

# Ohio Women in Agriculture



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Honors

# “100 Faces of Ohio Women in Agriculture”



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# In celebration of



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE



**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** The Cambridge Trading Company Christmas Tree Farm

**Contact information:** [christmastrees-ohio.com](http://christmastrees-ohio.com)

**Social media:** Facebook: Cambridge Trading Company Christmas Tree Farm

**Biography:** I did not have the privilege of being involved in agriculture until I purchased land in 1982. I began planting 50 pine trees a year, most of which died. After joining the Ohio Christmas Tree Association in 1989, where I learned how to actually grow Christmas trees from OSU Extension Educators, my family and I planted 2000 trees a year and eventually had over 30,000 trees. We stopped planting in 2004 as part of a retirement from the business plan but continue to shear and mow. We have had haunted hikes and a pumpkin patch as part of a marketing plan for the trees. Although our emphasis has been on bringing families to our farm, we have sold trees wholesale as well as online. As the tree inventory is declining, our greenery business is increasing as we use the cull trees to make holiday decorations for downtown Cambridge. I grow vegetables and have had a roadside stand. We continue to add to and manage our hardwood forest. I have had other jobs but working on the farm is the most satisfying.

**Favorite quote or saying:** The quote my grandkids hear the most when they come to the farm is "If you work hard, you get to play hard."

### Guernsey County honors **KATHI ALBERTSON**

KATHI has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, and owner since 1989.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**

My full time job that made it possible for me to buy the land that my farm is on, was working as an administrator for Ohio University. In that position, I had the opportunity to talk to young people trying to decide on career paths. My advice was to follow their instincts and explore all of the avenues that might lead to a happy life. Talk to people who are doing the things that they might be interested in and ask them how they got there. Take advantage of any opportunity to job shadow. If a young woman is interested in working in agriculture but does not live on a farm, she should try to work for someone who does, either as a volunteer or for pay if possible. She will probably find that the work is dirty and the hardest job she could ever love. Anyone considering agriculture needs to realize that few people can make a living on farming alone and most have jobs off the farm. While money is a factor, gender is not. If you can handle the risk and the work, go for it!



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Ayars Family Farm Ice Cream, Land of Living Dairy Farm

**Contact information:** As an educator, [www.4hansci.osu.edu](http://www.4hansci.osu.edu); as an owner, [www.ayarsfamilyfarm.com](http://www.ayarsfamilyfarm.com)

**Social media:** Facebook: Ohio 4-H Dairy Program, Ayars Family Farm

**Biography:** Luckily, I was born and raised on a dairy farm. Thankfully 4-H was introduced to me and I participated in many county, state and national levels of activities. Along the way, I received my Home Economics teaching degree from OSU in 1973. Between those years, I married another OSU alum, John, who was teaching and managing the home dairy farm. Our story began 42 years ago and we are still in the business and expanding. We have three sons, all OSU graduates and advocates for agriculture. Beyond the barnyard, we have been actively involved in showing and judging cattle across the country and we have a niche business producing and marketing Ayars Family Farm ice cream. Recently, an expansive event center has become a hub for educational tours, farm sales, plus ag and consumer related events. After many years in the high school classroom, I assumed a position with OSU (8 years ago) as a dairy youth extension educator coordinating 4-H dairy activities, teaching in the Animal Science Department, and coaching both the collegiate and 4-H dairy judging teams. I consider myself a product of agriculture, a promoter, a professional educator, and a protector of our lifestyle. On that journey, I have served on three national boards including the 4-H Foundation Board and it has been an honor to become the World Dairy Expo Woman of the year, an Ohio Agriculture Woman of the year, and Ohio State Fair Hall of Fame. However, it has been very special to be recognized by students at OSU in various ways. And the story continues in my dream job!

**Favorite quote or saying:** Knowledge is power, but enthusiasm pulls the switch.

After 41 years in the classroom, I have found that enthusiasm can bring life to any subject. Add a spark of passion and you will find the teachable moment staring back at you in the eyes of your students/and or those you are mentoring.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** There is a lesson in every experience. Find it and use it. You will find quality mentors in all age groups and build a network of those you can be grateful for. Sometimes I tell kids that they should listen just a bit more closely to me as I have more of a past and less of a future, but they have more of a future and less of a past. It causes them to stop and think!



### Madison County honors **BONNIE AYARS**

BONNIE has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter, Educator, and wife since 1951.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE



***Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:*** Bailey Bro's

***Biography:*** Donna was born into a farming family near Ripley, Ohio. Her early life, she was involved in milking registered Guernsey cattle, and raising burley tobacco. She was involved with 4-H exhibiting registered Guernsey dairy at several county fairs and The Ohio State fair. She was married in May 1968 to a farm boy, Eddie. They purchased a small farm near Ash Ridge, Ohio and raised 3 boys who were also involved with agriculture. She helped them as they became involved with 4-H and FFA showing Steers, swine, sheep and tobacco. She assisted the local FFA advisor with training tobacco judging contestants. She organized sheep seminars to show young exhibitors on proper handling of their projects and show ring etiquette. Her family also operated a feed and supply business. She was superintendent of the Brown County Junior fair for many years till her health would not allow it. After her death in 2006, a scholarship fund was set up in her honor to assist seniors in pursuing a college degree in agriculture

*Brown County*  
honors  
**DONNA  
BAILEY**

DONNA contributed to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter, and assisting instructor from 1958 to 2006.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Berry's Blooms Ltd

**Social media:** Facebook: berrysblooms

**Biography:** Teri is founder and President of Berry's Blooms, Ltd, a cut flower farm with over 10 acres in out door production and approx. 1/2 acre of greenhouse production. A life long resident of Granger Township in Medina County, Teri is very active in her community, serving as a Township Trustee for the past 16 years. After growing up on a hog farm, Teri attended The Ohio State University majoring in Ag Econ, graduating summa cum laude in 1989. Upon graduation Teri returned to her family's farm and feed business. After selling pumpkins and sweet corn for many years, cut flowers were a natural product extension in 1998. Today cut flowers are produced year round with both a permanent and seasonal work force. Flowers are sold through multiple distribution channels including grocery stores, retail and wholesale. Teri married her high school sweetheart, Bob Berry. They have a daughter, Suzy, who is a sophomore. The family has resided in a 1830's farmhouse since returning from Ohio State.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** My advise to young women who work at Berry's Blooms, including my daughter, Suzy, is:

1. Follow your dreams or your instincts, whichever you choose;
2. Work hard, persevere through your early failures and ignore the naysayers;
3. Be fair and kind;
4. Believe in yourself, have confidence; and
5. Follow the Golden Rule



### Medina County honors **TERI BERRY**

TERI has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife and daughter since 1975.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE



**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Romanov Sheep Center

**Biography:** Married husband, David, in 1978 to farm together, raise a family, serve God & be "Mother Earthers". First projects- woodshed, chickenhouse, smokehouse, greenhouse, garden, fruit cupboard, milk cow, cheesemaking. Inspired by the Foxfire Books, we shared a passion and learned soapmaking, beekeeping, canning, butchering, curing, smoking, sorghum molasses, while farming. Imported Romanov Sheep in 1986, never expecting such resistance from the sheep industry. Through tireless and imaginative marketing with this "Agri-preneurial" project, we broke into the industry and sold into 42 states and two foreign countries by getting out of traditional markets and targeting people like ourselves with media coverage and exciting ads. Raised 3 sons, immersed in this lifestyle. We raise our own beef, pork, chicken, eggs, lamb, fish, milk, cheese, vegetables, fruit, cure hams, stuff and smoke sausage. I am a licensed Farmstead Cheesemaker, 17 varieties, We have a Bed and Breakfast, 2 vacation/hunter's cottages w/pd. hunting. OSU Master Gardener, Extension Advisory Bd, & 4-H sheep Key Leader.

### Monroe County honors **NICKI BLACKSTONE**

NICKI has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, and daughter and through marketing since 1978.

**Favorite quote or saying:** The woman sets the tone for the home. Everything depends upon mother.

I have two plaques in my kitchen. 1. "There is ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS something to be thankful for." & "BE NICE OR LEAVE"

Know that the only Jesus that some people will ever see is the Jesus that they see in you. This is a huge responsibility and should be taken very seriously.

Be the kind of person that people feel better after they have spent time with you.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**

Prioritize- God first, family second, then business. Take care of your health & your body. Learn to manage your time & work efficiently. Be positive, but be realistic. Just because it pencils out in your heart does not mean it will pencil out on paper. It doesn't all have to make money, but most of it needs to. If you don't have a seriously strong work effort, don't try to farm. Farming is hard physical work- long hours & plenty of danger. Be fanatical about safety. Require healthy dynamics in your relationships. Do not let cross tones & cross words creep into your lives. The demands & fast pace of farming will test a relationship. Have a sense of humor & be an encouragement. Think outside the box to generate more income & added value from the farm. Niche markets, specialty products & innovative marketing can keep you from being like the old saying- "Behind every successful farmer is a wife with a good job in town." Be determined to be one of the farmers, not just the one who financially enables it.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Muddy Fork Farm

**Contact information:** [www.muddyforkfarm.com](http://www.muddyforkfarm.com)

**Social media:** Facebook: muddyforkfarm

**Biography:** I was born and raised in Colombia and moved to the United States to pursue education. I have a B.S. in Botany from the University of Massachusetts (Amherst, MA) and Ph.D in biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of California, (Davis, CA). My education and research focused on the plant sciences led to a farming career. I started Muddy Fork Farm in 1996, a USDA certified organic farm. I manage Muddy Fork Farm with the goals of enhancing the biodiversity of the property and developing a sustainable business and farming model. Our farming system integrates wild areas, livestock, fruit and vegetable production, renewable energy and the people living and working at the farm. I believe in supporting and creating markets for small-scale farms and businesses with an environmental and sustainability ethic. To achieve this ideal I have been a founding and board member of Local Roots Market and Cafe in Wooster and of Farm Roots Connection cooperative, a multi-farm cooperative CSA.

### Wayne County honors **MONICA BONGUE**

MONICA has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife and through many jobs since 1996.

**Favorite quote or saying:** From the Argentinian song writer, Atahualpa Yupanqui (Los Yuyitos de mi Tierra)

No digo que pa' vivir  
Tenga que hacerse algún daño,  
Pero más de lo preciso  
Demuestra espíritu malo  
translation-I don't say that to live you don't have to do some harm, but more than is necessary demonstrates a bad spirit

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**  
Get a mentor, be a mentor.  
Trust and believe in yourself  
Remain creative, resourceful and willing to learn.  
Do what you know is right.  
Be ready to work hard



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Social media:** Google+

<https://plus.google.com/u/0/101970711824556588849/posts/p/pub>

**Biography:** My trajectory into and through various aspects of agriculture has been anything but conventional, predictable, or easily summarized.

Suburban kid. During high school, volunteered & employed at a working Angus cattle farm in Clermont Co. Embraced animal science undergrad due to OSU faculty like Bill Tyznik & Tom Ludwick – challenging, insightful mentors.

Practiced livestock medicine until return to Cincinnati. "Changed kingdoms" to horticulture, switching from herd health care to plant health care, leveraging Extension resources / personnel to achieve this. Found the green industry replete with welcoming mentors, peers and other second-career converts.

Emerald ash borer's arrival in OH was akin to a new virus in hogs – absolute disaster, then science catches up. Anticipating this and again relying on OSU & UKy resources, certified as an arborist & developed expertise in municipal management of publicly-owned ash trees.

Plans? To continue to think & look outside the box. ;-)

***Favorite quote or saying:*** 1st – "I don't know, but I'll find out." – C. Philip Bonham, my dad

2nd – "The plural of anecdote is not data." – uncertain attribution

***Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:*** Defy convention. Seek opportunities. Identify mentors. Become a mentor. Network, collaborate, share. Repeat as needed.



### *Hamilton County* honors **J BRADFORD BONHAM, DVM**

J BRADFORD has been contributing to agriculture as a volunteer, educator, veterinarian and horticulturalist since 1973.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

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**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Brickel Creek Organic Farm

**Contact information:** <http://brickelcreek.com>

**Social media:** Facebook: Brickel Creek Organic Farm

**Biography:** From the time I was a little girl I told my parents I was going to have a farm when I grew up. When I became an adult I followed my Mothers footsteps and got into commercial real estate. As a stress release I started volunteering at the Metro Parks and realized that I needed to follow my childhood dream and buy a farm. Within a few months of looking I found the perfect farm and have never looked back. Producing the highest density food possible makes me feel like I am doing something very important, something that will make a difference.

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**Favorite quote or saying:** Farming is truly a labor of Love and if your dream is to farm than you will find it very rewarding and fun; hard work but fun. Remember we are what we eat so eat well and be well!

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### Greene County honors **SUE BORTON**

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SUE has been contributing to agriculture as a mother and through commercial real estate since 2007.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Find someone who is doing well and work with them as a mentor to get a really good idea of what all is involved. Be prepared for set backs and make sure you have the financial backing you will need to get the business up and running.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

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**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Brown's Family Farm Market

**Contact information:** [www.brownsfarmmarket.com](http://www.brownsfarmmarket.com)

**Social media:** Facebook: Brown's Family Farm Market

**Biography:** I was 16, and working at a store that sold produce when I met my husband. He was raising sweet corn on a farm near by. We met in a cornfield when I went to buy corn for the store. We married and continued to farm while raising three daughters. I wanted to be the best wife that I could possibly be. That meant being a partner, 100%. I drove tractors, fed cows, helped with the pigs and took lunch to the fields. Then we decided to raise produce and open a farm market. Soon we were raising 300 acres of produce, had four farm markets a tack store, a seed business, greenhouses and hosting thousands of school kids to our farm each fall. When I turned 50 I got my CDL and started driving the straight truck to northern Ohio to sell our produce. I learned to triple stack cantaloupe and load semi trucks. Our business continues to evolve and we are always busy with something new. It is still a labor of love.

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Butler County  
honors  
**JOYCE  
BROWN**

JOYCE has been contributing to  
agriculture since 1970.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Success is not the key to happiness, but happiness is the key to success.

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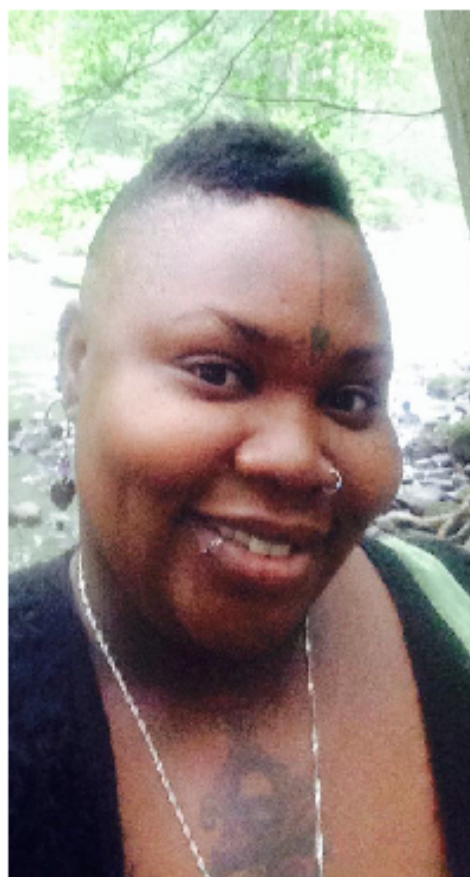
**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**

Live your life and love what you do. If you are committed to agriculture the rewards will be many. Oftentimes tangible assets are the measure of success, but more often it is the intangible assets that are so important and will better equip you to succeed. The personal growth opportunities are unlimited in farming if always approached with a "can do" attitude. Make a choice to be positive while facing the daily challenges of your livelihood. Farming is a privilege and a blessing, not available to all. Appreciate every day.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Lady Buggs Farm

**Social media:** Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/LadyBuggsFarm?ref=hl>; Lady Buggs Farm Blog: <http://ladybuggsfarm.blogspot.com>

**Biography:** Sophia has specialty crop farming experience with Ohio State University Extension Centers and Goodness Grows and has a Market Garden Certificate from Iron Roots Urban Farm. Sophia Also holds a Masters of Education with a concentration in Curriculum and Instruction from American InterContinental University and a Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice from Bethune-Cookman University.

Her mission is to Restore, Revamp and Revitalize her community and provide local fresh foods and wellness products that are affordable and accessible to all. Her vision is to have a sustainable home farm that will offer the necessary resources that will encourage others to grow their own foods, restore their connection to the land and live a healthy life.

### Mahoning County honors **SOPHIA L. BUGGS**

SOPHIA L. has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, daughter and cooking instructor since 2012.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Feeding people, strengthening families and beautifying communities is not an option its required! Lady Buggs

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Everyone is well aware of the challenges in farming but not so much with its joys. Find the joys and the freedoms of being stewards of the Great Mother/ Earth and she will reward you with all that you will need to grow. Continue to bring the appreciation and love back to the land because you are its most greatest reflections. We are the ones that we have been waiting for.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Wil B J Farm and Union Stock Yards

**Contact information:** [www.unionstockyards.net](http://www.unionstockyards.net)

**Biography:** Born and raised on a farm, began working at Union Sstock Yards in November 1962, secretary treasurer, Auction day is Thursday with specials on Monday. We own 300 acres where we background feeder cattle, brood cows and bale hay. We sell feeder cattle to eight farmers in Kansas and one in Indiana.

Retirement is not in the picture, because I enjoy meeting new friends, working with them at our auction. We are now working with the third generation in several families.

Active in six county fairs, member Altrusa International of Highland County (a literacy club), Ohio Cattleman Allied Industry member, Secretary of Highland County Cattlemen, belong to St. Mary Church. Have four children, all married and have ten grandchildren. Reside on the farm in Hillsboro, Ohio with husband, Bill.

Highland County  
honors  
**JANET  
BUTLER**

JANET has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, and daughter since 1963.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Have a happy day

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Agricultural field is a place where you meet so many friends, families; work and spend time together. A very good place to raise a family, teaches work ethics, friendship, sharing and having fun while working together.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Byland Polled Shorthorn Farm

**Contact information:** [bylandshorthorns.com](http://bylandshorthorns.com); Facebook under Byland Polled Shorthorn Farm

**Social media:** Facebook: under Marilyn Byers

**Biography:** I was a small town girl who in 1953, just out of college, married Dr. L. Eugene Byers, who was starting his own veterinary practice at Byland Animal Hospital. Our courting consisted of rushing to emergencies and with Gene teaching me farm terms such as "a down cow; boar; gilt; heifer, she's in heat; one foot out." As a new wife, I cleaned dog cages, assisted surgery, paid bills, sent out statements, took messages, and got acquainted with the agricultural community.

In the late 1950's we bought a Shorthorn heifer with a calf at her side. That was the start of Byland Polled Shorthorn Farm which now is ranked as one of the top producers of Shorthorn cattle in the United States.

As our four children, Jeff, Jennifer, Jill, and Jon grew up, each was active in 4H, showed at the Ohio State Fair and other fairs, and received many honors for their hard work. During this time I served on Extension Advisory Committee and 4H Committee. I was listed as Country Woman magazine's "Notable Farm Woman." In 1982 our extension agent nominated our family for "Ohio's Great American Family" and we WON!

The children were moving on to college. Gene had built a modern veterinary hospital with a staff. With my husband's encouragement, I embarked on another new adventure. I ran for Ashland County Commissioner, a post I held for 28 years. Following are some awards and service I have been blessed with: Meritorious Service to Ashland County 4H award, 1995; Friend of 4H, 2006; Friend of Farm Bureau, 2006; president Ohio Cattle Women; president Ohio Shorthorn Lassies; president County Commissioners Association of Ohio; Ohio Women's Hall of Fame, 1997; president National Conference Republican County Officials; Mohican Area Community Service award, 1996; Ashland County Women of Achievement; Samaritan Hospital Board; Veterinary Auxiliary Board.

Some fulfilling 4H activities while in public office have been: Key Advisor for 4H self-determined project on county government and collaborated with state 4H officials on local government self-determined project materials. I toured many 4H'ers through the county jail, the courts, and other county buildings to develop government awareness.

I retired at the end of my seventh term in 2006. Since then I have served as president of the Loudonville-Mohican Chamber of Commerce, member of Symphony Board and Area Agency on Aging Board. Boards I still am on are Library, Mohican Area Growth, United Way. I sing in my church choir, serve on worship committee and was just elected to church council.

I was married 43 years to the late Gene Byers. I reside on the family farm at 500 T.R. 2802, Loudonville, Ohio, 44842, and still do the accounting for the farm which my sons work and manage.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Live by the personal theme of "individual responsibility." Do your part to make the world better for all people and work diligently toward your goals.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Learn to write competently and to speak articulately as you communicate with others. So do not rely on social media and electronics.

