmen and Congresswomen; corporate visits

### **Thursday, March 23rd**

Fly home for members not attending corporate visits; corporate visits

### **Friday, March 24th**

Fly home for officers that attended corporate visits

**(NOTE—We have rented an AirBnb house for our stay in DC....so hope you will consider joining us for this all important annual event!)**



## THE ENERGY REPORT

By Marlene Kouba

Australia blocked Chinese investors from buying the country's largest electricity network in mid-August, citing national security concerns. The decision has provided another setback to China's international investment ambitions after Britain decided to review plans for Beijing's investment in a project in Somerset, England, and other nuclear power stations. Britain and Australia are members of the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing partnership that is dominated by the United States, where there is unease about its allies courting Chinese investment in critical infrastructure projects. China General Nuclear Power is currently facing espionage charges.

Louisiana now blames Big Oil for coastal ruin. A governor and a mayor have joined a cause in suing to hold the oil industry partly responsible for their loss of 1,900 square miles of coast since the 1930s. The political side started with Hurricane Katrina which tore up about 60 square miles of marsh around New Orleans. Some scientists think drilling for oil has helped cause the coast to sink. Oilfields developed on land years ago are, now under 5-10 feet of water. The oil industry employs up to 300,000 people and adds \$73 billion to their economy but the activists are seeking billions of dollars.

Saudi Arabia said they might boost their crude oil supplies in August to a new record level and want higher prices. In July, they hit 10.67 million barrels a day, the highest in its history. Iranians also increased their production. Iraq, OPEC's second largest producer, supports a freeze but has signed contracts to develop its massive oil fields. Russia would continue boosting production with its high at 10.68 barrels per day. The market is already oversupplied. OPEC wants to revive talks on freezing output but there isn't much interest in it.

Earlier this year, the White House proposed a \$10.25-per-barrel tax on oil. According to the Congressional Research Service, this tax could increase gasoline prices by as much as 24 cents per gallon. It may not happen.

California's last nuclear power plant will close by 2025, ending three decades of safety debates that helped fuel the national anti-nuclear power movement. The power will replace production at Diablo Canyon nuclear plant with solar power and other energy sources that do not produce climate-changing greenhouse gases. The facility supplies nine percent of the state's power. The United States has 61 nuclear plants, including Diablo Canyon. California already has banned construction of new facilities until the federal government finds a permanent disposal site for radioactive waste.

The massive coal-fired plant in Boardman, Ore., is just four years away from being shut down for good. Oregon coal production will become the first in the nation to completely ban coal power. The mandate was the result of an environmentalist-fueled push legislature. Under the plan, coal production will end once the Boardman plant shutsters in 2020 – utilities would still be able to buy coal power from out of state for another 10 years, until a 2030 deadline to end coal use entirely. But the phase-out already has groups warning that residents are headed for big rate increases and brownouts. Coal has been in decline for years. In 2005, coal made up 51 percent of the electricity used in the U.S. Last year, it met 40 percent of the need. In Oregon, coal power still fills one-third of the electricity demand.

Despite a building boom, renewables such as wind and solar power make up just eight percent of the electricity portfolio. A major problem could be getting any new power to the grid. Many new projects were killed due to legal challenges from environmental groups as there are 42,000 pages of federal environmental regulations.

For the first time, EPA has proposed reducing the amount of ethanol that is required to be mixed with the gasoline supply. Opponents complain as they saw it as a means to fight climate change. EPA says there is little demand by consumers for more. Oil production has increased, cars use less fuel and get better mileage so less fuel is used. Few drivers use E85 in their Flex Fuel cars so fewer stations are carrying it. Few stations are even equipped to use E15 but use E10 instead. EPA is taking comments.

A big oil and gas discovery in west Texas has some environmental organizations concerned. In September, the Houston-based Apache Corp. announced plans for drilling in an area it calls Alpine High where they are projecting up to three billion barrels of oil and 75 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Earthworks has commissioned an assessment of the potential risks to the local waters. The Nature Conservancy plans to begin testing water quality on several sites it owns in the area. Apache says it is taking environmental responsibility very serious and will work with the University of Texas at Arlington scientists to study the area's water quality. The site will decrease the need for any imported oil or gas.