### Ashland County honors MARILYN BYERS

MARILYN has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, and owner since 1953.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

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***Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:*** Brown Fruit Farm / Molly Caren Ag Center

***Biography:*** Marie "Molly" Caren was born on the Brown Fruit Farm, Worthington, Ohio, on November 1, 1913. After attending Trinity College and receiving a B.A. in English from the Ohio State University, Molly returned to her family's apple farm, where she took over managing operations in 1936.

Working closely with the Ohio Cooperative Extension service, the Brown Fruit Farm thrived until 1962, when Molly and her husband moved to Columbus. Soon after, Molly purchased a livestock farm in Madison County and returned to Ohio State to study in the College of Agriculture under Program 60.

It was during this time that Molly got to know Dean Roy Kottman, who laid out plans for purchasing land in Madison County, near Interstate 70, as the new site for the Farm Science Review. Molly agreed with these plans, and in 1981, gave 992 acres of land, valued at \$1.7 million, to OSU. Molly received the College of Agriculture Meritorious Service award in 1984 and the Ohio State University Distinguished Service Award in 1985.

### *Madison County honors* **MOLLY CAREN**

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MOLLY contributed to agriculture for 69 years as a mother, wife, production operator, and donator of the land for the Molly Caren Ag Center.

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***Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:***  
If you have the ability to do something else, then pursue an education. In many cases, you can keep the farm and do something else so you have another source of income. That's just common sense.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Chronister Farms, LLC

**Contact information:** [www.Chronisterfarmsllc.com](http://www.Chronisterfarmsllc.com)

**Biography:** I am a 2003 graduate of the Ohio State University with a B. S. in Agriculture. After graduation, I worked at WIL Research as a biologist before returning home to the farm. I started working for NRCS in 2006 and transferred to the Columbiana-Mahoning County FSA Office in 2007. I accepted my current position at Consumers National Bank as the agricultural lender in May of 2012. As of June, 2014 I am the sole agricultural lender at Consumers National Bank and I serve Stark, Carroll, Columbiana and surrounding counties. I own & operate Chronister Farms, LLC, which is a pasture based farm operation. I raise chickens, turkeys, cattle, and sheep in pasture. The poultry gets supplemented with non-GMO grain. All meat and eggs produced are marketed through my website and on an all natural website.

Jefferson County  
honors  
**SARAH  
CHRONISTER**

SARAH has been contributing to agriculture as a daughter since 2009.

**Favorite quote or saying:** You are braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.  
-Winnie the Pooh

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something. Hard work and perseverance will always pay off.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Cooper Farms

**Contact information:** [www.cooperfarms.com](http://www.cooperfarms.com)

**Biography:** Dianne Cooper is the Director of the Cooper Family Foundation and Corporate secretary at Cooper Farms. After many years of part-time and intermittent work within the company, Ms. Cooper joined the company full-time in January of 1980.

Cooper Farms is a model of modern, efficient family-owned production agriculture as a producer of hogs, turkeys and eggs. Cooper Farms is a vertically integrated turkey operation, controlling their product from egg to market. They raise and process over 210 million live pounds of turkey each year. Cooper Farms also raises and markets over 110 million live pounds of hogs and produces over 30 million dozen table eggs each year.

Cooper Farms was founded in 1938 by Ms. Cooper's parents, Virgil and Virginia Cooper, in Oakwood, Ohio. Ms. Cooper works to uphold the values held by her parent through philanthropy and community involvement and team member special events.

Today, Cooper Farms is the largest turkey producer in Ohio and 12th largest in the United States of America. Cooper Farms now owns and operates four divisions located in northwest and west central, Ohio; a Hatchery Division, Feed and Animal Division, Processing Division and Cooked Meats Division. Since Mr. Cooper's start with Cooper Farms in 1974, they have gone from 35 team members to the over 1,700 employed today.

Ms. Cooper is a member of the Planning Board for the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association and is a member of the National Turkey Federation. She is also the President of the Oakwood Alumni Association. She is a past board member of the Paulding County Farm Bureau and Paulding County Chamber of Commerce. She was president of the Oakwood Homecoming for 14 years and Girl Scout troop leader for 10 years. She is also very involved in her church and local library activities. In 1994 Ms. Cooper received the Hardee's Hometown Hero award for helping children.

Ms. Cooper's true pride and joy is her family. Her six children, 17 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren

***Favorite quote or saying:*** You can accomplish whatever you put your mind to.

***Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:***  
Just do your best.



### Paulding County honors **DIANNE COOPER**

DIANNE has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife and daughter since 1980.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Broadview Stock Farm, Mike and Judy Cowman

**Biography:** Born in 1947 to Lawrence and Olive Dean in Clinton County, Ohio. Raised on large Dairy farm in Clinton County, Ohio. Started in 4-H in 1957. Graduated from Wilmington High School in 1965. Attended Miami University/Middletown Hospital Nursing Program 1965-1968. 1967 began working as student nurse at Clinton Memorial Hospital in Wilmington, Ohio. 1968 Started working at Clinton Memorial Hospital as Registered Nurse. 1974 Fell in love with and married grade school boyfriend, Mike Cowman. Continued working as registered nurse at Clinton Memorial Hospital as Emergency Room Nurse and Nursing Supervisor. Retired from Nursing in 2005. 1974-2007 Actively involved in day to day farming operation of large grain and Farrow to finish and show pig operation. 2007 Transitioned from Hog operation to Boer Goat breeding herd consisting of 130 head. At present very involved in local 4-H committee/OSU Extension in Clinton County. It is with great pleasure that I continue to be involved in agriculture.

***Favorite quote or saying:***

"Mediocrity is not an option in life"

"Always treat people like you want to be treated"

***Advice to the future generation of women in***

***agriculture:*** Always try to be aware of Agriculture and what is going on in that field. Farmers and agriculture related people are hard workers and are very concerned about our environment and our surroundings.. They are usually from many generations of farmers and are grateful for that honor. For women in agriculture it is necessary for you to be involved and actively participate in ag. programs around you.



*Clinton County*  
honors  
**JUDY COWMAN**

JUDY has been contributing to agriculture as a wife and daughter since 1974.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Farm and Dairy

**Contact information:** <http://www.farmanddairy.com>

**Social media:**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/farmanddairy> and <https://www.facebook.com/crowell.susan>;

Google+: <https://plus.google.com/+SusanCrowell>

**Biography:** Susan Crowell is the editor of the 100-year-old weekly newspaper Farm and Dairy, Salem, Ohio. She joined Farm and Dairy in 1985 as a staff reporter, and was named editor in 1989. A native of rural Holmes County, Ohio, Susan was raised on a dairy farm near Walnut Creek. She received a bachelor of science degree in journalism from Kent State University. She is a past recipient of the Agriculture Communicator of the Year award from the Ohio Agri-Women, the Ohio Farm Bureau's Agriculture Communicator Award, and the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association's Distinguished Service Award. She serves on the advisory council for Bruce McPherson, dean of OSU's College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and is past president of the state OSU Extension advisory council. She is also the current stakeholder liaison to the nat'l governing committee for the Cooperative Extension System. Susan and her husband, Keith, live in Columbiana County, and have two adult children, Annette and Jon.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "Words are sacred. They deserve respect. If you get the right ones in the right order, you can nudge the world a little."

—Tom Stoppard

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Don't pretend to know something you don't. Read, read, read, and ask, ask, ask. (Everyone starts somewhere.) Don't be mediocre. Don't be pigeonholed into a "female stereotype" (whatever that is), and don't be afraid to reach out to a veteran female in agriculture you respect for advice. Be prepared for long days, this is not a 9 to 5 field. Work hard. Have fun. Respect has to be earned, so earn it!



Columbiana County  
honors  
**SUSAN  
CROWELL**

SUSAN has been contributing to agriculture as an Ag Journalist since 1985.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Dawson Farms Inc.

**Biography:** Born and raised on a dairy farm in Licking County. Graduated from ATI/OSU. Married in 1980 to Doug Dawson and have 4 children. I farm my father's farm and work with Dawson Farms, Inc farming 3000 acres. We raise corn, soybeans, alfalfa hay, wheat, and barley. We also have a farrow-to-finish operation with 1400 sows and sell 30,000 hogs annually. I was a 4-H advisor for 19 years and still involved with the pig and lamb show and sale. I am a past board member of the Delaware Co. Farm Bureau. I have served as women's committee chairperson and currently chairperson for the Delaware 4th of July parade, committee member for the Farm Bureau fair tent and the Picnic in the Pasture. In 1996, our family was honored with Farm Family of the year for Delaware area Chamber of Commerce. In 1997, I was awarded Delaware Co. Farm Bureau Farm Woman of Year. In 1988, Doug and I was awarded OFBF Ohio Young Farm Couple of the Year. I am also a member of the Kilbourne United Methodist Church.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Always treat people the way you want to be treated - with respect!

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** GET INVOLVED- having been involved in agriculture through 4-H and FFA and Farm Bureau has brought me a lot of satisfaction and rewards. Farming is a way of life. Support all forms of agriculture big or small. Be involved! FAITH, FAMILY, and FARMING!



### Delaware County honors **CATHY DAWSON**

CATHY has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife and daughter since 1974.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Mitchell's Berries

**Contact information:** [www.mitchellsberries.com](http://www.mitchellsberries.com)

**Social media:** Facebook: Mitchell's Berries; Instagram: Mitchell's Berries

**Biography:** Shelly grew up on a grain farm in Plain City, attended OSU with a degree in Dietetics. After a dietetic internship at WVU, working in Florida and South Carolina, she returned to Ohio in 1992, devoting her time to raising 2 sons and dreaming of getting back into agriculture, her way. In 1998 Detwiler Veggie Farm started and sweet corn was sold. Shelly nudged the family to expand to include black raspberries and edamame. Their business became Mitchell's Farm and moved to Plain City planting 3 acres of black and red raspberries. Over the years plasticulture strawberries, black and purple raspberries were added to meet increasing demand. In 2012 Mitchell's Berries, LLC was formed with Shelly as the Managing Owner. Today, they have 1 acre of plasticulture strawberries, 4 acres of red, black and purple raspberries, edamame, sweet red peppers and Ruby Red Popcorn. Shelly has created events such as Art on the Farm: Cocktails & Canvas and a Winetasting & Artisan Cheese Sampling to get folks back to the farm in non-traditional ways.

**Favorite quote or saying:** This is Mitchell's Berries' slogan. Shelly loves sharing her agricultural roots with her "pickers", who are generations removed from the farm. She communicates through recipes and her agricultural stories on her website, weekly seasonal emails, facebook and Instagram. Through collaborative efforts through her dietetic consulting business, Union County Health Department, Eat Local Union County and Union County Farm Bureau she is able to share recipes and cooking using local ingredients to show the community how their plates can be both healthy and taste great. Most recently she has had the privilege to share food, family and farm stories with readers of The Ohio Country Journal.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Find your passion and share your true stories of agriculture. You will be amazed what seems ordinary to you is extraordinary to others.



### Union County honors **SHELLY DETWILER**

SHELLY has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife and daughter since 1998.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

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**Biography:** I grew up in a suburb of Cincinnati, and earned my degree at Xavier University. In 1994 my family moved to Westerville, Ohio where we raised three children and still live. My husband and I purchased 60 acres of farmland in Pickaway County in 2012 and added an adjacent 220 acres of farm and forested land in 2013. Because we do not live on the land, we sold the house to a family who wants to preserve the historical home and live there, while we retained most of the agricultural land. The farm production is in the hands of two excellent local producers/farmers in a rotation of corn and soybeans. With their help, I have worked to learn as much as I can about farming operations, grain markets, and about the community in which my farm is located. Local County offices, and the OSU Extension Service through Annie's Project have also been excellent resources. I also take care of my family, other real estate that we own, and practice and teach yoga in Columbus.

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Pickaway County  
honors  
**MARIANNE  
DUMBACHER-  
O'NEIL**

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MARIANNE has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter and manager since **2012**.

**Favorite quote or saying:** There can be no independent doing or accomplishment because everything is happening together. (Unknown)

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**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Learn as much as you can about all aspects of whatever you endeavor. Learn about the history, current trends, alternative views, science and technology, business, markets, economic forces and trends, interpersonal relationships and dynamics and anything else you can think of. Learn about farming throughout the world, and where all sorts of crops are grown. There is really no aspect of farming that is not part of the larger picture of what is happening in the world, and that may be true of all professions. Never stop learning! Think big and small at the same time. Be open to change and be willing to try even when you may not succeed. In the end, use your knowledge and expertise to make the best moral and ethical choices. Good Luck!!



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Emmons Dairy Farm

**Biography:** Geraldine (Kuszmaul) Emmons was born on a small grain and dairy farm in Northwest Ohio, growing up in Fulton County. As a youngster, she was a ten year 4-Her, 4-H camp counselor and member of junior leadership club. Since her marriage to her high school sweetheart, Neree Emmons in 1962, Geraldine has spent her life promoting production agriculture and specifically the dairy industry and nutrition. She has played the role of farmwife, mother to two girls and two boys, dairy communicator for the co-op, and coordinator of the Fulton Co Dairy Ambassador Program. She has been active in Ohio State Extension as a 25 year 4-H advisor, Camp Palmer nurse, and member of the Advisory Committee. Geraldine regularly coordinates farm tours for schools. She continues to work as a nurse and Sunday School teacher. She is active in Ohio Farm Bureau, Ohio Holstein Assn, the Toledo Rose Society and the Fulton Co Garden Club. In 2012, Geraldine was honored with induction into the Fulton Co Ag Hall of Fame.

*Fulton County*  
honors  
**GERALDINE  
EMMONS**

GERALDINE has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter and dairy industry promoter since **1962**.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "He who plants a seed beneath the sod, believes in God"  
"Honor one another"

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**  
Never forget to communicate to others all of the good things that happen on the farm and life skills that can be taught on the farm. Learn new methods of communication like social media to convey the message of good nutrition, farm life, and family values.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Pine Lane Farm Soaps

**Contact information:** [www.pinelanesoaps.com](http://www.pinelanesoaps.com)

**Social media:** Facebook: Pine Lane Soap

**Biography:** Sisters Martha Enriquez and Becky Jones, along with their mother, Patty Fix, have raised Toggenburg and Saanen dairy goats for approximately 40 years. Martha and Becky showed the goats in Clermont County 4-H and their children have continued that tradition. They are members of the Southwestern Ohio Dairy Goat Association and the Handcrafted Soapmakers Guild. Martha has a BS in Agriculture from Wilmington College and an MS in Agricultural Education from The Ohio State University. She was a program coordinator in Clermont County for many years. Becky has a BA in Music Education and has worked as a music director, choral director and woodwind instructor for many years.

### Clermont County honors **MARTHA ENRIQUEZ, BECKY JONES, and PATTY FIX**

MARTHA, BECKY, and PATTY have been contributing to agriculture as mothers, daughters, business owners, aunts and granddaughters since 1960.

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**Favorite quote or saying:** Everybody uses soap, or at least they should.

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**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Be proud of what you do. Be active in your community and support local businesses as you hope to be supported too. Build an education component into your business. Be open to learning things you never would have expected. Love what you do!



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** DuPont Pioneer

**Social media:** Twitter: [https://twitter.com/chas\\_euler](https://twitter.com/chas_euler);

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/chasitie.euler](http://www.linkedin.com/chasitie.euler)

**Biography:** At a very young age, my family taught me the core values of hard work, integrity and compassion through my involvement on our family farm and through 4-H. I graduated from Wilmington College in 1999 where I had many great hands-on experiences with internship experiences with American Cyanamid and Monsanto. I began my career with Monsanto where I represented the Asgrow and DeKalb Brands in Northern Ohio. While at Monsanto, I earned my M.B.A from Bowling Green State University. In 2010, I was given an opportunity to represent DuPont Pioneer where I represent the Pioneer Seed Brand with key growers and sales representatives. My husband, Roger, I have a small grain crop farm in Wood County where we focus on corn and soybean production. Our children, Caleb (7) and Lauren (5) are very active in the community and share our love for livestock and grain production. It is our family's passion to share our agriculture experiences with our children and the next generation.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations but about your unfulfilled potential." St. John XXIII

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** My advice for the next generation of young women in agriculture is to be confident, know your core values, and follow your dreams. As young women, there are many opportunities in agriculture now and in the future. In this technology driven environment, you can be leaders in precision agriculture, business management, and agronomic consultation. We are wives, sisters, daughters, and mothers who connect with other women who make the daily food purchase decisions that feed the many families around the world. We have the ability to connect with this group to share our production agriculture message about safe and economical practices. It takes all generations being involved and being leaders of commodity organizations and our local farm bureaus. Your ability to impact production is beyond your grasps. Follow your dreams and share your talents.



### Wood County honors **CHASITIE EULER**

CHASITIE has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter and Sales Consultant since 1997.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Powhaton Farm

**Contact information:**

**Social media:** Facebook: Powhaton Farm

**Biography:** I am the seventh generation and first woman of the Evans Family to own and operate Powhaton Farm, recognized in 2012 as the first bicentennial farm in Champaign County. Born and raised on this farm, I became my dad's only farmhand at the age of twelve. Although my life's journey involved a career in Washington DC, I returned to manage the family farm. Farming is "not just a job, but a way of life"—a life that I have always cherished, and I continue to learn and grow each day where I am planted. For three years I have led a group of twenty women, organized as "Grain Marketing for Girls". We learn, grow and support each other in becoming better managers of our farms—studying grain marketing, agronomy, agribusiness, risk management, succession planning, and farm safety. I've networked with ranchers and farmers from across the nation at the Ag Summit & the Commodity Classic. I'm a member of National Corn Growers, American Soybean Assoc, Farm Bureau, and a Clark State College Board Member.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "Grow where you are planted."

"Be the change you want to see in the world."

"If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything."  
(Mark Twain)

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Agriculture has historically been a non-traditional vocation for women. In the modern world of agribusiness, more women are becoming leaders in the management, operation, and development of farmland, and continue to make a difference in the most important industry in the world. If farming is your passion, take advantage of the many opportunities available to learn something new every day and grow with this wonderful vocation, and "be the change that you want to see in the world". There are so many exciting things on the horizon of modern agriculture, and I can't imagine a more important endeavor in life than to be a part of the ever-changing and challenging world of farming. Your efforts to help create a sustainable earth, advance technology, and feed the world will bring you rewards beyond measure.



### Champaign County honors **SUE EVANS**

SUE has been contributing to agriculture as a daughter and Farm Owner/Manager since 1944.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Biography:** From milking and breeding cows and pitching manure during my formative years, to marketing and combining grain, managing finances, buying inputs, and selling seed in my 20's to mid-30's, my involvement in ag has evolved into helping others. For the past 14 years, I have been an ag & business banker, supporting farmers, agribusiness, and commercial clients (now at Kingston Nat'l. Bank). As a volunteer for Annie's Project farm women's workshops in Ross & Pickaway Co., I have developed and presented 4 financial and business education curriculums. 4-H has played a key role in my life, having achieved National Dairy Winner honors in 1977 and later serving 16 years as a 4-H advisor. I now am treasurer for Ross 4-H Endowment, church, and Ross Co. Chamber of Commerce, and also help with other boards and farm events. Degrees include an AAS in Dairy Production from OSU ATI, and BS in Business Management from OU. I am most proud of my 4 grown children, who have taught me the most of all!

**Favorite quote or saying:** "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade" and "when the going gets tough, the tough get going" are both relevant to my life. All I ever wanted to do was farm and raise my children on the farm, but I was forced to give up all of those dreams and create a new life for myself and my children in order to live safely. I am living proof that it is possible to start over again, building new dreams from the ashes of the past and contributing successfully to society in ways I'd never imagined. Adversity has made me stronger and has served as a stepping stone to the rest of my life. I am much more conscious of the challenges, seen and unseen, that others face, and understand the importance of giving back, knowing how much the support of others meant to me during a very difficult time.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**

Believe in yourself, surround yourself with trusted advisors and mentors, and never be afraid to ask for help. Continue to educate yourself—life can change in an instant, and at minimum, know who to contact for help and have a basic understanding of finances. Don't let fear of change or of the unknown stop you from trying or reaching for your dreams. And, don't sweat the small stuff—ask yourself, "Will this matter in 20 years?" In any walk of life, building success is a team effort. The most successful farms and businesses I know are those who make attorneys and CPA's a regular part of their teams, and are open to the ideas of others within their industries. Knowing how to separate family matters from business affairs, recognizing each person's skill set and letting them use it, and encouraging active management involvement of the younger generation from an early age are essential. As the natural mediator of families, women are often the glue that makes this process work.