The Bakken oil pipeline protests in North Dakota now seem to be more about water than keeping oil in the ground or supposed sacred sites in the area. The state has requested President Obama to grant the Corps of Engineers permission to complete the under the river pipeline while the tribes have visited the White House to oppose it. The president simply says let it wait until it settles down. Active protests have been going on since August by many tribes and a few countries. They are also protesting in cities around the nation. Protestors from mostly out of state (including several movie stars, reporters and Jesse Jackson) have poured oil around the Capitol building and the Governor's mansion, butchered cattle, a saddle horse and bison, burned a wooden county bridge, set pickups and cars on fire on roadways, burned company equipment costing millions of dollars, setting off propane tanks as mini-bombs that hospitalized a woman whose arm was hit, camping and building permanent structures on private land, have been marching on the highly traveled streets in Mandan and Bismarck to block traffic, and much more. Protest related costs are mounting. As of mid-November, they included: county law enforcement was nearing \$1 million, state law enforcement was \$2.8 million, out-of-state law enforcement was \$3.3 million, ND National Guard was \$1 million, ND Highway Patrol was \$1.4 million, and other state agencies were \$1.1 million. Now a document has appeared saying there is a deadline of January 1 by shippers of the oil to have it delivered.

Thanks to all of you for supporting me during this past year as your national energy chairman. I have tried to keep it diversified in types and locations of energy. Now someone else was elected for the position for 2017.



### Winners of Donation Drawing:

#### 1st Place—Quilt

Mike Williamson, KS

#### 2nd Place—\$100

Cathy Millick, NY

#### 3rd Place—\$50

Maggie Nutter, MT

\*\*\*Kerry Froese made this beautiful quilt!

# 40th National WIFE Convention

## Highlights!



### LIVESTOCK MARKETING

By Pam Pothoff

Mike Callicrate from the Organization for Competitive Markets (OCM) addressed Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) at their national convention in Sidney, Nebraska, the first week of November.

Callicrate, a farmer-rancher, business entrepreneur and family farm advocate from St. Francis, KS, reminded WIFE that farmers and ranchers are becoming an endangered species. The U.S. has lost half of its *farmers, 90% of its hog farmers, and 80% of its dairy farmers in the last thirty years. If the farm way of life is to remain, Callicrate suggested that maybe we should raise less corn and cattle and more hell.*

*In particular Callicrate stated there is a limited market for our cattle. Concentration in the meat processing industry has eliminated the cash market and, through intimidation and retaliation, has made it difficult for anyone who challenges the status quo to find a bid for fat cattle. He called this the chickenization of beef.*

*This stranglehold on cattle feeders has trickled down to create prices in feeder cattle that have dropped by half from highs of just a few years ago.*

*Callicrate's answer to no bids for his livestock was to go around big food and begin his own meat processing plant and grow a retail business. His mobile slaughter unit means that animals never get on a truck, undergo less handling and have more humane treatment with less stress. Callicrate contends the result is a tastier carcass.*

*The mobile slaughter unit allows the slaughter waste to be utilized in the areas where the beef are raised, creates employment in rural areas and means 37% less weight to haul because only the carcass is transported.*

*Callicrate emphasized how important a cottage bill is because it allows small producers to grow, process and sell food from their own farm or garden without a whole bunch of regulations and red tape. His retail business in Colorado Springs, CO, works closely with local producers.*

### WOMEN'S EXPANDING ROLE IN AGRICULTURE

By Marlene Kouba

"An early woman in agriculture was Laura Ingalls Wilder," stated Tom Gaschler of Frenchman Valley Corp. Female-owned farms are now at 85 percent and value of their sales are not as great due to less acres. The average age is 58 years old. The average size farm is 212 acres. Women farmers consist of a variety of races. The top commodities are grains and oilseeds at 6 percent, sheep and goats at 8 percent, combination of animals are 22 percent, beef is 28 percent and crops are 26 percent. There is no such thing as an average farm. The biggest concern is the economy. "Never give up learning," he concluded.



## TRADE ISSUES

By Pam Pothoff

During the 40<sup>th</sup> Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) convention in Sidney, NE, the first week of November, Michael Stumo of the Coalition for a Prosperous America (CPA) discussed trade issues.

CPA is a coalition of agriculture, manufacturing and organized labor associations, companies and individuals. CPA

works for policies to balance U.S. trade and protect American sovereignty to create jobs, growth and prosperity.

Stumo's solution to our trade deficit is to produce more in America, stop currency manipulation and establish tariffs to combat border adjustment taxes in other countries. Stumo urged Congress to have a national priority of balanced trade.