### Ross County honors **SUSAN GEARHART**

SUSAN has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter, agricultural banker and mentor since 1959.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Gerfen Family Farms, LLC

**Social media:** Facebook: Gerfen Family Farms

**Biography:** My earlier and fondest memories growing up on my family's farm were holding my grandfathers's hand walking the fields and feeding orphaned lambs. My roots started in agriculture and I understand the necessity of farming and take pride in producing food to feed people across the globe. My stake in the future of agriculture deepened after college when I married Steve Gerfen and we started our own farming journey. Over the past 28 years we have established our farming motto : "Diversified Farming - Family Style." We operate a diversified crop and livestock farm with our two high school sons, Clay and Nole. On the swine side I have worked diligently to streamline operations in farrowing, wean and finish barns, feed ordering, record keeping employee management, and PQA to expand from 100 sows to a 1500 sow farrow to finish hog operation. In addition, we raise 80 head of registered shorthorn cattle and farm 700 acres. I take pride that I am a equal partner in our operation.

**Favorite quote or saying:** I have two favorite sayings:

First is "The ground at the base of the cross is all the same level. I apply this to my life Meaning that we all are accountable and I am accountable for my life's passion of steward ship to my faith, my family, my farm, and my friends.

Second is "... opportunity is often missed because it is dressed in overall and looks like hard work." Thomas A Edison. I have worked hard, alongside my husband, to establish a successful farm and we have labored tirelessly to model for our children and those we come in contact with the traits they need to be successful agriculturalist and human beings.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**

I am accountable to the generations of farm women that have come before me and even more so to those who will come after me. May they see my willingness to accept technology, strive to improve our land, dedication to animal husbandry, and commitment to supporting the next generation of agriculturalist. I see it as my duty to leave a legacy for a way of life that opens doors for women and does not shut the door simply due to gender. If we are serious about being "Women in Ag" and want to be true farmers we need to sit at the table when decisions are made. Women need to be a critical part of the farming decision making not just "the farmers wife" and the last to know. It is our duty to be proactive women that create sustainable agriculture to feed a growing population. I look forward to the accelerated role of women in leadership in agriculture and the continuation the expansion of the respect for the value women bring to the #1 industry in Ohio and America.



### Marion County honors **KIM GERFEN**

KIM has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter, and owner / operator since 1965.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Breakneck Acres

**Contact information:** [www.breakneckacres.com](http://www.breakneckacres.com)

**Social media:** Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/breakneckacres>;

Instagram: breakneckacres

**Biography:** Ami didn't grow up on a farm. She grew up in a pizza shop in the suburbs. Her mother taught her to shop at the local food co-op and appreciate natural food, but she assumed Old McDonald was the keeper of all livestock, if a vegetable was in the grocery store it was in season and milk came from happy cows. After graduating from college, Ami embarked on a career in the construction aggregate industry. After ten years in a corporate environment, she had cultivated her interpersonal, financial, and general management skills, yet emotionally her crop dwindled. The stress of her career took a toll on her health which resulted in high blood pressure, weight gain, and moments of depression. She longed for change, but wondered if she could financially manage - while her emotional debt was at an all-time high! In 2010 a coworker shared a copy of Michael Pollan's 'Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals' that she read while traveling to the Ohio Ecological Food & Farm Association's annual conference to hear the keynote speaker, Joel Salatin from Polyface Farm. Pollan's words and Salatin's inspiration gave her the courage to make a change. She left her corporate career, refocused her priorities, and harvested her entrepreneurial spirit with the help of her longtime partner, Tim Fox. Tim was a successful small business owner, a hard worker, and a risk taker. He had grown up on a dairy farm in southern Indiana and working the soil was in his blood. Together they created Breakneck Acres, an unconventional farm in northeast Ohio that is committed to environmental and land stewardship, sustainable and natural farming practices, the humane treatment of animals and complete transparency. They proudly offer free range eggs, pasture raised meats (pork, beef, chicken), stone milled specialty grains, and seasonal produce off the farm and at the Haymaker Farmers' Market in Kent, Ohio. Today Ami is full time at the farm and is the primary operator with part time help from her partner and a seasonal laborer. She manages over 50 acres of soybeans, corn, wheat, buckwheat, produce, and hay, 500 chickens, 25 hogs, 10 cows, and personally serves hundreds of customers every week. She is proud to report that she is happy, healthy, and wouldn't think about trading her life - knee deep in manure at times - for a stuffy corporate conference room.

Portage County  
honors  
**AMI GIGNAC**

AMI has been contributing to agriculture  
since 2011.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Let your daughters grow up to be farmers.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** A successful woman in agriculture isn't just a farmer. A successful woman in agriculture is a successful small business owner - financial management, human resources, marketing, customer service, change management - all juggled from the chicken coop or a muddy produce patch, after several days without a shower, while her friends are relaxing and enjoying their free time. A successful woman in agriculture must learn to balance a profit and loss statement, change the oil in her tractor, build a social media following, and process a chicken with the help of curious volunteers - to name a few. A successful woman in agriculture should expect long hours, hard work, tight margins, and moments of frustration. She should also expect self-fulfillment, once in a life time experiences, and to be the envy of many. I encourage you to follow your heart and become a farmer (with a minor in business administration!), while listening to experienced farmers and the customers in your community. Their experiences and feedback will ultimately guide your success as a fearless woman in agriculture.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Garden Boyz

**Contact information:** [www.Building-Healthy-Communities/Cleveland.com](http://www.Building-Healthy-Communities/Cleveland.com)

**Social media:** Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/BuildingHealthyCommunities](http://www.facebook.com/BuildingHealthyCommunities)

**Biography:** Sharon Glaspie is director of Building Healthy Communities (BHC), a grassroots neighborhood ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System, in Cleveland's Central neighborhood. BHC focuses on disease prevention, youth intervention, and economic development. Sharon is a graduate of Ohio State University Extension's Market Gardening program and a Master Gardener volunteer.

BHC's Garden Boyz program is an innovative nonprofit program where urban teen boys gain valuable work experience growing, marketing and selling pesticide free food using organic methods. Garden Boyz has two urban farm sites totaling one and a quarter acres in the Central neighborhood including two hoop houses for growing, and one used as an outdoor science class room. Ms. Glaspie also teaches healthy cooking classes, Jr. Chef, Teen Chef, and Family Chef that feature local foods.

**Favorite quote or saying:** The early bird gets the worm.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Nothing is more rewarding and satisfying than seeing the excitement and wonder on the faces of boys and girls as they learn about the many wonders of nature. Teaching youth how to grow their own food, and live a healthy lifestyle is one of the greatest benefits of urban agriculture. Learning that hard work delivers big rewards is a great lesson in living that a life in agriculture provides.



Cuyahoga County  
honors  
**SHARON  
GLASPIE**

SHARON has been contributing to agriculture as a Master Gardener Volunteer since 2003.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Steinke Family Farms, USDA Farm Service Agency

**Contact information:** <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

**Social media:**

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/usda>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/usdafsa>

**Biography:** I received my BS in Agriculture from The Ohio State University. I have 28 years of service with the USDA. I am a member of the family farm in Auglaize County, Ohio, producing corn, soybeans, wheat, and cattle. I am the mother of 6 grown daughters. I am a member of the following organizations: Ohio Farm Bureau, Ohio Ag Council, Ohio Soybean Association / Council, and the Joint Township District Hospital General Board.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn." - Benjamin Franklin

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**

As a leader in agriculture, you are always moving important issues to the forefront and inspiring people. Geraldine Ferraro once said, "Some leaders are born women."

Regardless of gender, a true leader understands that leadership is not about them but about those they serve.

You bring about awareness on important issues, generating and encouraging resolution and solution to problems facing agriculture, and taking people and moving agriculture where it ought to be ... forward.



### Auglaize County honors **ANITA GREEN**

ANITA has been contributing to agriculture as a daughter and through the Government / USDA since 1986.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Tossey Hops

**Contact information:** [www.tosseyhops.com](http://www.tosseyhops.com)

**Social media:** Facebook: Tossey Hops

**Biography:** I did not grow up on the farm. My Dad was raised on a dairy farm in Union County, but did not return to farming after graduating from OSU. His career in chemical sales required our family to move frequently. We were able to relocate to Marysville in 1986, and moved into one of the family farm homes. Although I had been a city kid until this point, I quickly became interested in agriculture.

In 2008, my husband, son, and I began farming soybeans on the family farm. In 2011, we became interested in growing hops and convinced my Dad to allow us to plant two varieties in the barnyard. We have been able to expand into a small hops farm since then, and now grow four varieties. We sell our hops as "wet" to several craft breweries in central and northern Ohio. We also market our hop bines for use in arts and crafts, and for other decorative purposes.

**Favorite quote or saying:** My Grandmother, Marjorie P. Green, celebrated her 105th birthday this past June. When I went off to college years ago, she told me that people can take many things away from you in life, but they can't take away the knowledge you receive through education. I am reminded of this message when I attend workshops and field days related to agriculture.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Agriculture is so broad and there are many ways to become involved. Stay educated and connected by attending workshops and other learning experiences in your community and beyond.



### Union County honors **PADEN GREEN- TOSSEY**

PADEN has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter and granddaughter since 1986.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Superior Farm Supply, Inc.

**Biography:** I grew up on a family farm. In college, I was in the Sigma Alpha Professional Ag Sorority and Ag Ed Society. I graduated from The Ohio State University with a B.S. in Agriculture. I married my husband Paul and moved to Williams Co. where we own a hog operation, cow/calf herd, and grain farm, and have raised three children.

I worked for Williams Landmark, Inc. as a secretary. In 1992, my husband and I established Superior Farm Supply, Inc. We provide customers with lawn/garden/pet/livestock supplies, and equipment/repair services.

I've been involved with OSU Ext. as a Club Advisor, 4-H Advisory Council, Food & Fashion Board Advisor, Ext. Advisory Council, and Senior Fair Board. I served on the Ohio Farm Bureau Young Farm Couple Committee, and as county Safety Director. We are active in the Williams Co. Pork Producers.

At church I've served as a trustee, and currently serve on the Family Fellowship/VBS/Education Committees, and as a youth teacher.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "There is no such thing as a stupid question." I do not know the origin of this saying but it's proven correct many times. If you don't know or understand something, the best way to get an answer is to ask a question.

Customers that come into my store often say, "I know this sounds stupid but, how do I...?" I let them know there is no such thing as a stupid question and begin to help answer their question. They leave my store with the knowledge and products they need, a smile on their face, and comfort knowing they have a place and person to come back to for their next "stupid question."

I use the same saying with my children and 4-H youth I advise. As they learn, it's only natural they become frustrated for not grasping a concept. They doubt their abilities. This is when the "stupid question" comes into play. I help them look at the problem, determine what went wrong, and guide them. It's always rewarding to see a smile of accomplishment on a child's face.

### **Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**

My advice for the next generation can be summed up in a quote from Albert Einstein, "Learn from yesterday, live for today, and hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning."

Learn from yesterday. I often tell my children, myself, and others to learn from the successes and failures of the past. What worked right? What didn't work? What could have been changed to alter the outcome?

Live for today. Be involved and give back. Live life to the fullest. And, love and support your family and friends. How can I help? Would you like to spend some time together? In other words, make the world a better place to live.

Hope for tomorrow. Continually learn new things so that you can help to educate and guide the next generation to a better tomorrow. What are the challenges of today? How will they affect our future? What can we do, now, to start protecting our future?



## Williams County honors **MELANIE HAINES**

MELANIE has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter and Agricultural Business Owner since 1980.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

*Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:* Handrosh Farms

*Biography:* I have always loved cattle. Love living in the country, it is the best place to raise kids. I have three daughters, one son and they all help out on the farm. I have three grandchildren, two boys and one girl. My granddaughter, Emma, works right beside me and her mom, and shows in open class and has won showmanship, and already owns five cows of her own. I have been involved in 4-H and FFA for as long as I can remember. I love being a 4-H Advisor and being able to help all kids of all ages. I have been an adult consultant, mentoring youth in their animal and agricultural projects, and look forward to many more years of doing so, and seeing my daughters and granddaughter follow in my steps.

### Lorain County honors **FAYE HANDROSH**

FAYE has been contributing to agriculture as a mother and wife since 1967.

*Favorite quote or saying:* Watch out for that pie! What pie, they say, as they step or just side-step it!

*Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:* I believe that women today in agriculture are better at it, then men. They have a more understanding and more patience. Please do not let the word agriculture intimidate you. There are more young women coming out of college in an agriculture field than men. Women are strong and are capable of outdoing men. Do not stand in the background. Come forward with your talents.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Ohio Farm Bureau Federation

**Contact information:** [www.OFBF.org](http://www.OFBF.org)

**Social media:** Facebook: Athens Gallia Jackson Lawrence Pike Scioto and Vinton County Farm Bureaus; Instagram: KIMHARLESS; Google+: Kim Harless

**Biography:** I am the Organization Director for the Athens, Gallia, Jackson-Vinton, Lawrence, Meigs, Pike and Scioto County Farm Bureaus. I have been in this role for 24 years. Prior to joining the OFBF team I was the Office Administrator and 4-H Program Assistant for the OSU Extension Pike County for 10 years. I am currently a member of the Jackson County Livestock Committee, serve on the OARDC and the OSU Extension Advisory Boards. I am a past member of the 4-H Advisory Committee. I have been a 4-H Advisor for 18 years in both Pike and Jackson Counties and a proud 4-H Alumni in Pike county. I am a member of the Jackson Rotary and Kiwanis Organizations and currently serve as a school board member of the Jackson City School District. I grew up on a 300 acre farm so agriculture has always been a big part of not only my personal life, but my career choice as well. I enjoy doing anything outdoors and spending time with my two daughters, Mariah, 23 and Meredith, 21 and volunteering in my community.

**Favorite quote or saying:** I actually have two quotes I like, the first one is: "Life isn't about getting and having, it's about giving and being" - Kevin Kruse. The second one is: "You make TIME for the things you WANT to do and EXCUSES for the things you DON'T" - Author Unknown

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** I encourage all young women to "get involved" in any aspect of agriculture. If you don't live or work on a farm, you can get involved with an organization that represents Agriculture. There are so many youth that do not understand where their food comes from and sadly a lot of adults have that same confusion. Educating your community about agriculture and farming in any way you can will be not only very rewarding but instrumental for the future of Agriculture as well. Our Youth are our Future!!



Jackson County  
honors  
**KIM HARLESS**

KIM has been contributing to agriculture as a daughter since 1990.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Sycamore Run Farms, LLC

**Contact information:** [www.sycamorerunfarms.com](http://www.sycamorerunfarms.com)

**Social media:** Facebook: [facebook.com/SycamoreRunFarms](https://facebook.com/SycamoreRunFarms);  
Twitter: [rosehartschuh](https://twitter.com/rosehartschuh)

**Biography:** Rose Hartschuh credits her love of agriculture to her involvement in youth programs. She started a course for life-long learning in 4-H. Later, it was through FFA that she realized her passion for agriculture and service, which led her to pursue a degree at Ohio State.

After teaching agriculture for five years, Rose stepped away from the classroom to raise her family and to increase her farm involvement. She is now a Syngenta Seed Advisor, which allows her to use her love of teaching in a different capacity by working with farmers. Along with her husband, Greg, she operates Sycamore Run Farms, an agri-tourism destination that provides hands-on activities designed to teach guests where their food comes from.

Rose believes in giving back. She serves as the township fiscal officer, is active in Farm Bureau, volunteers with church youth, and leads her club's 4-H Cloverbud program. She is the mother of twin toddler boys. Life is full and busy, but she would not have it any other way.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "Fame is based on what we get in life, but true greatness is based on what we give in life." –Mark Sanborn

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**

Never undervalue the power of relationships, both personally and professionally. While you build a career, also invest into the lives of your family and friends. Get involved in community organizations that match your passions and interests, and also be sure to join professional organizations. There will be many activities and events that ask for a piece of your time, but try to prioritize.

Though it can be challenging at times to be involved in an industry that may seem male-driven, don't be intimidated. Instead, look for ways to use your unique talents and skills to make a difference. Let your actions speak louder than your words. Follow through with what you say you will do, and surround yourself with people of similar work ethics and ideals.

Most importantly, be yourself. Never stop learning, don't try to have all the answers, always work harder than you did the day before, focus on your goals, and have fun. There is no better industry than agriculture in which to build a life!



### Crawford County honors **ROSE HARTSCHUH**

ROSE has been contributing to agriculture as a mother and wife since 1995.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Hastings Dairy

**Contact information:** <http://hastingsdairy.com/>

**Social media:**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HastingsDairy>;

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TheDairyMom>

Blog: <http://www.thedairymom.blogspot.com/>

**Biography:** My husband, Lad, and I are 3rd generation dairy producers who operate Hastings Dairy in Geauga County. We milk 560 cows and farm 600 acres. We also operate an agritourism business on our farm and will soon be bottling milk for retail sale at our new on-farm creamery.

I was raised and educated in California. I have a B.S. in Agriculture Business from California State University, Fresno and a M.S. in Agriculture Economics/Communications from Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo.

My work experience in California includes serving 3 years as the Assistant Director of the University of California, Davis Veterinary Medicine Teaching & Research Center from. Prior to that, I worked for World-Wide Sires 8 years in the Advertising and Public Relations Department serving as the Director of Advertising and Public Relations for 6 years.

I currently serve on the American Dairy Association Midwest Board, Ohio Dairy Producers Association Board, the Geauga County Farm Bureau Board, and am Vice President of Burton Elementary PTO. I am a member of Geauga County Panhellenic, the Geauga County Tourism Council, the Geauga County Agricultural Society, the Geauga County Historical Society and the Burton Chamber of Commerce.

My husband, Lad, and I reside in Burton, Ohio with our two children; Garrett (11) and Jack (9).

**Favorite quote or saying:** One of the most important lessons my parents instilled in me is accountability. You create your path by the choices you make, take responsibility for your choices.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**

Production agriculture is a challenging business. It requires resilience, optimism, business savvy and the willingness to take risks. My advice is spend your time and energy on what you can control, keep good financial and production records and develop good relationships with your neighbors. Be involved in your community and your industry to make a difference.

A positive about farming is it's a family-based business full of real people who love what they do. I value that and am proud to be part of it. I want the dairy industry to be strong, profitable and sustainable. I want to be involved in making that happen!



Geauga County  
honors  
**BRENDA  
HASTINGS**

BRENDA has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, and daughter since 1992.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE



**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Heffelfinger Farms

**Social media:** Facebook: Heffelfinger Farms

**Biography:** Growing up I was enthralled with the Chicago Board of Trade. This ultimately led to my passion for agriculture with FFA opening the door to my education majoring in Agricultural Economics. Upon graduating from The Ohio State University, I took a position at a local elevator, then became an Organization Director for the Ohio Farm Bureau for 9 years. In 2006 I started with another cooperative, Ag Credit as an account officer and now serving as Branch Manager. Over the course of the past 20+ years, I have served on the Extension Advisory Committee, as a 4-H Advisor, Van Wert County 4-H Endowment Board, SWCD Nominating Committee, and as a member of the Farmers "R" Us Farm Bureau Council. My husband Mike, along with my brother-in-law operate a 900 acre grain farm and I can't think of a better place to raise our 2 young sons. People talk about going on vacation and having a room with a view, they can't beat my view from the tractor cab.

### Van Wert County honors **KENDRA HEFFELFINGER**

KENDRA has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, and Agribusiness Employee since 1991.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but be the seeds that you plant. - Robert Louis Stevenson

We all have the ability to make choices everyday. Its those choices that determine not only our destiny, but for those around us. Choosing to give back to the community and sharing agriculture's story is an easy choice to make. We have to be the champions for agriculture and continue planting the seeds in the next generation.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Be passionate. Be bold. Be diligent in sharing agriculture's story. It is a great industry to be a part of, work in and raise a family with. There is no one better to tell agriculture's story than those who are a part of it everyday. Be a champion not only for the industry, but for your your family, your farm.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Heppe Farms and Portage County Randolph Fair

**Biography:** I consider my start in agriculture being raised on the family farm in Atwater, Ohio. I started in 4-H in 1966 showing beef cattle until 1975. I married my husband, Tony, in 1980 and he was already farming full-time as Heppe Farms. We raise corn, beans, hay, and wheat all on approximately 550 acres of rented land. It was Tony & I and we did it all like so many family farms. Over the years, I have been an Americorp VISTA as a Program Coordinator with Randolph Township's Growing Farmers Project. I am presently: Jr. Fair Coordinator (4yrs.) Jr. Fair Board Advisor (39 yrs.) Fair Asst. Sec. & Treas. & Sale Committee Treasurer. Inducted into Ohio 4-H Hall of Fame in 2010. I have been a Farm Bureau County Bd. member and communication team leader. Most importantly we have three sons, a daughter-in-law, & two grandchildren. All involved in farming & agriculture: Adam & Sara own Heppe Show Pigs, Matthew raises show lambs, and Stephen works for OSU Extension-Wayne Co. and farms, too.

**Favorite quote or saying:** I feel that agriculture is the backbone of this country because of the products and services we provide, the young people that learn life lessons by their involvement in agriculture, and the heritage we need to honor and protect.

**Favorite quote:** "Do not educate our children to be rich. Educate them to be happy so when they grow up, they will know the value of things, not the price."

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** The advice I would give the next generation of young women in agriculture is to realize your importance in agriculture no matter if you consider yourself "the farm wife" or "the executive". What you do matters and you need to be proud of what you do in order to be proud of agriculture and move us forward.



### Portage County honors **DEBI HEPPE**

DEBI has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife and daughter since 1966.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** WD Farms Inc./Dresbach Consulting

**Contact information:** [www.wdfarmsinc.com](http://www.wdfarmsinc.com)

**Social media:** Facebook: WD Farms, Inc

**Biography:** Dr. Sereana Howard Dresbach has a background that spans several states and agencies, but the focus has been transferring information so people can use it to make their lives better. Dr. Dresbach was born in Wisconsin to a family with strong agricultural roots. Moving from place to place due to military commitments, she was still able to participate in 4H as her family had a long history with the program: her great-grandparents were some of the first 4H volunteers in Wisconsin and her grandparents met at a 4H dance. She chose Iowa State University for her undergraduate studies in education and political science, working in the Iowa House of Representatives. She was accepted at the University of Wyoming Law School but instead, chose to enter the masters' program in Geography and Recreation. This led to positions with the US Forest Service as a planner and with the National Park Service as a park ranger. She received her PhD in Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology in 1992 from The Ohio State University. Since settling in Ohio, she has held positions with various organizations including the program director with the YMCA, Deputy Director at the ODA, professor at OSU and research consultant. Advocating for the state's largest industry and the issues that impact it, Dr. Dresbach has served as higher education chair for American Agri-Women, spokesperson for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Food Safety Network, president of Pickaway County Farm Bureau, and founding trustee of an agricultural foundation to support ag education and leadership development. Being a representative of industry is more than just participation in agricultural organizations, Dr. Dresbach has served on the local Extension advisory board, been a 4H volunteer, served the local hospital board and its foundation board raising funds to improve health services for all populations. She is a founding member of the Pickaway Competitiveness Network Advisory Board for economic and community prosperity, and the Pickaway County Chamber of Commerce board. Her passion is philanthropic investment in the community and helping all segments of the population understand that investment is time, talent and treasure by everyone, not just a few. She volunteers with the Pickaway County Community Foundation. With private donations, she and other leaders in her county developed and implemented a successful executive leadership development program that is receiving national attention. She has written and produced numerous publications and programs, secured extensive research and program funds, including a recent W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant for community economic competitiveness and philanthropy. Most important, she lives in rural Pickaway County with her husband, Eric, and they are the parents of three children who all see agriculture as their future.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness." - Thomas Jefferson

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Work hard, work smart, be gracious, pay forward. Agriculture is hard work - that never changes. We have moved into an age of advanced technologies, sophisticated equipment, and superior biological material, but we have to use our brains, our skills and our reasoning capabilities to address the ever-changing issues. That still means hard work- brain power and interpersonal skills- use them. We have to work in an intelligent manner and we have the skills, the means, and the drive to work smarter than previous generations. No matter what one chooses to do, gracious behavior never goes out of style. "please", "thank you", and "can I have your advice on..." will move you farther towards your goals than any textbook. Gracious actions will speak louder than anything you can say or do. Grace never goes out of style. We, as women and specifically as women in agriculture, can never pay back to those who opened doors for us to be where we are today. We can only pay forward. We pay forward by being mentors and helping the next generation. Work hard, work smart, be gracious, and pay forward.

### Pickaway County honors **SEREANA HOWARD- DRESBACH**

SEREANA has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, and consultant / volunteer since 1962.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Egner Farms Angus

**Biography:** I started my agriculture journey shortly after the passing of my brother in 1994. My first adventure was showing his first heifer at our county fair and my agriculture activity quickly escalated from there. I became an active member of my 4-H, FFA and the Ohio and National Junior Angus Associations. In 2006, I graduated high school and move to The Ohio State University where I majored in Animal Sciences and minored in Ag Business. I continued to participate and take leadership roles in various organizations including Saddle & Sirloin, Buckeye Dairy Club and the 2009 Livestock Evaluation Team. One of the highlights of my college career was being named a 2010 Top 10 graduate of CFAES. Upon graduation I returned to the family farm expanding my own herd alongside my husband Shawn and took a career with Sunrise Cooperative as an Agronomy Consultant. I am based out of the Crestline branch and spend my day working on the farm with growers helping them to be successful in their operation.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "Good is not good enough if it can be better. Better is not good enough if it can be best."  
- Dr. Rick Rigsby

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Never stop believing in yourself. No matter what someone tells you, if you think it can be done then do it. Don't look back and use their words of doubt to push you harder.



Richland County  
honors  
**CHRISTINA  
HOWELL**

CHRISTINA has been contributing to agriculture as a wife and daughter since 1994.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Huttinger Farms  
**Social media:** Facebook: Huttinger Farms

**Biography:** I grew up on a dairy farm. After graduation I started working for the ASCS (now FSA) office. My husband and I bought our farm in 1990 and started milking cows. After a fire in 1998 we went to an all grain and beef operation. We farm approximately 1000 acres mostly corn, soybeans and hay. We have approximately 35 brood cows and a dozen feeders. In November 2011 I was offered a buyout at work and took advantage of it. My husband passed away nine months later. Since that time our longtime employee and I have kept the operation going. I have two daughters. Hannah recently graduated from the Ohio State University and helps on the farm mostly with the cattle part of the operation and some field work. Miranda is currently a dietetics major at Ashland University.

**Favorite quote or saying:** On the farm we play in the dirt, we do our chores, we jump on hay bales, we count the stars, we raise a lil hell, we build good character, we respect the land, we help others, we have faith, we share our blessings, we love one another, we live simply, we grow strong bonds, we establish roots, we spread our wings, we are family

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Be involved as much as you can. Learn all that you can. Agriculture has so many different faces and there is always a spot to fit in. Farming takes hard work, involves long days, and patience. The money isn't why we do it. It's the satisfaction of knowing that all that hard work paid off.

### Medina County honors **AMY HUTTINGER**

AMY has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter and Farm Service Agency employee since 1990.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

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### *Fayette County* honors **CLARA IDEN**

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CLARA has been contributing to agriculture as a mother and wife since 1947.

**Biography:** I'd have to say that my main contribution to agriculture has been as a farm wife active in production agriculture.

I got an early start since I grew up on a fruit and dairy farm in Eastern Ohio. After graduating from The Ohio State University, in 1959, with a degree in Home Economics education, I married Oliver Iden a Fayette Co. farmer and also an Ohio State graduate.

We moved to the family farm where we set about to improve and expand the operation. We were very diversified. We produced corn, soybeans, wheat, and hay in addition to farrowing sows and feeding out the pigs. We bought and fed out cattle also. I was a cattle buyer and trucker part of the time. We also had a brood cow herd.

I have been involved in every aspect of the operation, especially the farrowing part. I also served on the FSA committee for nine years. We raised four children, all of whom have pursued other endeavors. We have slowed down now but still make some hay for our horses.

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**Favorite quote or saying:** The lord has been good to us. Ollie had to have open heart surgery in 1991 to replace an aortic heart valve and two by-passes. He got through it okay but that caused us to draw back some. A few years later he was caught in the beaters of a silage wagon that he was cleaning. He was by himself and was about to pass out and called out "God help me". The beaters stopped! We found out later that a chain had broken. We are so thankful that God did help him. He spend about three days in the hospital because of the medications he is on and his injuries from the accident.

My message would be to be thankful everyday for the Blessings that God has given us.

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**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**

Farming has changed drastically in the last fifty years. I can't imagine what the next fifty years will bring. I know that there are many more opportunities for women in agriculture that I never dreamed of. Educate yourselves, be willing to work, be persistent and be patient. If you are a farm wife, things don't always go as planned, be flexible.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Felicity-Franklin FFA

**Biography:** Holly grew up in Clermont County as an active 4-H and FFA member. She served as the Clermont County Junior Fairboard President, 4-H Club President and Clermont Northeastern FFA President. Raised hogs, cattle and sheep and exhibited all across the state and at the Ohio State fair. She earned her State and American FFA Degrees. She attended the Ohio State University where she majored in Agriculture Education and was an active member of several agricultural clubs and organizations. As a member of the Alpha Zeta Partners, she studied agriculture abroad for 6-weeks in Brazil. She was also named a Top 10 student in the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

Upon graduation, she began teaching agricultural education at Lynchburg-Clay High School. She continued her involvement as a 4-H advisor and Clermont County Junior Fairboard advisor. She is currently teaching agricultural education at Felicity-Franklin High School where she has 120 students. One of the greatest accomplishments of the chapter is recently being named a Top 10 Chapter Overall in the Nation and a Top 10 Chapter in the Student Development Division! Felicity FFA will compete at National FFA Convention in October for top honors.

Holly and her husband Kevin live in Felicity where they have a small herd of cattle with their two children, Luke and Kaylee. They are the head advisors of Ultimate 4-H'ers, a livestock-based 4-H club. They are active members of the Cattlemen's Association and the Felicity-Franklin FFA Alumni. They enjoy showing hogs and cattle at the county fair and across the state with their children.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react!

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Agriculture has a promising future for women. Find your passion and work hard to make a lasting impact on those around you. For those that choose to be mothers and wives as well as part of the agriculture industry, times will be challenging and rest will be scarce. Make your reaction to what life deals you a positive one. Many people depend on strong women, so use your talents and blessings to uplift and encourage all those around you. Leave your mark to help improve the footprint of Ohio agriculture.



Clermont County  
honors  
**HOLLY  
JENNINGS**

HOLLY has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, and daughter since 1990.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Claremont Veterinary Clinic

**Biography:** I started in agriculture when I was 9 years old when I started in 4-H. I showed steers and feeder calves every year at the Ashland County fair until I was 18 years old. As a child I lived on a small farm raising a variety of types of animals from cattle to horses to sheep and pigs. My father is a veterinarian. At the age of 18 I started my college career at The Ohio State University in the field of Dairy Science where my grandfather, Mr. Harold Kaeser had been a professor and a well known dairy cattle judge, traveling all over the world judging cattle. I continued on to enter the OSU College of Veterinary Medicine and graduated in 1996. I joined my father in Ashland, Ohio in his mixed animal veterinary practice. I now have three children of my own and we live on a small farm in Ashland and my children are all active in 4-H. My children show cattle and pigs at our county fair. We have had a variety of animals on our small farm including horses, cattle, goats, pigs and chickens.

**Favorite quote or saying:** First and foremost do no harm. This can apply to many aspects of farm life. My other favorite message that I have always told my children when they get frustrated with their animal projects and sports and things is : nothing worth doing is ever easy but hard work always pays off in the end!

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Agriculture is such an important part of our society. It's important for us to set good examples for the younger generation behind us. From the way we treat the animals we raise to the choices we make in our selection of products to feed and maintain our families. If you work hard and remember the important things in life you can thrive in your career field. Nothing worth doing is ever easy. I was raised to always work hard and follow my dreams. Agriculture needs to be maintained as an important part of life that all youngsters need to be exposed to or involved with in some way. It is up to each of us to ensure this happens.



Ashland County  
honors  
**DR. KRISTINE  
LAFEVER  
D.V.M.**

KRISTINE has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, daughter, and veterinarian since 1978.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

*Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:* Lange Farms LLC

*Biography:* Blanche is a graduate of The Ohio State University. She is a member of the Ohio Pork Council and has served on its state board of directors. She has also served as president of the Ohio Pork Council Women. She received the OPCW Porkette award and the Belle Ringer award which recognizes outstanding women in the industry. She is a member of the Seneca County Farm Bureau and has served as the county secretary and other committee chairpersons. Blanche was a delegate to the Ohio Farm Bureau Convention for ten years. The Old Fort FFA named her its 2007 honorary chapter farmer. In 2013, she and her brother Roger, were honored by the Ohio Pork Council with the Ohio Pork Industry Excellence Award. She is also a judge for local 4-H and Senior fair competitions. She currently shares ownership of Lange Farms, LLC in Green Springs; has a farrow to finish swine operation; also raises corn, soybeans, and wheat on 750-acres. The homestead was originally purchased by Blanche's grandfather in 1903.



### Seneca County honors **BLANCHE LANGE**

BLANCHE has been contributing to agriculture as a daughter and part owner/operator of Lange Farms LLC, since 1984.

*Favorite quote or saying:* I am PROUD to be a part of American Agriculture. I feed over 150 people around the world.

*Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:* Never stop learning, always seek the newest technology, but never forget your ancestors and the past.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** The Farm on Kenyon Road

**Contact information:** <http://www.thefarmonkenyonroad.com>

**Social media:** Facebook: TheFarmonKenyonRoad

Instagram: the\_farm\_life

**Biography:** I was born and raised on a family farm in Fredericktown, Ohio. My love of agriculture is a direct result of that upbringing and the influence of the many full-time farmers in my family. I was a 10 year 4-H member and met my husband in saddle club. I attended Kenyon College and wrote my honors thesis, "Trouble in These Fields" on the impact the farm crisis had on farmers, families and rural communities in Knox County, Ohio. I am a mother to four children, ages: 10, 8, 6 & 4. As a family we operate a 32 member CSA and on farm market. Our farm produces chemical-free produce, eggs, maple syrup, honey, and pastured meats. I am a member of the Knox County Local Foods Council, the Knox County Farm Bureau, OEFFA, and a proud 4-H parent.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "The shorter the chain between raw food and fork, the fresher it is and the more transparent the system is."

— Joel Salatin, Everything I Want to Do is Illegal: War Stories from the Local Food Front

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Don't be afraid to step off the edge. Farming, like marriage, having children, or getting your first job is a leap of faith. There will be lessons that you learn in the field that no book or class will have prepared you for, because, every farm, every farmer, every animal, every plant and every season is unique. Embrace the fact that there will be highs and lows, good years and bad. Surround yourself with people who support you - the hours will be long, the work will be hard. Find your balance, as women in agriculture we are not only playing the many roles of the farmer but we are also balancing the roles of wife, mother, sister, daughter and friend.

### Knox County honors **CHRISSIE LAYMON**

CHRISSIE has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife and daughter since 2011.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Lewis' Turkey Farm, Inc.

**Contact information:** <http://lewisturkeyfarm.com>

**Social media:** Facebook: Beverly Lewis

**Biography:** I am a third generation farmer. My sister, Marjorie Kiefer, and I operate our ag business in the beautiful hills of south east Ohio. Established in 1954 by our parents, with 120 acres and 1200 turkeys we have grown to just over 1,100(owned and rented) acres. Our operation includes corn, soybeans, winter wheat, tobacco and hay. We custom background 1,000-1,200 calves per year and maintain a small herd of black commercial cows. We primarily use our home grown calves to market as replacement heifers. Our mainstay and namesake is turkeys. Through the 70's and 80's we raised flocks of up to 80,000 per year. Environmental and market challenges have reduce our flocks to 25,000 per year. We operate a USDA Inspected processing facility, marketing fresh birds under our label, Lewis' Turkey Farms and co-bag for other labels. We use and sell Kalmbach/Tribute Feed exclusively. We are proud to be involved in Ohio agriculture, we look forward to continuing to grow for many generations to come.

**Favorite quote or saying:** From my Dad, Edward A Lewis, in a "discussion" we had on a bright Saturday morning when I was about 23 years old. He ask when I was going to "grow up and quit playing around so much?" I replied, "It wasn't my fault he didn't have a hobby." He said and I will always remember, "I guess my hobby is watching things grow." It took me a very long time to realize the power of that very simple statement and thank him for the opportunity to "Watch things grow."

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Take the word "can't" out of your vocabulary and thinking. Surround yourself with those more intelligent and experienced then your are and listen to them and never, never lose the desire and curiosity to learn.



Jackson County  
honors  
**BEVERLY  
LEWIS**

BEVERLY has been contributing to  
agriculture since 1980.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Grand River Cellars Winery & Restaurant

**Contact information:** [www.grandrivercellars.com](http://www.grandrivercellars.com)

**Social media:** Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Grand River Cellars](https://www.facebook.com/GrandRiverCellars)

**Biography:** I was born on a dairy farm and helped work the farm during my childhood. I participated in 4-H for 9 years in dairy, horses, ducks, sewing, and special projects. After moving away from home to complete my undergraduate degree I then moved back to the farm and began working at Chalet Debonne Vineyards, Ohio's largest estate winery, while attending graduate school to become a school psychologist. After graduating and starting my professional career I continued to work at the winery. After 8 years of working in the schools an opportunity came about for me to go into a partnership to purchase my own winery. I decided to take the opportunity and in 2005 I resigned and go back into agriculture, specifically agri-tourism. It has been 9 years now and I attribute the success of my business to the hard work ethic that I learned on the farm as a child and to the many amazing opportunities 4-H provided for my. This past year we earned the title of Business of the Year.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Serious quote: "Excellence is never an accident."

And this for fun: Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, wine in the other, body thoroughly used up, and screaming, "Whoo-Hoo...what a ride!"

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** It is imperative that you learn a good work ethic when you are young. There is a generation of young adults out there that feel they have are entitled to so much. In reality, Mother Nature and God determines what we are entitled to. If you work hard and drive for success and surround yourself with positive, motivated people then as a group you will be able to make positive changes in our world. Bad days will come but good days will follow. Being in agriculture isn't the easiest job but it sure can be rewarding.



### Lake County honors **CINDY LINDBERG**

CINDY has been contributing to agriculture as a daughter and involved with Agritourism since 1978.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** West Holmes FFA

**Biography:** Jaime Chenevey Martin has been the agricultural education teacher at West Holmes High School since 2000. During her time at West Holmes, she has expanded the program in numbers and in success. The FFA chapter has had 1 Top 5 National CDE Team, has earned 18 Top 5 State CDE Banners, as well as many other Top 10 and state qualifying teams. In addition, she has mentored 6 National FFA Proficiency Finalists, 32 American Degree recipients, 58 State Degree recipients, 2 Star State Degree Winners, and nearly 20 State Proficiency Finalists. Her classrooms focuses on recognizing the importance of the history of the industry and meshing it with the future. She challenges students to step outside of their comfort zones and become involved in the FFA program, as well as the agriculture industry. In addition to her work in the classroom, Martin is a Past OAAE President and currently serves as District 8 Chair. She was recognized as an NAAE Ideas Unlimited winner in 2010.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Do you know what my favorite part of the game is? The opportunity to play!  
- Mike Singletary

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Don't be afraid to try new things. This is a challenging industry to get involved in, but the fight is worth it!



Holmes County  
honors  
**JAIME MARTIN**

JAIME has been contributing to agriculture as a teacher since 2000.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Contact information:** [vet.osu.edu/Marysville](http://vet.osu.edu/Marysville)

**Social media:** Facebook: OSU Large Animal Services

**Biography:** I was raised on a beef and hog farm in Perry County, Ohio where I was always outside helping my Dad. Many of the skills I use daily, I first learned in 4-H, as a kid. I attended OSU for both undergraduate and veterinary school. After graduation I joined a mixed animal practice in Western Ohio. Two years later, I came back to Ohio State for a residency in Clinical Sciences. I received my masters degree and became board certified in Veterinary Preventive Medicine. Since then I have been working at OSU's ambulatory clinic in Marysville, where we provide service to large and small farms in Central Ohio. I have taught over 3600 veterinary students. When I entered vet. school there were only 30 women, and we were expected to do small animal. Now the classes are over 80% women. I love the variety of my work and seeing all the species. I also enjoy getting to know my clients and students. I live on 10 acres in Plain City with my husband and my two daughters. My hobbies include reading, gardening and pretending I am a farmer.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Well behaved women rarely make history!

If you're born to be shot, you'll never be hung.  
- John Masterson, my grandpa

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**

Never let someone tell you that you can't do something. Lots of folks think that animal agriculture is too hard for women. You may have to do things differently than the guys, but you can do it.

I also think that women bring a unique perspective to livestock rearing. They are quicker to spot a sick animal than many guys. They have a better understanding that they are not raising cattle or hogs, they are manufacturing milk or meat. But perhaps their best advantage is that they have a stronger connection to the consumer-housewife that ultimately buys the farm's products. As we address the growing disconnect about where our food really comes from, I think that women will play a large roll in educating consumers that modern agriculture is still centered around family farms, providing the best quality food in the world.



Union County  
honors  
**MARLEY  
MASTERSON,  
DVM**

MARLEY has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter, and veterinarian since 1972.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** McClanahan Farms

**Biography:** I am a 58 year old dairy farm wife. I was raised on a beef cattle farm, and started showing cattle at the age of 9; so I've known farming all of my life. I married my husband, Mike in September 1979; raised three children and now are "Grammy and Papaw Mike" to six grandchildren. Mike and our two sons are fifth and sixth generation on our family farm. The farm is located in West Union, Adams County, Ohio. Mike and I have been fortunate to add 300+ acres to the farming operation over the years and own/operate a total of 749 acres with our sons. We have never had any 'off the farm' income in the 39 years of marriage. I help milk the cows, feed the calves, and do occasional field work; as well as maintain the account books, certify crop reports with FSA and crop insurance, and pick up parts and supplies for the farm. Being involved in numerous other volunteer committees/groups in the past (4-H, FFA, athletic, church,), I currently serve on the County Extension Advisory Committee.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "Whatever the good Lord puts on you, He will see you through it."