Stumo said in order to accurately assess our trade policies, we need to look at income producing potential not at total jobs. When jobs numbers are given, service jobs are a large portion of the new jobs created. These jobs include things like housekeeping, nursing, hair cuts, lube jobs on your car, pumping gas, legal work, waiting tables, cooking, and so on. Service jobs cannot be outsourced because they have to be done in the United States. Agriculture and manufacturing produce items that can be exported.

Stumo stressed the importance of balanced trade instead of merely free trade. The huge U.S. trade deficit is a drag on the Gross Domestic Product which is calculated by adding consumption to investments to government procurement and net exports. When the net exports are negative, as they have been since we started doing all the bad trade treaties, the GDP is lowered.

According to Stumo, an area of trade needing attention is the manipulation of currency by countries such as China, Germany, Japan, Vietnam, Ireland, Mexico, South Korea, India and Malaysia. These countries rely on consumers in the U.S. to fuel their growth by exporting to us their excess production. Ten million kids in China turn 18 every year and need to join the work force.

Sixty-six percent of the workforce in the U.S. does not have a college degree. We need to find them jobs but our current trade treaties do not allow us to do that.

Speaking about the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP), Stumo listed the following:

1. The U.S. trade deficit is expected to worsen by \$21.7 billion.
2. Manufacturing trade deficit will worsen by \$24 billion.
3. Agriculture will do better than the other segments of the economy but not enough to offset the worsening of income for our U.S. consumers. Rice, seafood, corn and wheat are projected to do worse. Beef is questionable in its ability to open new markets through the TPP. The reason for this is the agreement includes other countries with producers of these commodities and they can produce cheaper than we can.



## HISTORY OF SIDNEY AND CABELO'S

By Marlene Kouba

Martha Ellwinger, Sidney Historian, gave a very interesting presentation on the early days of Sidney and all of the historical events that happened there!

We toured the Sidney Museum, Post Commanders Home, the downtown Historic District and drove by the Cabela Mansion at night to see the spectacular lighted display! Cabela's provided us with their meeting room for our convention sessions, provided several lunches and breaks.

Cabela's sporting goods reseller and chain was started in 1961. Richard N. Cabela purchased US \$45 worth of fishing flies at a furniture expo in Chicago which he then advertised for sale in a local newspaper advertisement. When his first effort produced only one response, he placed an ad in Sports Afield which was more successful. Included with each order was a catalog of other products for sale by Cabela. As the business grew, Cabela and his wife Mary moved their operation to Sidney, Nebraska, in 1963. Dick's brother Jim also joined the business.

From those modest beginnings, the company has since grown to a publicly traded corporation with over \$3 billion in annual sales. About half of Cabela's sales come from hunting-related merchandise with about a third derived from the sale of firearms, ammunition and accessories in 2012. In 2012 about 30 percent of revenue came from direct sales through catalog and online orders, 59 percent from physical retail stores and the remaining came from its financial subsidiary and credit card business. On February 17, 2014, Dick Cabela died at his home in Sidney, Nebraska, at the age of 77.

On October 3, 2016, it was announced that Bass Pro Shops had acquired Cabela's for \$5.5 billion. Both companies are major outdoor apparel and equipment retailers. Cabela's 85 stores are concentrated in Canada and in western USA while Bass Pro Shops has 99 stores with a concentration in eastern USA and Canada. The new entity will keep Cabela's base in Sidney and Lincoln, Nebraska.



**The Sidney Museum**

**Kerry Froese in the museum!**



## TELL YOUR STORY

by Marlene Kouba



"We farmed in Missouri, but later, couldn't find pasture for our cattle so we moved to South Dakota. We were there for five years and then moved to Nebraska," said Kelli Loos. Kelli is the wife of Trent Loos, who hosts "Loose Tails Radio Show".

She stated that lies affect us. Her daughter asked how to choose to vote as both presidential candidates had told lies. The National Enquirer usually tells lies. Recently an article in a newspaper said GMO is bad for you but was bombarded with Letters to the Editor that they were mistaken. So, don't always believe what you read in the papers, as they often don't tell the truth. Kelli stated that Trent was in North Dakota the previous week and had heard different stories than what is being broadcast in the news about the pipeline protest.

Our kids are learning the passions we have and are they learning responsibility. Farm kids usually grow up dependable. We are good at telling our story, but felt that face-to-face contact with people builds more of a bond more than an email, Facebook or newspapers. The opportunities are limitless....school kids volunteering for activities...writing Letters to the Editor (remember to use facts and keep within the word limit)... and, above all, stay positive. We are getting farther from our farm roots so it is very important for us to remember that we are professionals, just like teachers and dentists. We are out there living the life, and have vast knowledge and experience. Make your stories personal and add a few facts when you are talking about your business. Common sense is not common anymore, so need to error on the side of caution!

"The new year is like a 365-page book. How are you going to fill the pages? Reach out and tell your story. Continue to make a difference!" were Kelli's closing statements.

## GREAT WESTERN CATTLE TRAILS

By Marlene Kouba

"Cattle driving started in the late 1930s and cattle went to New Orleans, the second largest city in the United States at that time," said Gary Kraisinger, editor of the The Western Cattle Trail--It's Rise, Collapse and Revival and How the Great Western Cattle Trail Changed Agriculture in the Upper Plains at one of our evening meals, served by the church ladies at the First United Methodist Church in Sidney during the 40th annual WIFE Convention.

The trails went north after the Civil War. Settlers moved the trails, as cattle needed feed and went north to get to the railroad.

Gary urged us to continue what we are doing as women can be in politics and men can't attack you!



Our way of life is under siege. We need to save our way of life and not let future generations forget who we are. Some libraries are getting rid of non-fiction books because they don't believe in the information in them. Generations behind us live in imagery. We are being dumbed down.

During the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the commercial importance of longhorns was to supply the hide and tallow industries of Europe and, after the Revolutionary War, of New England as well. The tallow was used to make candles. The management technique used in southern Texas had allowed cattle to care for themselves year-round in stationary pastures on the free range, without supplementary feeding or protection. While it worked well in the tropical climates of Mexico and south Texas, it did not in the colder climates. Along with that, cattle got a tick that caused them to die in nine days as it caused them to bleed to death. Longhorns were almost extinct by 1910 with only about 20 head left. U.S. Forest Rangers put them in a park where they survived and flourished. The numbers of registered Texas Longhorn cattle has grown, and by the late 1990s, it had exceeded 250,000 with breeders in all 50 states as well as Canada, Mexico and many other countries. Now they are mostly pets. The longhorns are all spotted with no two alike. Mexican longhorns are black.

Cattle trails followed the grass north as they had to eat. Some cattlemen stayed in the new areas. Cattle gained weight as they went north. They traveled in a "pecking" order on the trails. All calves were shot as they held the herd back or they were given to ranchers along the route. There were 35,000 to 36,000 men who were on the trail rides. The majority of them were Confederate soldiers as they were broke after the War. Most riders were young men under the age of 22. Riders were paid \$20 to \$30 for the whole trip. If you took all the people who died on cattle trails, you would have a grave every 19 feet. Early railroad cars held only 20 head of cattle.

Every cowboy had to carry his own cooking utensils and bedding. When chuck wagons came along that changed and they were always ahead of the herd to have food ready for the riders when they came near.

At the end of his presentation, he sold copies of his books he had written and maps that he had designed.

## **AGvocate for Agriculture**

By Mary Ann Unruh



The political ad campaign rhetoric is beginning to dissipate, with it the election year of 2016. In January, we will begin new leadership with our new president, Donald Trump. A friend of mine said "I feel so energized I am filled with new HOPE". It has been a year of great uncertainty, with declining prices in the ag sector, many of us are ready for CHANGE.

Agriculture plays a major role in most of our lives, it gives us a rich heritage and culture. Our diverse innovative mentalities help us produce food, fiber, and fuel that we need to exist. It is time for us to be Agvocates for Agriculture, the dynamics of farmers and government working together with a common ground to preserve the farms and ranches in this country.

A common buzzword at sporting events is TEAMWORK. Teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to produce uncommon results. There are a lot of uncharted waters between farmers and government. We need to promote a greater understanding with ag leaders and those on regulatory boards and form good long term relationships. Respect one another and establish a rapport of TEAMWORK and remember, it is not always about you.

Farmers and ranchers are industrious and innovative there is so much new technology in the ag sector. GPS systems that expedite the planting process, robotic milking for dairy-ing, ad tools for marketing cattle and calculating break-even prices are available. There is always another new product on the market or your neighbor knows a better and more reasonable way of doing things. Tough times build tough people. Maybe that beginning farmer may need to get a part time job to keep up with some of his costs.