Farming is one of those jobs that you never know what the day or season will bring to your operation. It could be too wet, too dry, low prices, high operating interest rates; or, perfect weather, high prices, and low interest rates. The scenarios are endless. Some endings are perfect, others not as planned, but you will get through it. Farmers are the keepers of God's creations and we need to nurture His precious commodities are preserve them for future generations.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** There are a number of opportunities for the next generation of young women in agriculture. From research and testing, to operating and hands-on; there are many accomplished roles to play in this field. Challenges are there each and every day. Keep open-minded because there's always something new to learn. Knowledge can not only come from classes and workshops, but also from older generations with years of hands-on experience. Trials and mistakes will always lead to growth. Always take pride in everything you set out to do, and your accomplishments will be rewarded, for as we all know, agriculture helps feed the world.



### Adams County honors **KATHY MCCLANAHAN**

KATHY has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter and owner since 1969



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Pleiades Farm, Pleiades Maple Products

**Contact information:** <http://pleiadesmaple.com>

**Social media:** Facebook: Pleiades Maple Products

**Biography:** My sister and I were raised on a jersey dairy farm. By 8 years of age I was feeding calves, milking calves, and bailing hay. At age 10, I got into 4-H, showing jerseys at the fair. I received my BA from Malone University in Biology, then got married and moved to New York. I received my MS in Biology from Adolphi University. We moved to Columbus and then returned to the farm in 1979 to help my father. As his health failed, I took over the farm operations, while my husband worked off the farm. In 2003, my son and I made the decision to sell the herd. My son wanted to expand the grain farm and maple syrup business. My focus now is on maple syrup production. I do all the marketing, both retail and bulk, through direct marketing and farmers markets. We now average over 2500 gallons a year, coming from about 6500 taps. I have received the Pioneer Service Award from the Ohio Jersey Breeders Association and the Distinguished Service Award from the Morrow County Farm Bureau. I am an Honorary Chapter member of the FFA, and have been a 4-H advisor for 20 years. I am the Chair of the Morrow County Extension Advisory Committee, and serve as Northwest Women's Trustee for the Ohio Farm Bureau.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Faith, family and friends will guide your path on life's journey; and don't forget to have fun on the way!

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** When I started farming, salesmen would stop at the farm and ask to see 'the man in charge'. They soon found out that I was the one who purchased the farm supplies, and milked and bred the cows. For the young women of today: the world of agriculture is open to you and your families, because we paved the way. Find the niche that suits you, and enjoy what you do. If you can do that ... it's not really work. Advocate for agriculture, because women are better at telling ag stories. I grew up with a radio and a phone on the wall. You carry a computer, a camera, and a phone in your pocket – use them!



### Morrow County honors **EDDIE LOU MEIMER**

EDDIE LOU has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife and daughter since 1958.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

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**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Circle M Farms Feed & Supply

**Contact information:**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Circle-M-Farms-Feed-Supply/381730438595756>

**Social media:** Facebook: Circle M Farms Feed & Supply

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**Biography:** I am 43 years old, wife of Wayne Mercer, and mother of Austin, 20, and Blake, 14. Austin is a junior at Ohio State majoring in Agronomy. Blake is an 8th grader at Jackson Middle School. Austin has been a good role model for others as he had his mind made up since the 2nd grade that he wanted to pursue a career in agriculture. When other kids were playing sports, he was planting crops and driving tractors. Farming was his game! We own a farm and two feed stores in Jackson and Minford, Ohio. Formerly, I owned a beauty shop for 20 years but in 2011, my husband's uncle sold the farm and store. I wanted to buy it and raise my children and some day grandchildren on the farm. It's been a wonderful decision and I love our farming life!! My husband and I have both been 4-H advisors for ten years. We love teaching children about agriculture and farming. Our sons have both become excellent showmen. We all love the fact that we raise our own cattle to show and the feed they eat.

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**Favorite quote or saying:** My Barn, My Rules

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**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Work hard to achieve your dreams! We have to keep going in agriculture, there aren't many women now days that will even cook, let alone plant a garden or can vegetables. Learn all you can from your grandma and mothers, for someday we will be the only few left to teach our grandchildren!



### Jackson County honors **TAMI MERCER**

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TAMI has been contributing to agriculture as a mother and wife since 1992.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Diagonal Farms

**Contact information:** [www.diagonalfarms.com](http://www.diagonalfarms.com)

**Biography:** It's an honor and privilege to be selected to represent Portage County for the "100 Faces of Ohio Women in Agriculture" in 2014. For a girl who didn't grow up on a farm, this is a dream come true! I fell in love with agriculture at a young age, when I visited the Portage County Randolph Fair with my family. Shortly after that experience, I became a 4-H member and showed rabbits and goats. For several years, 4-H enriched my life in more ways than I can count. I attended The Ohio State University, where I proudly obtained my Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture. After college, I worked in diverse areas of agriculture and enjoyed each opportunity. Today, I volunteer with 4-H clubs/committees, and I love to educate others about agriculture. My children are 4-H members, and as a family, we raise animals and grow vegetables using organic methods. My greatest joy in life is walking along side of my 3 children and teaching them about animals, crops, and the importance of agriculture!

**Favorite quote or saying:** "What you see depends on how you view the world. To most people this is just dirt. To a farmer, it's potential." Doe Zantamata

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Believe in yourself and in your ideas. Anything is possible with ambition, hard work, and the willingness to learn. Find your passion and nurture it. On multiple levels, you will reap the rewards of your hard work, by simply doing what you love. Enjoy your journey!



### Portage County honors **BECKY MILLER**

BECKY has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter, and owner since 1986.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

*Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:* Stony Brook Farm

*Biography:* Bill & I got married in June 1973. Both of our grandparents had farms and we were very active with farming. Our dream was to save our money and some day buy a farm of our own. That day came in December 1978. We were blessed with 5 daughters which were very involved with the farm, 4H & FFA. We owned 79 acres and rented other ground. I worked a part time job and Bill worked in town to help supplement our living expenses. We worked very close on the farm. He took time to show me the ropes! We had cattle, hogs, beans, wheat, corn and hay. Then in 1987, Bill was diagnosed with cancer. He recovered from surgery and life went on. October 1999, Bill and I were in the field and received a phone call with the worst news a parent could get. Our 20 year old daughter had a brain aneurysm and passed away. Our lives were never the same. In August 2006 at age 59, Bill passed away. This farm was our dream and I am going to keep it going for as long as I can with 35 cattle, 29 acres of corn and 21 acres of hay.

### Butler County honors **SHIRLEY MILLER**

SHIRLEY has been contributing to agriculture as a mother and wife since 1972.

*Favorite quote or saying:* Cherish every day you have with your family! A tragedy can happen in a heart beat! Live, laugh and love to the fullest!

*Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:* Farming must be in your heart otherwise it won't work! As with anything there are many ups and downs, so really put some thought into it. You have to be willing to work long hours, fix things, get dirty, run equipment, get a farmers tan, get up early, feed livestock, plant the fields, clean up manure, thaw frozen waters, chase the animals when they get out, bale hay and the list goes on. It's hard work, but it's all in a days life of a farmer!



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Friendship Farms  
Community Supported Agriculture

**Contact information:**

[www.nilssonslandscape.com/FriendshipFarms](http://www.nilssonslandscape.com/FriendshipFarms)

**Social media:** Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friendship-Farms-CSA/336947482991166>

**Biography:** I am a first generation small scale farmer. My education is in fine art and backstage theater. Up until 6 years ago I had no experience with farming. After years of working as an artist, I became a stay at home mom and my relationship with food and farming began. After moving to Ohio in 2008, I had the privilege of meeting Craig Nilsson and Susan Muenzer. They own Friendship Farms and are my mentors. Initially I participated as a working share in their newly formed and growing CSA. I have spent the last several years as the farm manager, working supervisor and general face of the CSA. While I still do creative projects on the side, having a relationship with the 3 acres I spend my days nurturing, inspires me and teaches me daily to enjoy my place in this beautiful world. It is a gift. I look forward to the evolution of Friendship Farms and give thanks to Craig and Susan for their patience, trust, willingness to share knowledge, the opportunity to work their land and their presence in my life.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "It's worth knowing, like all good fruit, the balance of life is in the ripe and ruin."

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** In my experience, I learned quickly to only control the things I can. Nature and other forms of life are going to do what they want. I have learned to be patient. Science and technology can only provide so much. Allow time to pass and be observant while doing so. This will allow you to develop a deep knowledge of your land and how it works. Be grateful for your bounty and your support system. Great advice that was given to me: at the end of the day, focus on what you accomplished instead of what you didn't. Oh (!) and by all means take care of your body! It is your vessel.



### Lucas County honors **JAIME MINCH**

JAIME has been contributing to agriculture as a mother and daughter since 2008.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

*Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:* Peach Hill Farms

**Biography:** Alice Moore grew up working on a farm in Coshocton County, Ohio. She was active in 4-H and spent 6 months in Sweden as an IFYE. She attended Ohio State and worked for the extension service upon graduation in 1957 in both Morgan and Coshocton Counties. After marriage Alice became a dairy farmer and developed a passion for dairy farming and milk promotion. She later served on the Dairy Farmers of America Board, Midwest UDIA Board and National Dairy Boards. She volunteered as a 4-H advisor for 30 years and is currently an advisor for the Coshocton County Jr. Dairy Show. Alice was a member of the Extension Advisory Board - serving as chairman one year. She is a member of the Ohio 4-H Hall of Fame and the Ohio Dairy Hall of Service, and was the Ohio Farm Wife of the Year in 1970. Alice has received the Ohio 4-H Alumni Award and the Proclamation Award for service to Extension. Alice and her husband Ed raised three children who all graduated from Ohio State with degrees in Agriculture - the family earned 7 degrees in all from Ohio State. Alice was elected and served as a Coshocton County Commissioner for one term and presently serves on the Head Start Board and Steering Committee for River View Schools.

*Favorite quote or saying:* Farming is a good life as well as a good living.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Be proud of your profession and get involved! It is very rewarding work.



### Coshocton County honors **ALICE MOORE**

ALICE has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter, and through participation on boards and committees since 1944.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

*Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:* Sulphur Creek Farms

*Biography:* Dairy from 1961 to 1976 helped with milking and feeding replacement heifers. when we sold the dairy we had a 100 brood sows farrow to finish. Then our operation consisted of canning tomatoes 60 acres, burley tobacco forage and row crops and brood cows. We do not raise the tomatoes or burley tobacco any more. We employed 12 seasonal employees when we were doing the burley tobacco and tomatoes. Also was responsible for bookkeeping and payroll. We now have brood cows and finish all calves to market weight. We have 400 acres of row crops. I am active in our local church.

*Favorite quote or saying:* I guess my message is I am thankful for the success we have had in the past.

*Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:* Get involved in the business and work, work, work.



### Adams County honors **MARIE MOORE**

MARIE has been contributing to agriculture as a wife, crew leader, and tractor operator since 1961.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Maggie's Farm LLC

**Contact information:** <http://www.maggiesfarmcle.org>

**Social media:** Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Maggies-Farm/256068774429215>; Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/MaggiesFarmCle>

**Biography:** From the time I can remember I have always been involved in growing food, starting with my Grandmother's garden. As a young wife and mother it was a dream of mine to farm, but we never had the resources to start a farm. Upon moving to Cleveland from Philadelphia, I became involved in starting community gardens and then bought a home that availed me the opportunity to start a market garden. For years I had worked in Business Continuity Planning, and the tech industry. The season I started Maggie's Farm as a market garden my husband was out of work. I found myself coming home and doing all the work, and after expressing my frustration to him by saying "You are supposed to be doing what I want to do!" I realized, this is what I needed to do and took my planning background, OSU Market Gardening training plus experience and developed the plan for Maggie's Farm. Thanks to the help of our local community development organization I was able to locate vacant land to start the urban farm.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "Only when the last tree has died and the last river been poisoned and the last fish has been caught will we realize we cannot eat money" ~(Comment from a member of the Cree Nation on the environment and materialism)

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** We hold the future of food in our hands. Not only the production, but the education of our young people. Keep in mind as you work and work hard, that everything we do, we must do for the next seven generations after us, therefore we are stewards of the land, and should treat it with the respect and care it deserves and requires. When a problem occurs in production, seek solutions through permaculture, biomimicry and nature. When you are tired, exhausted and spent, take time to reflect, with pride, on your contribution to preserving and caring for the land and feeding our families.



Cuyahoga County  
honors  
**DIANE  
MORGAN**

DIANE has been contributing to  
agriculture since 2010.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Biography:** I have been participating in agriculture ever since my mom died and my dad became sick in 1944. On my family's farm we raised corn, wheat, tobacco, pigs and milk cows. I would help with the animals before I went to school and also again when I got home. I married Harmon Neal in 1947 and continued helping him farm. We also raised corn, wheat, tobacco, pigs, sheep, and we had milk cows. Farming in these days was very hard work because we didn't have the machinery that we are able to have today. My husband and I raised 3 sons on our family farm and I am proud to say that all three are still involved in agriculture. Although my farming is limited now, I still enjoy my garden and helping out in whatever way I can. Our family farm continues today with our sons and their families. I think the lessons that our boys have learned here on our family farm have helped make them the men they are today. I have been blessed to have been a part of our family farm history.

***Favorite quote or saying:***

Would this old world be better,  
If the folks we meet would say,  
"I know something good about you,"  
And then treat us just that way.  
Wouldn't it be fine and dandy  
If each handclasp warm and true  
Carried with it this assurance,  
"I know something good about you?"  
Would life be lots more happy  
If the good that's in us all  
Were the only thing about us  
That folks bothered to recall?  
Wouldn't life be lots more happy  
If we praised the good we see?  
For there's such a lot of goodness  
In the worst of you and me.  
Wouldn't it be nice to practice  
That fine way of thinking, too?  
You know something good about me!  
I know something good about you!  
(author unknown)



### Brown County honors **VELVA NEAL**

VELVA has been contributing to agriculture  
as a mother, wife, and daughter since  
1944.

***Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:***

Don't be afraid to do physical work but if you can't, you should always use whatever talents you have.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

*Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:* Neer Farms

*Social media:* Facebook: [www.facebook.com/neerfarms](https://www.facebook.com/neerfarms)

**Biography:** I became a farm girl by marriage. When I was eleven, my mom married a farmer, and I instantly became part of agriculture. Farm chores and 4-H were major parts of my agriculture experience as I grew up. After graduating from Mechanicsburg High School in 1974, I pursued a degree in Elementary Education at The Ohio State University. Bart and I were married in 1977, and my farm girl life continued. I was able to teach for 4 years before realizing my dream of raising two children on the farm. I continued to keep agriculture close to my heart as an active business partner, 4-H advisor, and Farm Bureau chairmen. For the last 11 years, I have shared my love of agriculture by being Clark County Farm Bureau's Ag in the Classroom coordinator. I hope to continue to share that same love of agriculture with others in the future.

### Clark County honors **KAREN NEER**

KAREN has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, and daughter since 1977.

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#### **Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**

Be sure to appreciate the joy of agriculture on a regular basis. We often are overwhelmed by the day to day to-do lists, yet need to remember to take time to appreciate our life at the same time. Taking time to appreciate your faith, family, and friends goes a long way towards a happy life!



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Laurel Valley Creamery

**Contact information:** <http://laurelvalleycreamery.com>

**Social media:** Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Laurel-Valley-Creamery/136680272454>; Instagram: lvcreamery

**Biography:** Self-taught cheesemaker Celeste Nolan is the founding owner of Laurel Valley Creamery, a state licensed cheese making facility in Gallipolis, Ohio. In addition to running the value added side of the business she is also a farm wife and mother of four. Celeste and her family live and work on their 110 acre dairy farm along with their herd of 30 Jersey and Normande cows which provide the milk for all of the cheese they produce. Celeste enjoys good food and excels at cooking for her family and friends, her role as cheesemaker enables her to share her culinary abilities with a larger audience.

### Gallia County honors **CELESTE NOLAN**

CELESTE has been contributing to agriculture as a mother and wife since 2005.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness."

-Thomas Jefferson

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**

In the past woman have been recognized for their work in agriculture in supportive roles, as mothers, wives and daughters of farmers, although important, vital in fact. I want to encourage all young women to recognize their own contribution, to know that it is possible for them to use their own strengths, talents and labors to create something for yourself and your family. Don't be afraid to ask questions, educate yourself and then trust in yourself to make the best choices for you and your situation. Strive for balance in your days, and don't give up.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Biography:** I was raised on a Registered Holstein and grain Farm in Wakeman, Ohio. I graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor's Degree in AgBusiness and Master's Degree in Ag Education. I began my career as an Extension Educator for Purdue University and then moved back to Wakeman in 2005, where I continued my Extension Career with Ohio State. As an Educator my main focus was farm management and women in agriculture. I was the co-leader of the statewide program, Annie's Project.

I am currently an Account Officer for Ag Credit in Wellington, Ohio. I also teach an Ag Business Planning course for Lorain County Community College's Sustainable Agriculture Program.

My husband and I currently farm with my brother and sister-in-law in the Wakeman area. In 2005, we began New Legacy Farms, LLC and since that time have also build a large custom farming operation to complement the row crop farm. Sam and I have 3 daughters, McKenna (12), Katie (9) and Kara(6). The girls are active in school activities, basketball and 4-H. I serve as a 4-H Advisor, a 5th grade basketball coach, and teach PSR.

**Favorite quote or saying:** You are not here merely to make a living. You are here in order to enable the world to live more amply, with greater vision, with a finer spirit of hope and achievement. You are here to enrich the world, and you impoverish yourself if you forget the errand.

-Woodrow Wilson

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Find your passion and never stop learning! For most, agriculture is not simply a job – it's their passion. As a whole, agriculture is always evolving and changing. Technology has brought many of these changes, but other changes for women have come because we learned how to do jobs and to use technology to do these jobs that have been typically considered a 'man's job'. Everything thing from milking cows and managing the dairy to lending the money to purchase the farm next door. When I began my career in 1998, at most agriculture events/meetings, the line at the women's restroom was pretty short. Today, that is not the case as more women have entered the world of agriculture in many different capacities. In order to keep up with changes and stay an active part of agriculture, we have to continue to educate ourselves on current events (locally and worldwide) and new technology. If this is our passion, it is much easier to remain an active learner!



### Erie County honors **JULIA NOLAN WOODRUFF**

JULIA has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter, and educator & lender since 1980.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Wise Acres Farm

**Social media:** Facebook: Obersts Wise Acres Farm

**Biography:** I have devoted my entire adult life to agriculture and conservation of natural resources through my work as an environmental scientist, a naturalist, director of a living history farm (portraying the role of pioneer women in Ohio's development) and as a full time farmer. I have actively been involved in the start-up of two local farmer's market and I am a mentor to University of Findlay pre-vet and animal science students. Additionally, I give educational talks to groups on women in agriculture.

I consider myself foremost a grass farmer. By collecting free solar energy and being a good steward of all the creatures great and small that make their home in the soil, Wise Acres Farm is solely devoted to growing grass and grazing livestock. Our product (grass) leaves the farm in the form of meat (beef, pork, poultry, eggs). We custom graze up to 100 head of cattle during the growing season and formerly operated a grazing dairy. In 2012, I was honored to be selected as one of four women as Ohio's Outstanding Women in Agriculture.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "I wake up in the morning torn between the desire to improve the world and a desire to enjoy the world. This makes it hard to plan the day."

-E.B. White

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Women are changing the face of traditional agriculture. If agriculture is your calling-do not be afraid to follow your passion!



### Hancock County honors **KAREN OBERST**

KAREN has been contributing to agriculture as the director of a living history farm, showcasing pioneer Ohio womens' contributions to Ohio agriculture/development since 1984.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Jiman Farms LLC

**Contact information:**

<http://www.wayneohio.org/commissioners.php>

**Biography:** My husband, Jim, and I began farming in 1974 by renting ground. In 1975 we quit our other jobs to farm fulltime. Since then we have continued to grow our business, and today we milk 270 Holsteins and farm 1200 acres. Participation and leadership in Farm Bureau showed me firsthand how important it is for people in agriculture to be involved in government. I am currently in my 12th year as Wayne County Commissioner. As commissioner I have:

- Brought awareness of agriculture to economic development professionals. Under my leadership the first ag position in a county economic development agency was created.
- Founded the Ag Success Team, bringing various organizations together to collaborate in support of our agriculture industry.
- Advocated for state and national legislation supporting agriculture as a member of the County Commissioner Association of Ohio Agriculture Committee.
- Served on The OSU Ext. State Advisory Committee and on the C. William Swank Program on Rural Urban Policy.

**Favorite quote or saying:** As advocates of agriculture, it is important that we all work together. In Wayne County, we embrace all types of agriculture: livestock, grain, produce, conventional, niche, organic, small and large. All are important to our economy and consumers. One type of production will not fit every farm and one type of production will not meet the need for food in our world with its growing population.

As producers we need to speak together about the safe, nutritious and plentiful food supply that we enjoy from all types of production in the United States. Too often, those who have no experience or background in agriculture, are defining the way everyone should farm and what type of food everyone should eat. Telling our story and backing it with research based information from accredited sources is the only way we can combat this misinformation and continue to have a robust agriculture industry.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Young women in agriculture need to educate themselves not only on the production side of the farm, but also the business side. The general population has an idyllic view of agriculture as a laid-back way of life. As those of us in the industry know, farming is hard work and long hours, but to actually make a living it also depends on good management. Working hard will not guarantee a successful farming operation. Working smart, knowing how to analyze your production and being open to exploring new ways of doing business is as vital to a farming operation as it is to any other business.



### Wayne County honors **ANN OBRECHT**

ANN has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, and County Commissioner since 1974.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Rock River Laboratory

**Contact information:** <http://www.rockriverlab.com>

**Social media:** Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/RockRiverLaboratory>

**Biography:** I was born on a 6th generation family farm in Wayne County. I guess you could say that I was born into a family with a deep passion for agriculture. Growing up I was involved in 4-H and FFA. I spent 3 years of my undergraduate studies at Clemson University where I was very active in Block and Bridle and served as the Vice President of the Collegiate Cattlemen's Association. I finished my Bachelor of Science in Animal Science at The Ohio State University and am now an Analytical Consultant with Rock River Laboratory. I am actively involved in the Wayne County Farm Bureau, the Ohio Cattlemen's Association, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, and the Miss America Organization. I have a personal blog, Cows and Crowns All Around, where I talk about my life within the Miss America Organization and how I get to tell the story of agriculture through my title as Miss Heart of Ohio.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "Courage is being scared to death, but saddling up anyways"

- John Wayne

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Never let anyone tell you that you can't do anything. Share the story of agriculture whenever and wherever you can. Telling your story to just one person can make all the difference in the world. Airports are the most undesirable yet most common place to tell the story of agriculture—use that to your advantage. Continually build your network and be gracious to everyone that you meet. A bad day in the office can make for a great day in the barn.



### Wayne County honors **JUSTIN O'FLAHERTY**

JUSTIN has been contributing to agriculture as a daughter and consultant since 1990.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Van and Vicki Orians

**Social media:** Facebook: Vicki Orians; Google+: vicki orians

**Biography:** Starting out as a child, there were frequent visits to Grandpa & Grandma Hankins' old fashioned livestock, dairy & grain farm. A likely catalyst to becoming associated with farming. Marrying a farmer, we worked together in the production of hogs, beef cattle & crops (hay, wheat, corn & soybeans). On an errand to the ASCS (now FSA) office, an opportunity was offered for part-time employment which became an agricultural career of its own. Serving a variety of USDA Farm Service Agency programs to farmers was very rewarding. Working with other agencies such as The OSU Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, & Wyandot Soil & Water Conservation Service further cultivated appreciation for our agricultural industry. Before being hired to manage Wyandot FSA, 3 years experience was gained as Specialist at Ohio FSA State office handling Appeals & Payment Limitation. Besides farming, experience was gained in Real Estate sales & marketing, which lead to securing an Ohio Broker license.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failure, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our Attitudes." ~Charles R. Swindoll

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**

Almost endless possibilities exist for women in agriculture. Practical knowledge gained by being raised in a farm family certainly provides an open door to future career opportunities related to farming. Agriculture conducted all over the world provides food, fiber, fuel and a multitude of by-products, and thus the myriad occupations related to such a vast, innovative industry.



### Wyandot County honors **VICKI ORIAN**

VICKI has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, and USDA FSA CED Wyandot Co since 1970.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Biography:** I was raised in Muskingum on a diversified livestock operation. Through my involvement, I attended The Ohio State University where I received a degree in agricultural communications/animal science. Upon graduation, I worked in the area of radio and television promoting and telling the story of agriculture to today's consumer. I currently serve as the Executive Director of the Ohio Young Farmers, Ohio Association of Meat Processors and the Ohio Christmas Tree Association. Working with these agricultural associations, I have the opportunity to work with many areas related to the agriculture field. I also have the opportunity to work in the area of production agriculture where I work with my husband to raise sheep and cattle in Licking County. This provides me with the chance to share my love of agriculture with my five daughters who I hope will continue in some area of agriculture.

**Favorite quote or saying:** As I have met and worked with many people over the years, I have learned that there are many types of bones that make up the body of the community. The first bones are the wishbones, the people who spend all of their time wishing someone else would do all the work, while they sit back and watch and enjoy themselves. Followed by the jawbones, the people who do all the talking and very little of anything else to help out the others. Next are the knucklebones, people who make things harder for everyone who try to help out. Last but not least, there are the back bones. These are the people who get behind an event and try their hardest to get all the work done. The backbones also are the leaders of the group who try to get everyone to work together. Which part of the community are you?

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** This is such an exciting time for the agriculture community. The industry offers some many opportunities to any one that wants to get involved especially females. I encourage anyone that wants to be involved in agriculture to work for what they want and make your mark!



*Licking County*  
honors  
**VALERIE  
PARKS-  
GRAHAM**

VALERIE has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, and daughter since 1975.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

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**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Rock'in Rainbow

**Biography:** I was the oldest of four kids, my dad worked in town so I started doing a lot of the farm work by Age 12 on our 95 acres and my grandparents next door farm. I got married, had 5 kids, and moved to our current farm of 320 acres in 1969. We milked cows there for 40 years. I did most of the milking and a lot of the field work, including running the combine, backhoe, and my chain saw. My husband died ten years ago so I eventually sold the dairy cows, gave up the rental land, and now have about 65 head of beef cows. My kids all live close by, have families and jobs, but still help me farm. I still do a lot of it. I love my farm and the farm life.

Morrow County  
honors  
**JUNE  
PATTERSON**

JUNE has been contributing to agriculture  
since 1947.

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**Favorite quote or saying:** God knows what He's doing.  
You do your part, and He'll do His.

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**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**  
You have to love it. It's a lot of hard work and sacrifice, but it's worth it. It's the Number 1 occupation because without food there would be nothing else.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Patterson Fruit Farm

**Contact information:** [www.pattersonfarm.com](http://www.pattersonfarm.com)

**Social media:** Facebook: Patterson Farms

**Biography:** Born Jan 17, 1941 on a Pickaway County farm; graduated with B.S. from OSU; taught and married James F. Patterson in 1963; raised 3 children and have 6 grandchildren. We are active members of Mayfield United Methodist Church in Chesterland. We have passed our farm to our two sons but are actively involved. Statewide involvement has included: OSU Extension; Ohio Farm Bureau; Ohio Expositions Commission (past chair); Ohio 4-H Foundation Board (past president and member of the Ohio Farm Bureau and Nationwide 4-H Center steering committee; Ohio Apple Growers Association (speaker); Ohio Farmland Preservation Task Force member.

**Honors:** 2004 Ohio Farm Bureau Distinguished Service Award; 2004 Ohio 4-H Celebration of Youth award; 2000 Distinguished Service Award from OSU; 2000 Ohio 4-H Hall of Fame inductee; 1999 National Friend of Extension Award from ESP National Extension Professional's Organization; 1997 Ohio Agriculture Woman of the Year from Ohio Agri-Women Organization.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Farmers and those involved in agriculture have a responsibility to care for the land, making it better when we leave it than when we first farmed it. We also have a responsibility to make certain to do our part in helping our community - local, state, national and world-wide - have opportunities to learn and appreciate agriculture and the food that is grown on that precious natural resource - the land we farm. I am an advocate of agriculture.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Working in nature is a soul-keeping opportunity. Farming is a passion that needs expression by how we live our lives, treat our soil and natural resources, give our energy and strength to better our production efficiency, our economic viability, our social responsibility and our environmental compatibility. I appreciate this loosely written advocacy of Dr. Bobby Moser, retired Dean of the College of FAES.



### Geauga County honors **NANCY PATTERSON**

NANCY has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter, and advocate since 1950.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

*Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:* Green Top Farm



**Biography:** I credit my Grandparents, J.W. (Moke) and Alice Chamberlin, for instilling in me the love of farming. I was raised on a Hereford cattle farm. I've enjoyed being involved with taking care of farm animals and growing vegetables my whole life. My husband, Jim Pertuset and I own and operate Green Top Farm where we have raised beef cattle, hogs, goats, and chickens for 20 years. We have 2 children, Luke and Rebekah. I have been involved with our local 4H for many years and have been a 4H Advisor for 10+ years. I am also a Market and Breeding Animal Committee member. I enjoy helping young people with their 4H projects and promoting the positive benefits 4H has to offer. In 2009, I was honored to be recognized as Scioto County's Outstanding Farm Woman. It is also an honor to be nominated for the 100 Faces of Women in Agriculture. I thank God and my family for my agricultural heritage. I'm thankful to live in the country! I hope to promote the love of farming to future young women.

Scioto County  
honors  
**DEBORAH  
PERTUSET**

DEBORAH has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter, and granddaughter since 1976.

***Favorite quote or saying:*** A Farmer is always out standing in the field.

***Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:*** Each day is a gift. You are never too old to learn new things. Stay strong. Take pride in who you are and what you represent.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Anthony Petitti Garden Center and Farm Market

**Contact information:** <http://petittisorganic.com>

**Social media:** Facebook: Anthony Petitti Garden Center; Twitter: Petittisorganic

**Biography:** I started as a child doing barn chores as a teen became involved in FFA and fell deeply in love with the farm. After graduating for OSU in the field of Landscape construction and contracting I worked edible and veggie gardens in all the landscapes I could. In 2003 my husband and I bought a greenhouse garden center operation and went into retail. In 2005 my husband was killed in an accident and we stopped landscaping as much and then in 2007 I decided our greenhouse would go organic. Now focusing on veggies, fruit trees, berry bushes and bringing in live stock. I now have beef, goats, pigs and laying hens. I enjoy the farming/gardening so much they are my hobbies as well as my job. I also enjoy camping and of course county fairs.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Know your Food, Know your Farmer" and "The key to success is to find a purpose not a job"

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Stay focused! Don't try to do too many things at once. Enjoy your farm or position in agriculture or don't do it, life is too short!



### *Stark County* honors **CINDY PETITTI**

CINDY has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter, and Owner/operator since 1967.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Rauclif Farms

**Social media:** Facebook: Rauclif Farms

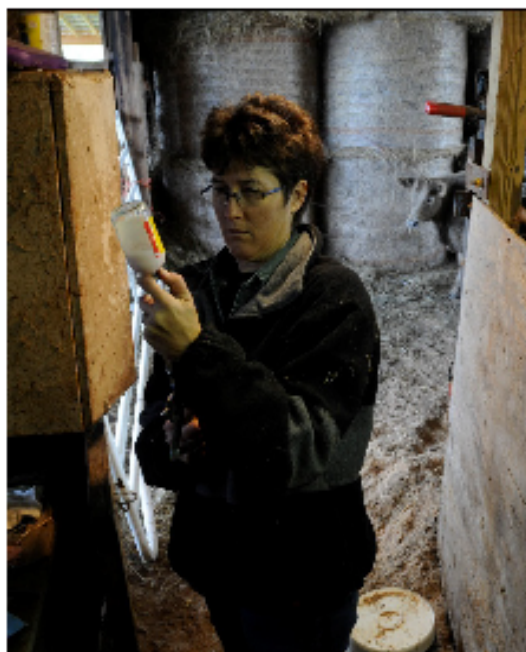
**Biography:** Our family farm has been in continuous operation for eight generations of my husbands mothers family. We have a varied beef operation with feedlot capacity for 600 head, 130 brood cows and backgrounding capability if the market favors it. We raise our own feed with soybeans and surplus corn marketed using a variety of strategic tools. I participate in many of the activities of the farm with exception of chemical application. I am the wife of a fulltime farmer, mother of four young adults and soon to be graduate of Ohio University. I am an employee of Ohio State University Extension as a project coordinator for a multi state research project. I am passionate about my work with rural communities, food systems and helping others find their voice within the scope of community involvement and engagement. I have successfully applied for SARE producer grants pertaining to culinary herbs and edible flower production, which I have produced commercially on the farm to supplement income.

**Favorite quote or saying:** The following quote by Theodore Roosevelt has been one of my guiding principles most of my life. "Do what you can, where you are, with what you have". I have tried to instill this simple message in my children as well.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**

Do not try to compartmentalize agriculture. It is a part of every hour of the day for all citizens in the United States and instead of drawing attention to specifics, the whole should be part of our conversations. Acknowledge your shortcomings and those of our business but supply correct information to offset the shortcoming. Build a network of consultants and friends who can ask the tough question, help you locate elusive answers and provide you with continuing education.

Do not forget to find things to be thankful for each day and speak them out loud even if you are alone.



### Washington County honors **JODY RAUCH**

JODY has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, and daughter since 1989.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

*Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:* Bethel Feed & Supply Pet & Garden

*Contact information:* [www.bethelfeedmill.com](http://www.bethelfeedmill.com)

*Social media:*

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pages/Bethel-Feed-Supply/195850147148764](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bethel-Feed-Supply/195850147148764);

Twitter: Bethel Pet & Garden @Bethelfeed;

Google+: Bethel Feed & Supply Pet & Garden Center

*Biography:* I've been married 41 years to Jerry Reeves where we lived on a farm. We have 3 grown children Michael, Michelle & Carla; & 3 grandchildren. I started working for the local farm cooperation in 1965. In 1983, I purchased the co-op what is now Bethel Feed & Supply where I have been in business for 31 years.

### Clermont County honors **SUSAN REEVES**

SUSAN has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter, and Farm & Garden Store owner since 1983.

*Favorite quote or saying:* "Some things are meant to be."

*Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:* My advice for young women in agriculture is to work hard at their career, get involved in agriculture associations, & to teach the next generation to be keepers of the land not takers.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Reid's Apiary and 'Bee-tique'

**Biography:** Although I am a native of suburban Philadelphia, one of my life goals has always been to live on a farm. After completing graduate school in librarian ship, I reached that goal when my husband and I bought a small farm in Virginia. We grew our own fruits and vegetables, milked our own cow, raised our own beef and began beekeeping for pollination. When we moved to Ohio, we decided to concentrate on beef and honey production. Over the years I've developed an affinity for honey bees—the "angels of agriculture" and devote much of my time to teaching people how to become beekeepers and/or appreciate the value of honeybees. I'm a 4-H and FFA supporter, and am serving my fifth term as president of the Lawrence County Farm Bureau. Since my retirement from library administration, I have become active in state and national apicultural organizations and was named "Beekeeper of the Year" by the Ohio State Beekeepers Association. I enjoy being an advocate for agriculture and apiculture.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "The earth is the Lord's" and we are here as His stewards. Every day is Earth Day to a farmer."

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** What a world of opportunities you have before you! Ag related careers cover a vast array of interests and skills. Don't let anyone try to limit you simply because you are female! Speak up, take the lead, don't be afraid to try something new. The only creature that should be called "Bossy" on a farm is a milk cow! We look to your generation to feed the world while sustaining earth's resources for future generations. I know you and your fellow farmers—male and female—are up to the task. Good Luck!



### Lawrence County honors **MARGARET REID**

MARGARET has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, beekeeper, and beef farmer since 1974.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Rethmel Brothers

**Biography:** My career until I got married was in education. I was only familiar with farming from my grandparents who farmed when I was little. I was accustomed to seeing my grandfather farm with a small Ford tractor and enjoyed riding along with him. When I married my husband, the first tractor I rode in was a Steiger. I knew then that this was going to be a little different. When I married, I gave up my teaching job and became a full-time farmer's wife. I have done many different things on the farm such as helping care for the animals and I even helped deliver a few baby pigs. I worked in the fields, drove trucks, and planted a vegetable garden as well as flowers to add beauty to the farm. I was involved with Farm Bureau where I held various offices, including President of Defiance County Farm Bureau Women. I was also chosen as Farm Wife of the Year by Ohio Young Farmers. When our daughter became involved with 4-H, I became an advisor (now in my 26<sup>th</sup> year), Teen Leader Advisor, and served on 4H Council. I have taken many programs sponsored by Extension in Defiance County. I was one of the first to take the Master Gardener program. In 2003, I organized a Junior Master Garden Class at the local elementary school for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders. I continued this class for nine years.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** My advice to the next generation is to stay up on the latest methods and keep learning. As a farm wife, I believe you need to support the operation and remember life usually revolves around the farming calendar. There is a little down time in the winter, watch the crops grow in the spring and summer, and help with harvest in the fall. It was quite an adjustment from my teaching calendar of down time in the summer and busy in the winter. I made this adjustment well as both careers are rewarding, only at different times and in different ways.



Defiance County  
honors  
**ANITA  
RETHMEL**

ANITA has been contributing to agriculture as a wife and bookkeeping manager since 1976.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Rhoads Farm, Inc

**Contact information:** <http://rhoadsfarminc.com>

<http://rhoadsgardencenter.com>

**Social media:** Facebook: rhoadsfarminc, rhoadsgardencenter

**Biography:** Kathy Rhoads has contributed to the farm community with dedication, activism, and leadership. Kathy is a farm wife, mother of two, and grandmother of 5. Operating Rhoads Farm Market in Circleville since 1972, the business has now grown into 4 different enterprises all maintained by the family. Diversification since the beginning developed into produce production, farm stand retailing, landscaping, and wholesale tree production. Currently, Rhoads Farm Inc. participates in 6 farmers' markets a week in Columbus.

The foundation for her involvement originated from the community, consumers, industry organizations, state and national government. Leadership positions were held in farm organizations such as Farm Bureau, American Agri-Women, Ohio Vegetable Producers, and Ohio Roadside Marketing. Kathy was tapped by the Governor, State and National Legislators, and Ohio State University to participate in advisory capacity. With Rhoads Farm Market being a part of the local Circleville community since 1958, civic leadership was also contribution.

**Favorite quote or saying:** My first involvement in advocating for agriculture was teaching change, self-awareness and personal development. Of course, OSU Extension provided many opportunities for my platform. Living life on the farm provided a great vantage point to lead and encourage others to engage and better understand the world of agriculture.

Change was always eminent, but no one could realize at the time just to what extent and how far into the future agriculture would make a difference. I have traveled a long way down this path and enjoyed every opportunity.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** The world is before us with opportunities. We are a society of entrepreneurs searching to pursue our dreams. As a woman, find your dream and live it.



### Pickaway County honors **KATHY RHOADS**

KATHY has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, and retail manager since 1972.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Ricketts Farm, Inc.

**Contact information:**

**Social media:**

**Biography:** Rita was a partner with her late husband, John in Ricketts Farm for the past 48+ years. Her contributions in managing finances and cash management enabled their business to grow from a 60 acre farm to a 3,000 acre diversified grain and livestock operation with multiple agricultural related businesses such as seed sales, crop fertilizers and chemicals. Rita has been an integral part of the farming operation thru its various stages of growth and the numerous enterprises the family farm has embarked upon.

In addition to all of her on farm efforts, Rita also realized the "heart of their farm" was in the midst of one of the most rapidly growing suburbs near Columbus, the city of Pickerington. Rita was instrumental in helping raise awareness for agriculture thru her involvement as a 4-H leader, Farm Bureau Board of Trustees member and the Violet Grange. Her commitment to agriculture did not stop with her work in farm-related organizations; Rita was also a member of the Pickerington Village Council for 12 years. Rita also served as the first woman Mayor in the history of the Village of Pickerington.

Rita has also been very committed to the WIMODUASIS (Wives, Mothers, Daughters, Sisters) organization, which is an organization committed to building confidence and skills in women in all stages of their lives. She and her late husband John were also very dedicated to recording the history of the once very active farming community and published two books about the Violet Township area entitled *"The Violets Still Bloom"* and *"Violet Township-Through Two Hundred Years 1808-2008."* Rita served as the editor and typist for both publications.

Throughout all of her endeavors, her love of agriculture has truly been her passion.

**Favorite quote or saying:**

"Right is Right and Wrong is Wrong, Right? And know that in all circumstances, God will provide."



### Fairfield County honors **RITA RICKETTS**

RITA has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, farm partner, and business manager for nearly 50 years.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Congress Lake Farms LLC

**Biography:** I have always lived in Portage County. I am the oldest of 10 siblings. When growing up my favorite place to spend time was my grandparent's dairy farm. My husband Kenny is a fifth generation dairy farmer in Suffield twp. We have 4 children and 8 grandchildren. Our sons Mike and Kenny are both partners in the farm operation. We milk 675 Holsteins and have 3500 acres of crop land.