A quote from Tom Vilsack, our US Secretary of Agriculture, "This is a great country. One of the most underappreciated aspects is the strength and security that farmers bring: food security. Farmers fought and led the American Revolution. Farmers also fed the people in factories during the Industrial Revolution. "Farmers are the linchpin and the heart and soul of this great country. We are strong we are stable we are secure because we have the greatest farmers on Earth". Vilsack will end his term this year and we wish him the best. He was an advocate for farmers.

As we look to new beginnings and change in 2017, stay strong and have a happy heart, be a Agvocate for Agriculture and uphold the new voice, "Let's make America Great Again'.

## **WIFE EARLY BEGINNINGS 40 YEARS AGO!!**



**Yvonne**

**Barbara**

Yvonne Snider, Montana WIFE member from the beginning and Barbara Grant Snyder, daughter of Fran Grant , who was one of the founding Nebraska WIFE members, and Jenifer Felzien, Colorado WIFE member from Day 1, shared a lot of interesting tidbits about those early experiences in WIFE back in the day!



**Jenifer**

Barbara talked about how her mother and some friends were sitting playing Bridge and decided that they needed to do something to help their husbands and family farming operations, as prices were in the tank, so WIFE was born!

In describing all of the early trips to DC, letter writing campaigns, phone chains, etc., it was very obvious that those early WIFE ladies dedicated a lot of time and effort into this campaign!

Barbara also brought a copy of the first WIFE Cookbook that was published .

It was fun to hear all of the early stories—Thanks Ladies!



**Nebraska WIFE & HOW's**



**2017 WIFE Officers**

**L-R—Kerry Froese, Diane McDonald, Mary Ann Murray, Jenifer Felzien, Debra Dressler, Donna Bolz, Past Pres., Linda Newman**

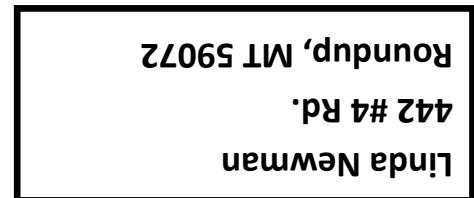


**1st Row (L-R): Linda Newman, Debra Dressler, Donna Bolz, Jenifer Felzien, Pam Potthoff, Diane McDonald, Mary Ann Murray, Kerry Froese. 2nd Row (L-R): Marlene Kouba, Melinda Sorem, Ila Nelson, Gladys Walling, Ann Schlereth, Phyllis Hoskin, Freda Schmidt, Jean Preifert, Phyllis Nelson. 3rd Row (L-R): Cathy Scherler, Ardyth Anderson, Linda Houborg, Whitney Klasna, Lisa Goodheart, Jean Wach, Phyllis Snider, Fran Kreutz, Jennifer Jones and Paula Sandberg.**





**TO:**



## **DATES TO REMEMBER!!**

**DC Legislative Meeting: March 19-24, 2017**

**June BOD Conference Call: June 6, 2017 at 6:30 pm MDT**

### **2017 Commodity Topic Chairman**

**BEEF—Jennifer Jones, NE**

**ALL GRAINS—Phyllis Hoskin, MT**

**DAIRY—Chris Ankan, NY**

**ENERGY—Belinda Pierce Groner, CO**

**NAT. RESOURCES—Jillane Hixson, CO**

**RURAL LIFE—Mary Ann Unruh, ND**

**SUGAR—Klodette Stroh, WY**

**TRADE—Ruth Laribee, NY**

**HOMELAND SEC.—Marlene Kouba, ND**

### **2017 Standing Committees**

**FINANCE:** Linda Newman, Chairman, Cathy Scherler, Jenifer Felzien, Yvonne Snider, and Melinda Sorem

**RESOLUTIONS:** Korry Lewis, Chairman

**MEMBERSHIP:** Darcy Dressler, Chairman

**BYLAWS/PROCEDURES:** Lisa Goodheart, Chairman

**LEGISLATIVE:** Melinda Sorem, Chairman

**SOCIAL MEDIA/WEBSITE:** Whitney Klasna

**PRESS RELEASES:** Pam Potthoff

**HISTORY:** Marlene Kouba

**PARLIAMENTARIAN:** Whitney Klasna