My responsibilities have varied over the years from helping in the fields to doing daily chores and monthly milk testing. I hosted school children for field trips every spring for many years. We have been hosts for our county Farm City Tour many times. Today my main job is the bookkeeping and doing yard work. Volunteering has always been a big part of my activities. Being a 4-H advisor for 33 years, past Farm Bureau Board member, 4-H advisory and benefit committee, a food pantry, and St. Joseph Church give me great joy in serving. Raising funds for Sarcoma research since the death of our daughter Christie in 2006 has become a priority.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Make the best use of your time and try to find the good in all people and situations. We are only on this earth for a short time.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**

Be flexible and you will be prepared for the constant change that comes with agriculture. The weather, the markets, income, expenses are just a few that we don't have control over. Stay up on current agriculture info and events through publications and the internet. It really helps to meet others who have the same interest through farm organizations. Today there are not near as many farms as there were when I first came into the farm scene. Sometimes you can feel like your friends and others have no idea what your life is like. Take time from the pressures of work to enjoy family time, vacations are important even if it is a farm show or county fair.



### Portage County honors **LINDA RUFENER**

LINDA has been contributing to agriculture as a wife and mother since 1972.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** FAHRP, CFAES, OARDC

**Contact information:**

<http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/lsaiflab/>

**Biography:** As a native Buckeye and OSU alumnus (MS, 1972; PhD, 1976), I grew up on a small "Noah's Ark" farm in New Albany in the shadow of OSU. I was active in 4-H since the age of 9 which fostered my love of animals and provided new skills and confidence in public speaking, both major components of my present career. I am currently a Distinguished University Professor in Food Animal Health Research Program (CFAES, OARDC) and the Dept Vet Prev Med (CVM). As a virologist and immunologist, my research focuses on enteric and respiratory viral infections (coronaviruses, rotaviruses, caliciviruses) of swine, cattle and humans. Our lab investigates emerging viruses (PEDV, MERS, SARS, etc) and interrelationships among animal and human viruses to assess their zoonotic potential, mechanisms of interspecies transmission, immunity and vaccines. I am an elected member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (2003) and the Argentine Academia Nacional de Agronomía and Veterinaria (2009). We are an international coronavirus reference lab for WHO and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). My students/post-docs and I have authored over 300 journal articles and 57 book chapters.

Wayne County  
honors  
**LINDA SAIF**

LINDA has been contributing to agriculture  
as a Distinguished University Professor  
since 1971.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Marie Curie said "One never notes what has been done; one can only see what remains to be done."

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**  
Passion for your work and dedication will help you to persevere and overcome any obstacles



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Saling's Custom Meat Processing

**Biography:** Gladys Saling continues to be an avid supporter of The Ohio State University and the Noble County 4-H Youth Development program. She has served as a 4-H volunteer for the past 52 years. Prior to her tenure as a volunteer, Gladys was a 10 year 4-H member in Washington County, Ohio. The 4-H Youth Development program has been an integral part of her life and the life of her family. Gladys' seven children have all been 4-H members.

Gladys and her husband, Charles, started Saling's Custom Meat Processing in 1987 to fill a much needed service in Noble County. After her husband passed away, Gladys continues to run the family business. The business is very supportive of the local community.

Gladys is very active in her community. She has served as an officer or director for Noble County Farm Bureau, Noble Co. Extension Advisory Council and the Noble Co. Agricultural Society. In addition, she is active with the Soakum Festival Committee and the Saint Stephens Catholic Church Women's Club. Gladys was instrumental in helping to start the Farmer's Market in Noble County in 1975 and it continues to this day. Her genuine love for agriculture is very evident in all the ag-related events and activities she attends in Noble County. She is the first to arrive and the last to leave.

**Favorite quote or saying:** I'll be there if it don't snow and the good Lord is willing.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Ask questions and pitch in and do it.



Noble County  
honors  
**GLADYS  
SALING**

GLADYS has been contributing to  
agriculture since 1952.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Yellow Barn Farm

**Biography:** Hi, I'm Kasie Sands. I am 21 and I live on a certified organic farm in Delaware County. I have been growing produce since my first year in 4-H, receiving best of show in gardening 8 out of 9 years. I attended Treca Digital Academy since the 5th grade. For a student who needs to learn "outside the box", the teachers and administration will help you to achieve your full potential. In fact, they continue to support my agriculture endeavours as I transition to college courses. I plan to continue my education by taking organic agriculture/ business courses. I am very involved in our church activities. I know I have the support and help of the Pharisburg United Methodist Church family. Their teaching of faith and hope have helped me become who I am and who I continue to grow to be. My family has also been very supportive in my dreams and wouldn't let me give up.

*Delaware County*  
honors  
**KASIE SANDS**

KASIE has been contributing to agriculture as a daughter and grower since 2002.

I have been blessed to have had business relationships with Whole Foods, Fortmeyer & Sons, Longaberger Basket Co, Whit's Ice Cream & the Delaware Community Market. We continue to be part of the Downtown Delaware Farmers Market, providing fresh chemical free produce and baked goods to our local community.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Be an "Overcomer"

If you have a dream in being in agriculture, you should go for it and let nothing hold you back!

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Appreciate support from family and friends, gather them close and that support will help you achieve greatness.

Have a dream you are passionate about. Educate yourself. Have a great plan. Expect plans to change....Mother nature is full of surprises....work with her. Be tenacious but flexible. Be hopeful with each season & see the positive of what each one brings....no matter what.

Have faith, hope and enjoy the planting!



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Schaadt Homestead

**Contact information:**

**Social media:**

**Biography:** Celebrating her 100th birthday on August 21, Mapha Schaadt is a long-time Paulding County resident. She was born in Latty, Ohio and has been farming since she was 7-8 years old. Her first job on the farm was running a harrow behind a team of 4 horses. She farmed alongside of her father and grandfather with her 2 sisters. There weren't tractors back then. She went to the Briceton School for 8 years and went to Latty High School. She played a guard on a traveling basketball team. In the field, she also topped and harvest sugar beets and tomatoes. Once we harvested the products, we put them in boxes, lifted them onto wagons and drove the wagons by horses to the Stokely's Plant in Paulding. She remembers getting their first tractor in 1935 that is on loan to the local historical society. My husband ran the tractor and I still drove the horses. On November 30, 1939, she married Raymond. I was too interested in farming and I never dated anyone else. They have 4 daughters: Beverly, Marjorie, Barbara and Marilyn. Her and her husband farmed side by side. She ran the drill and planted corn, milked cows, raised hogs, layer and broiler chickens and a garden as well as being the house keeper and canning food for the family. The Schaadt Farmstead has been in her husband's family since 1856 and she had lived in the same house for 79 years. Mapha is also a Corn Husking State Champion. She started husking in the early 1980's after her husband's passing. She has husked in 11 states, was the Ohio winner and also competed at Nationals once and placed 5th. It has been 6 years since she competed. Her record is collecting 276 pounds of corn in 20 minutes. There was a gentleman that would drive the horse team and wagon. A bang board was on the wagon to throw the ears towards. You have to have a rhythm for the timed event. You pick and husk the corn, then throw it in the wagon. A person picks up every ear you miss. I competed in the 50-75 year old age group even though, I was over 75. She doesn't want others to think she is bragging, but it's all true. Mapha also loves to collect John Deere tractors. When I arrived to do her interview, she had already been out gardening and working in her flower bed. Pretty amazing for 100 years old! "I still wake up at 5:00 AM every morning and when the time changes I am up at 4:00 AM. I love my farm and would never think about selling this historical land. I always have kept a smile on my face throughout life!"

**Favorite quote or saying:** Always wake up with a good attitude.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Women need to love their work and what they do. They need to have a "Love of God, Love of Land, and Love the Outdoor Life." and if you have animals you got to love them too. Work hard no matter what and expect to have long hours. Depend on nature to help you because you can't control.



Paulding County  
honors  
**MAPHA  
SCHAADT**

MAPHA has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter,, wife, , daughter, since 1921.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Schacht Family Farm

**Contact information:** [www.mylocalfarm.us](http://www.mylocalfarm.us)

**Social media:** Facebook: Schacht Farm Market; Twitter: farm\_market

**Biography:** Raised on a dairy farm in Northeast Ohio, I tried to leave agriculture via a teaching career. However in 1982, I married an aspiring vegetable farmer. I supported my husband in developing a thriving farmstand and produce operation in Central Ohio. I assisted in balancing the production of 25 + fruit and vegetable crops grown on 60 acres. I was the chief marketer building a retail and wholesale presence in the Columbus area. After 32 years, we have adapted the operation to focus on the Autumn season and fall produce. We also raise nearly 200 ac of grain crops. My husband and I have 3 children and one grandchild. I have served as President of OPGMA (first woman to date); on the Ohio Agriculture Research and Development Center Advisory Committee; on the Ohio Food Policy Council under the Strickland Admin; on the Ohio Farm Bureau Plant Industry Task Force; I was named 2013 Ohio Agriculture Woman of the Year by the ODA.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Bloom where you are planted.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Know your market; produce to your market; market all that you produce.



### Franklin County honors **LISA SCHACHT**

LISA has been contributing to agriculture as a wife, daughter, and Marketing Manager since 1981.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Velvet-View Farms

**Contact information:** [www.velvetviewfarmstead.com](http://www.velvetviewfarmstead.com)

**Social media:** Facebook: velvet view farmstead

**Biography:** I met my husband in high school. Growing up I never really even had a pet. Now, we are 3rd generation dairy farmers on his family farm. We milk 80 registered black and white and red and white Holsteins three times a day. We farm 200 acres, growing hay and corn. Both Aaron and I are active in 4-H as advisors. Our sons, Logan and Wyatt, show cattle at the local, state and national level. We have a small processing facility on our farm where we make all natural yogurt. I have my masters degree in education and have taught first grade for 19 years, but my heart is on the farm. Now more than ever, I find myself helping the public understand and appreciate the farming way of life.

**Favorite quote or saying:** I have three...my grandma says "Farming is a hard life, but its a good life." my husband says "He's made me the man I am today (LOL)" but on the mantel is a picture of our farm and the words "Raise our kids where the good Lord blessed"... I am blessed.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Be prepared for the unexpected. Feed prices go up- milk prices go down, tractors always need fixed. Take the dates on the calendar lightly, we missed many "important" dates when something has gone amiss on the farm and has to have our immediate attention. Working beside the man you love while raising your children on a farm is an experience that cannot be described or replaced. It is hard work and many people don't understand it, but feeding calves early in the morning when the sun is just coming up and birds are singing makes you realize how blessed you are.



### Holmes County honors **BRANDI SCHLAUCH**

BRANDI has been contributing to agriculture as a mother and wife since 1995.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

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**Contact information:** [www.agcredit.net](http://www.agcredit.net)

**Social media:** Facebook: Ag Credit, ACA; Twitter: Ag Credit, ACA

**Biography:** I grew up in Ottawa, Ohio, and have lived in this rural community all my life. I began working for the Farm Credit System in 1982 as a Branch Assistant for the Federal Land Bank Association of Ottawa. I continue to work with the Farm Credit System in Ottawa, now as Branch Manager for Ag Credit, ACA.

I have been married for 36 years, have two grown daughters and six grandchildren.

I feel fortunate to work with those in the farm community for so many years.

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**Favorite quote or saying:** Look at the sunny side of everything - stay positive.

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**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** It is a privilege and a pleasure to work with the men and women in our rural and farm communities. Enjoy what you do!



*Putnam County*  
honors  
**KATHY  
SCHNIPKE**

KATHY has been contributing to agriculture as a lender since 1982.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

*Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:* Schumm Farms

*Biography:* My involvement in agriculture began growing up on a grain farm. Growing up, I helped with the planting and then hauling/dumping grain, as well as chores associated with the farm. In 1993, I married Michael, starting our part of his family's farm operation. We have 3 sons, Adam (20), Ronnie (17) and Brett (14). Each is active on the farm with intentions to continue farming. I help on the farm by milking, so our oldest can attend college. I manage our 2400 head contract hog finishing barn, help with the chores for our farrow to finish hog operation, small layer chicken coop and beef cattle. I do our record keeping and whatever else is needed in the production of crops. Off the farm, I have helped with 4H, being an advisor 20+ years, served on 4H council, and the Van Wert Co. Farm Bureau board. Through these organizations, I have helped with Cows & Plows Days, Ag in the Classroom, hosted farm tours, and library presentations. We hope to keep promoting ag so our sons have a future.

*Favorite quote or saying:* You've got to get up every morning with determination, to go to bed with satisfaction.

*Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:* I would tell young women to be determined and persevere. I work with 7 men, and it is still hard breaking the barriers of women working in the agriculture arena, especially with the older generations. I would tell them that size and physical strength can be overcome by working smart. Think a situation through, before giving in. It is wonderful, demanding, never ending work, but, gratifying when it all comes together.

Van Wert County  
honors  
**ROBIN  
SCHUMM**

ROBIN has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, and daughter since 1978.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Shick Farms Incorporated

**Biography:** I am proud to help my father on our family farm in Hardin County. Being involved in 4-H and FFA allowed me to start my agriculture career at an early age. At 16 I cash rented ground, which I later purchased. I earned a bachelor's degree in Ag Business from The Ohio State University. After graduation, I started a consulting business where I worked with area farmers/extension offices in the Indian Lake Watershed, doing intensive pest management. I worked with Honda scouting specialty soybeans that were being exported to Japan for tofu. I did soil sampling using precision technology. I worked with local colleges offering job shadowing/internships to Ag students.

I am involved with a local college helping their administration build a curriculum for future precision technology classes. In 2011 I moved into the crop insurance industry working as a claims adjuster for John Deere Financial, which is a very rewarding career.

I am fortunate to be able to instill values that I learned from growing up on a farm into my 13 year old twins. It is very rewarding to watch them learn firsthand the morals, values and hard work ethics that agriculture instills. I don't know where their paths may lead, but agriculture has given them a firm foundation to build their lives upon.

***Favorite quote or saying:***

"Grow where you are planted."

"She believed she could, so she did."

I really like these quotes because it defines my career in agriculture perfectly. My intention was originally to earn a bachelor's degree in business. It was my high school FFA advisors and my guidance counselor at The Ohio State University that encouraged me to focus on an Ag Business degree. I am very thankful that I took their advice.

***Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:***

The world of agriculture has been a great industry to be involved in. Agriculture has provided me with a very rewarding and satisfying career with endless opportunities. I would encourage all young men and women with an interest in agriculture to become involved in their agriculture community on some level. Whether it is with local 4-H clubs, Farm Bureau, FFA chapters, local schools or farming operations. Agriculture offers many job opportunities and is a great industry to build a career in. My career in agriculture has challenged me to do and learn new things every day. My brother's favorite quote is one that I've tried to follow. "Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead where there is no path and leave a trail." I encourage each and every one to do just that.



### Hardin County honors **MOLLY SHICK**

MOLLY has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, daughter, and crop consultant since 1986.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Shoemaker Dairy Farm

**Biography:** Born and raised in Columbus, Ohio. Wanting to be a dairy farmer, entered The Ohio State University studying Dairy Science and Ag Business while working at the university dairy farm. Managed a dairy farm in Highland County and worked for Ohio DHI before completing a Master's degree in Dairy Science/Agribusiness Management. Served as the Agriculture Extension Agent in Columbiana/Mahoning Counties from 1986-1999. Continue Extension work as a Dairy Field Specialist across Ohio since 1999. Started Shoemaker Dairy Farm with husband, Steve, in 1986, milking 150 Holsteins and Jerseys in Salem, Ohio. Our two sons, Austen and Ben, are students at OSU. An active member of Bunker Hill United Methodist Church in Goshen Township.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Don't be the source of information about other people and their farms. Clients will share information with you that they expect you to hold in confidence. If you were told in confidence or don't remember where you heard something, assume it is confidential and keep your mouth shut.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** There are many opportunities for rewarding careers in agriculture, and opportunities to work with wonderful people. When you begin your career, you have to work hard to earn the respect and confidence of your clientele and co-workers. Then you work to retain that respect. There are no shortcuts. The best way to earn and keep respect is to do excellent work with a positive and pleasant attitude. If you don't know the answer to a question, don't be afraid to say "I don't know the answer to that, but I will find out for you", then do it and follow up. Never, ever, make up an answer. That wrong answer can have repercussions that can cost that farm hundreds or thousands of dollars and not only your reputation, but that of any other woman that works in your industry.



### Mahoning County honors **DIANNE SHOEMAKER**

DIANNE has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, Agriculture Extension Agent and Field Specialist since 1978.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

### ***Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:***

Shakerland Farm

***Biography:*** I started farming with my dad when I was still in diapers! It was all about tractors, cattle & corn for me! I remember when he planted soybeans for the first time. When I was in 4-H, I had the Grand Champion Steer and won the County Fair pie baking contest on the same day! I was the National Shorthorn Queen when I was 16. After 10 years in 4-H, I attended The Ohio State University and then got married. As a military wife, I left farming for nearly 10 years. Then in 1976 I came back to the farm with my family. When dad died in 1987, I took over the family farm. We raise corn and soybeans now. For the last 23 years I have served Ohio's soybeans farmers on the Ohio Soybean Council and the Ohio Soybean Association promoting biodiesel, research in new biotech products made from soy, soybean production research and developing new markets for Ohio's soybeans here at home and around the world. I guess it's all about the beans for me now!

Warren County  
honors  
**AMY SIGG  
DAVIS**

AMY has been contributing to agriculture as a daughter since 1948.

***Favorite quote or saying:*** Almost anything is possible with hard work and prayer.

***Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:*** It doesn't matter if you are a man or woman. Whether you are a researcher or a teacher, a farmer or an ag biotech scientist there will be work for you in agriculture. Love your work and work hard to be all you can be! Producing food to feed the world encompasses many sciences and requires many talents. If you want to work in agriculture there is a future for you!



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Turpin Farms

**Contact information:** [www.ohiosod.com](http://www.ohiosod.com)

**Social media:** Facebook: Turpin Farms

**Biography:** I was born and raised on the farm, grew up helping my dad with the soybeans and sod. I went to Purdue University and graduated with a double major in Turfgrass Science and Horticultural Production, the year was 1989. From 1989 to 2006 I ran the wholesale /retail greenhouse operation for Turpin Farms producing perennials, annuals, herb, water plants and ornamental grasses. From 2006 to present I do commercial landscaping focusing on green infrastructure, so rain gardens, green roofs, rain water harvesting, low profile prairies and urban agriculture.

**Favorite quote or saying:** We are the second oldest continually held farm in the State of Ohio, we are a recognized bicentennial farm. We received our farm as a land grant for fighting in the Revolutionary War. Our land was deeded by President John Adams

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** To choose a field in agriculture that really interests you because it's not the easiest profession, it's more a way of life, a lifestyle.



### Hamilton County honors **PAM SIMMONS**

PAM has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter and owner since 1974.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Center for Innovative Food Technology and SINGER FARMS LLC

**Contact information:** [www.ciftinnovation.org](http://www.ciftinnovation.org)

**Social media:** Twitter: CIFT Tweets

**Biography:** As a child raised on the farm, a student of agriculture, professional within the industry, and contributor to the family farm once again; there hasn't been a time when agriculture wasn't a part of my life. In my current capacity as the Vice President and Director of Ag Programs for CIFT, I am exposed to the latest technologies, innovative solutions, and alternative practices impacting the future of production and food processing. Through educational efforts and demonstrations, I am able to share insights with growers and establish networks for improved interactions and collaboration. In addition, a more active role in the family farm has enabled me to return to my roots. Through activities ranging from 4-H advisor to Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, I have been able to share my experiences with the next generation. Traveling overseas to witness agricultural practices and gaining daily exposure to numerous innovations; I am fortunate to be a part of such a vibrant industry.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Life isn't measured by the number of breaths we take, but the moments that take our breath away.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**

For any person coming into the agricultural industry, particularly women, don't be afraid to work hard, be passionate, and communicate. Without strong hands and voices, the industry will be impacted by those who don't understand what it is all about. Compassionate hearts backed with knowledge and dedication will lead us into years of successful production and continued pride in what can be achieved. Challenging times are ahead but have been before and can be managed collectively. The pride associated with knowing the seed sowed matured into a thriving plant or witnessing a newborn calf be nurtured into a strong animal can not be confined within the farm limits but shared with all those who are ultimately impacted by the food we are fortunate to grow and the lives it impacts daily.



Defiance County  
honors

**REBECCA  
SINGER**

REBECCA has been contributing to agriculture as a daughter and employee of various ag businesses since 1996.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Darije Farm

**Biography:** I have been involved with Agriculture all of my life. I have lived on a farm since Day 1 and have experienced all aspects of farming with my family. Today I still raise Registered Angus cattle and the hay to feed them. As a family we showed our cattle at many county fairs and several state shows for 10+ years. The Extension service has been a part of my life since age 8 when I started 4-H. My experiences included: 10 year 4-H member, 19 years as an adviser, on many 4-H committees, 4-H Advisory Council past president, 4-H summer assistant in the Extension office, and today a member of the county Extension Advisory Committee. I have been a member of the county Fair Board for 6 years. My duties include: Superintendent of Beef, Poultry, and the Exhibition Hall. I am a member of the following Ag. groups: Stark County Farm Bureau, Am. Angus Association, Am. Angus Auxiliary, St. County Cattleman's Association. Other activities are Church and Retired Teacher's group (both local and state levels).

**Favorite quote or saying:** My Father always said that farming was the biggest gamble there was. But do it, if you can, because it instills in you the best ways to cope with life and nature. Farming grows inside you and you will never forget the experience.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** My advice for the next generation of women is to be involved with Agriculture activities and farming as much as you can. Learn about all of the new scientific suggestions you can and adapt them to your situation. Remember that Agriculture is the backbone of our country and our family. What would we do without farmers (women and men) and their products?



### Stark County honors **JEAN SLICKER**

JEAN has been contributing to agriculture as a daughter and a teacher since 1945.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Mound Hill Farm

**Contact information:**

<http://vintoncountycattlemensassociation.com>

**Social media:** Facebook: Mound Hill Farm

**Biography:** I am an Elementary School Administrator and Title I Coordinator for Vinton County Local Schools. Twenty-one years in this profession continues to be rewarding. Over the course of my profession, I have received numerous awards for teaching and leadership. I share this not to boast, but to validate the the value of hard work.

My commitment to lifelong learning is evidenced in agriculture as well. When I am not working in the field of education, I can literally be found in the field. I have a herd of 25 cattle on my farm and my fiancée has 400+ on his commercial cow/calf operation. Between the two farms, I am constantly working with cattle. Over the years, I have learned to vet, palpate, ultrasound, and AI.

I enjoy promoting the cattle business and networking. I am active in NCBA, OCA, and OCW. I also founded and serve as current President for our Vinton County Cattlemen's Association (VCCA). As an active 4-H advisor, I truly enjoy sharing my knowledge and skills with youth.

**Favorite quote or saying:** I have three:

- 1.) You aren't wealthy until you have something money can't buy.
- 2.) Fortune favors the prepared mind.
- 3.) Live well, laugh often, and love cattle!

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** In order to reap what you sow, a 3-D approach will guarantee growth:

- 1.) "Decide" to make a difference! Most Americans take agriculture for granted. A farmer works so the world can eat... YOU know this! Be a voice in explaining "pasture to plate" and "field to fork" - raise awareness and appreciation for the farmer.
- 2.) "Define" yourself by continually increasing your knowledge base and honing your skills. Women are taking larger and more defined roles on farms and in agribusiness. Business management and technical skills surpass gender-specific roles and will ensure your success.
- 3.) "Develop" your vision and make it a point to connect with people who share in the same. Networking and maintaining membership in a respective organization strengthens unity and keeps you moving forward. Stay optimistic.



### Vinton County honors **TERESA (TERI) SNIDER**

TERESA (TERI) has been contributing to agriculture as a wife, 4-H Advisor, and Vinton County Cattlemen's Association Founder and President since 1987.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Athens FFA

**Contact information:**

<https://sites.google.com/site/athensohioffa/>

**Social media:** Facebook: Athens FFA

**Biography:** I grew up on a small family farm in Athens, Ohio. My greatest memories as a child were helping my dad and grandfather take care of the animals and bail hay. I joined 4-H when I was 9 and throughout my 4-H career decided that I wanted agriculture to continue to be part of my life. I even completed an internship at the Athens County OSU extension office, where I helped develop the market hog record book. My high school did not have an FFA program, but I was familiar with the program because many of my friends were in chapters at neighboring schools. One of those advisors encouraged me to major in Agricultural Education at Ohio State and to take the teaching route. During my senior year of college I talked to the principal and superintendent at my old high school and with the help of others were able to convince them to start an agriculture education program at Athens High School. I was hired for the job and have been teaching and advising the FFA chapter for 10 years now.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is to not stop questioning"

- Albert Einstein

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Never stop trying to better yourself and the field of agriculture. Women are a growing population in the field and that is AMAZING. Don't be afraid to try new things or to be an innovator in the field of agriculture and continue to recruit more women into the field.



Athens County  
honors  
**SABRINA  
STALDER**

SABRINA has been contributing to agriculture as a daughter and an Agricultural Education Instructor since 1991.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Lauxfield, LLC.

**Social media:** Facebook: Lauxfield, LLC

**Biography:** I was born in Clinton County on Buck Run Jersey Farm operated by my dad and grandfather. We milked about 50 cows and exhibited at many county fairs, state fairs, and national shows. My two sisters and I were in 4-H each year.

After graduating from The Ohio State University with a degree in Biology, I went on to veterinary school there. I graduated in 1984 and joined into veterinary practice in Botkins, Ohio with Dr. Lynn Maurer. Years later we merged the practice with Tri-County Vet Service. We were a mixed animal practice and I especially enjoyed working on dairy cattle. I served for several years on the Ohio Veterinary Licensing Board. I was a full partner at Tri-County Vet Service until arthritis and injuries forced me to retire.

Today, I have a 45 cow milking herd along with partner, Tom Laux. We are known as Lauxfield, LLC. and we are located at Houston, Ohio. We have an all Jersey grazing herd. We sell milk herdshares, also.

**Favorite quote or saying:** There is nothing prettier than a grass field full of Jersey cows.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Whether you are a farmer or veterinarian, your work can be hard and trying at times. This is true for any profession. But it is also extremely rewarding. If you choose a career in agriculture that involves animals, above all, you must really like your animals first and foremost.



### Shelby County honors **DEB STANFIELD**

DEB has been contributing to agriculture as a daughter and veterinarian since 1955.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

*Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:* Starr Farms

**Biography:** Dorothy was born on the family farm in 1923. As a child she raised chickens and took the eggs to town when the family hauled milk from their cows in to Wooster. Dorothy graduated from Wooster High School in 1941, then attended Kent State College (now University). On March 10, 1945 she married John Starr, and lived in New York City for a year while he was in the Merchant Marines. After the war she sponsored a family from Europe which lived on the farm. In 1948 she and John took over the family farm when her father died. For a while they fed out lambs and steers. She had 5 children, was a Girl Scout Leader and a 4-H advisor. She was a long time member of Trinity United Church of Christ. When the children were at the house they raised cows and calves, and grew sweet corn which they sold to local groceries. Dorothy was always active on the farm, driving the hay baler when the farm moved to focus on grain and hay. At the time of her death she had 10 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Dorothy has passed on, however we believe she would have told young women to do the things they enjoy. She loved animals and her family and spent as much time as possible with both.

Wayne County  
honors  
**DOROTHY  
STARR**

DOROTHY contributed to agriculture as a mother, wife, and daughter since 1923.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Walnut Run Farms and Scott Farms

**Social media:** Facebook: Scott Farms

**Biography:** I was raised on a cattle farm in Clermont County Ohio where I participated in 4H and was a member of Junior Leaders. I graduated from The Ohio State University with a B.S. in Agricultural Economics. In 1979, I married Fred Scott from Brown County Ohio and I have called that home ever since. I accepted a position with the USDA former Farmers Home Administration now the USDA Farm Service Agency in Brown County in 1980. Since then I have made loans to assist small and beginning farmers in the surrounding counties. For many years I have volunteered with Brown County 4H as the Press Corps Advisor. I have volunteered for more 15 years with the FFA in many capacities for several counties. Our son Erik and daughter Hannah are very involved in Ohio agriculture including their dedication to our cattle, tobacco, corn and soybean farm. Although I take pride in all the farmers and their children with whom I have worked, watching our children continue on our family farm makes me the proudest.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Respect anyone with calloused hands.

-H. Jackson Brown Jr.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Don't let anyone discourage you from doing what you love. There is room for all women in agriculture. Agriculture can benefit from your knowledge and abilities.



### Brown County honors **FRANKIE STITH-SCOTT**

FRANKIE has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, and 4H & FFA volunteer since 1979.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** EcoVillage Produce, LLC

**Contact information:** <http://ecovillageproduce.com/>

**Social media:** Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ecovillage-Produce-Llc/152260481601375>

**Biography:** Barbara Strauss is a librarian, market gardener and musician. She lives in Cleveland in the Cleveland EcoVillage neighborhood in the Detroit Shoreway area. Barbara came to Cleveland from Wisconsin in 2004 to accept a position at the Michael Schwartz Library at Cleveland State University. She gardened in a community garden and liked the idea of growing food on vacant lots. Lacking a background in agriculture, she attended the OSU Extension Market Garden Class six times – learning something new every time! She was instrumental in forming EcoVillage Produce, LLC in 2006 with two neighbors. The EcoVillage Produce Garden, located on Cleveland's near west side, demonstrates a variety of techniques learned in classes. The business has been a founding vendor for the Tremont Farmer's Market and the Gordon Square Market. Her favorite things to grow include greens (kales, chard, arugula), peppers, herbs and peaches. She believes that one of the highlights of being in Cleveland is the urban agriculture network – wonderful folks with a passion for food, sustainability and community.

Cuyahoga County  
honors  
**BARBARA  
STRAUSS**

BARBARA has been contributing to agriculture as a business manager, and partner since 2006.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "We have nothing to do, but to be happy"

N.L. von Zinzendorf in Nazareth, PA, 1742

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**

1. Find your zen in weeding and make it an opportunity for renewal.
2. Pick produce when it is ripe, then plant again. Make it a cycle – pick, plant, pick, plant, etc.
3. Find your favorite recipes for produce that you grow, then share recipes with friends and customers.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Red Wing Farm

**Biography:** I was born in 1934 in Lodi, OH. Our family moved to Columbus in 1939 where I lived until my marriage in 1956. As a child I enjoyed visiting relatives on their Holmes County farms. As a student at OSU I met and married Robert Strow, a 4th generation dairycrop farmer from Wood County who grew up in the home built by his great grandfather in the 1870's. To supplement our income I taught school until retiring in 1999. After Robert's fatal farm accident in 1999, I became the owner of a dairy farm and hundreds of acres of tillable land. Our younger son who had been doing most of the field work chose to continue. The dairy operation was dispersed and both sons began to build beef herds which have become 4-H and FFA projects for their children as well as a source of income. Red Wing Farm continues to prosper as the 6th generation is growing up and becoming involved in our farm established in 1856. I am proud to be a part of this heritage and our continued contributions to agriculture in Ohio.

Wood County  
honors  
**ELIZABETH  
STROW**

ELIZABETH has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, and owner since 1958.

**Favorite quote or saying:** - If a job is worth doing, it is worth doing your best.

- God created plants and animals and he created farmers to care for them.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** I would tell anyone contemplating life on a farm that it can be very well worth the time and effort involved. It requires hard work, long hours, commitment, cooperation, and love from everyone involved in the operation, but the rewards and benefits are priceless. It is very satisfying to know that you have had a significant role in feeding yourself and people world wide. There is no better place to raise a family than on a farm, many life lessons are learned here. Today there are many agriculturally related career choices that also contribute to producing food and taking care of our environment. As you are maturing and planning your career, allow participation in 4-H and FFA to assist you in exploring the many career opportunities available to you.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

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**Biography:** Mead grew up on a farm in New Holland. The farm was primarily row-crop, but did include cattle, hogs and junior fair sheep. Mead's family began farming in 1900 in Highland County. That original farm, still in production today, is registered with the Ohio Century Farm program through the Ohio Dept. of Agriculture.

Mead currently serves as deputy director of the Ohio Dept of Agriculture. In her role she oversees the legislative, communications and markets efforts, the dangerous wild animals and commercial dog breeding programs and helps to shape department policy. She also works on promoting agribusiness opportunities in the state.

She came to the ODA in 2011 as chief of the markets division. Previously she worked for the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, the Ohio State Alumni Association and Mycogen Seeds.

Mead is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a degree in Agricultural Communications.

She currently resides in Washington Court House with her family.

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### ***Favorite quote or saying:***

It is my goal in life to find,  
at every turning of the road,  
the strong arm of a comrade kind,  
to help me onward with my load.

And since I have no gold to give,  
and love alone must make amends,  
my only prayer is while I live,  
God make me worthy of my friends.

-Author Unknown

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### ***Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:***

Always be proud of who you are and where you came from. Growing up on a farm is a privilege that very few people can enjoy. That lifestyle will teach you special skills that no amount of education or training can give you. It will be a valuable asset that will allow you to accomplish anything you set your mind on. So, go forth and do good.



*Fayette County*  
honors  
**JANELLE  
TEETERS  
MEAD**

JANELLE has been contributing to  
agriculture for 38 years.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

***Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:*** Toothman Veterinary Services

***Biography:*** I was born in Ironton, Ohio. After high school, I received a Bachelors of Science in Agriculture from Ohio State University. I was then accepted to Tuskegee University, where I received a second bachelors degree, and Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine in 1970. I began a solo ambulatory large animal practice, and also maintained a clinic at my farm. After 25 years of treating all types of large animals, I focused my practice on all facets of equine reproduction. During this time, I was offered a position with Ohio University Southern as Director of Equine Medicine, where I taught all scientific classes, and maintained a large reproduction practice. I also served as Lawrence County Fair Veterinarian for 38 years. I raised, trained, and showed my own Quarter Horses in barrels and poles where I won numerous national titles. I have been a member of the AVMA for 45 years. Through all these years I have enjoyed trail riding my mules and horses throughout the United States.

Lawrence County  
honors  
**MARY M.  
TOOTHMAN  
DVM**

MARY M. has been contributing to agriculture as a Veterinarian and Livestock Producer since 1970.

***Favorite quote or saying:*** Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and He will direct your path. Proverbs 3:5-6

***Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:*** Be yourself, and choose a field that will bring you joy for the rest of your life.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

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*Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:* Chris Huff Farms

*Biography:* I have been married to Chris Huff for 29 years. He and I own a 68 acre farm in Preble County, and we farm approximately 1100 acres. Our main crops include wheat, corn and soybeans. In 1992 I was chosen as Pork Princess for the Preble County Pork Festival. I served for three years on the Preble County Agricultural Society Fair Board. As a school administrator I have opened and been the principal for the Butler Tech Natural Science Center, which included animal science programs for students all over Butler County. Currently, I am a superintendent at US Grant CTE, and we have recently opened the Grant Animal Science Facility, which houses equine and veterinary science programs and services students from Clermont County. Agriculture is an important aspect of my life and I am proud to be one of the faces of Ohio's agriculture!

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*Favorite quote or saying:* Life is not about learning to survive the storm, but rather learning how to dance in the rain.

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*Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:* Be patient! Let the little things roll off your back! Life is short so enjoy the day!



*Preble County*  
honors  
**LISA TUTTLE-  
HUFF**

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LISA has been contributing to agriculture as a mother and wife since 1986.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Uhlenhake Dairy LLC

**Biography:** I became involved in agriculture after I married my husband , Gary Uhlenhake. We started our own dairy farm shortly after we were married. We both worked off the farm when we initially started milking. Over time as our herd and family grew my husband quit his job to better manage the dairy farm and I worked part time so I could contribute more to helping on the dairy and devote more time in raising our 5 children. We made improvements over the years and purchased more land in order to provide a better basis for crop rotation and feed provision for our herd.

In 2010, my husband suddenly died in a farm accident. It was a very difficult time but our family has grown stronger through the course of our grief. My son Kyle, has partnered with me and manages the dairy herd. The rest of the family continues to help with milking, feeding and field work when able. The family farm is a wonderful place to raise a family and instill lasting work and moral qualities that last a lifetime.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "You can believe whatever you want to...But whatever you believe will never change the truth"

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Embrace the opportunities that come with being a part of the agriculture life. There are always new things to be educated on regarding agriculture. Especially if you are a part of a farm family , be supportive and involved with your spouse and children on the family farm. The satisfaction and love that is returned to you even though the work is sometimes overwhelming is one of the most fulfilling roles there is.



### Mercer County honors **BARB UHLENHAKE**

BARB has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife and assistant farm manager since 1984.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

*Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:* Vance Farms

*Contact information:* [vancefarms@frontier.com](mailto:vancefarms@frontier.com)

*Biography:* I am a first generation farmer, a mother of two wonderful children and a wife. My husband and I purchased a 164 acre farm in Carroll County, Ohio almost 20 years ago. We started with dairy cows, advanced to beef cows and crop farming and eventually diversified into a wean to finish hog operation as well. We farm over 600 acres of corn, soybeans, and hay in Carroll and Stark County. During these years I have been a 4-H advisor, a church youth group leader and volunteer in my community for various events. For 16 years I was an educator at Carrollton Schools where I have been involved with the FFA and helped with the Ag related events. Now, while maintaining the farm I also hold another full-time position as Carroll County Soil and Water Conservation District Administrator, conservation is the key to keeping our land and water usable for generations to come.

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*Favorite quote or saying:* My favorite verse is: I can do everything through him who gives me strength.  
-Philippians 4:13

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*Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:*  
My advice for the next generation of young women in agriculture is to work hard, be patient, pay it forward and your will be richly blessed.

Carroll County  
honors  
**KIMBERLY  
VANCE**

KIMBERLY has been contributing to agriculture as a mother and wife since 1994.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

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**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Vaubel Swine Genetics

**Biography:** I was born and raised on a farm in 1958 that included dairy and crops! I met my future husband and began helping him on his parents farm, when right after graduation his dad had a bad stroke so I worked on the farm full time! When we were married in 1978 we had hogs and I also helped his parents with their dairy herd and crop production! Then in 1980 we had our daughter, 1983 our son was born and in 1986 our daughter! With help from a lot of good babysitters I continued to help full time on the farm! After my MIL passed away in 1987 my husband and I took over the dairy! My father in law had passed away in 1984 so John and I were on our own at 25 years old with 3 kids a dairy, hog operation and 200 acres to farm! We no longer milk as we had a barn fire in 1988, but we continue to farm 400 acres and have 150 sows and also raise show pigs!! The kids are all grown and married now ,and we have 5 grandchildren!!

Shelby County  
honors  
**DEBORA  
VAUBEL**

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DEBORA has been contributing to agriculture as a mother and wife since 1975.

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**Favorite quote or saying:** Always have said "the farm is not an easy life but no better place to raise a family!!"

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**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Just put your heart and soul in it and work hard you will benefit from that!!



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

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**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Ventura Feed & Country Store, Inc.

**Contact information:** [www.venturacountrystore.com](http://www.venturacountrystore.com)

**Social media:** Facebook: Ventura's Feed & Country Store

**Biography:** I grew up on a 100 acre cattle farm in Pleasant Plain, Ohio. We raised beef cattle, crops, hay, canned vegetables, apple jelly....you name it. My parents, Doris and Wesley Robinson raised all the food that they could. I enjoyed growing up on the farm. My husband, Steve Ventura and I purchased our own 45 acres in Morrow, Ohio and started our own farm. We started our family having 4 children, Avery, Alexander, Anthony and Annamaria Ventura. We purchased a farm in Highland County in 2003 and started a beef cattle farm. After 2 years we purchased Master Feed Mill in Hillsboro, Ohio. I have enjoyed meeting all of the local farmers and helping them with their feed needs. I feel like our customers are family. In 2013 we started another venture and built Ventura's Feed & Country Store. I apologize for the delay, but we are currently running our store at the Highland County Fair.

Highland County  
honors  
**BECKY  
VENTURA**

BECKY has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter, and feed store owner since 1975.

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**Favorite quote or saying:** Everything happens for a reason.

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**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Set your goals and work hard every day. Enjoy this life that God has given you and be thankful.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Tri Pine Farm

**Social media:** Facebook: Kris Vincent, husband; this is where we post farm pictures and share information on the Beef Industry

**Biography:** Together with my husband we run a small cow-calf operation and were named Ohio Cattlemen's Association 2013 Industry Excellence Award Recipients. I have been a Top Hand Recruiter for both state and national Cattlemen's Association's for 12 years. I sit on the Allied Industry Council representing PBS Animal Health where I have been selling livestock pharmaceutical products for 26 years. We distribute approximately 15,000 line items for most of the major pharmaceutical companies. I am also a District Rep on the Ohio Cattlewomen's Association and on scholarship committee. Currently I am a Director and Secretary/Treasurer for the Stark County Cattlemen's Association. I participated in the second class of the AgriPower Institute through the Ohio Farm Bureau and completed "Annie's Project" through OSU Extension Service. I am a graduate of Malone University. Finally, I am the proud mother of Kyle & Jessica Vincent and Stephanie & Silas Stubblefield and five wonderful grandchildren.

**Favorite quote or saying:** I have many sayings that I am fond of but I think my favorite is, "Always be kind, for you never know the battles that the other person is facing!" Think about how many people you know that have gone through a serious illness, lost a loved one, struggled through financial, physical or emotional struggles and then remember how blessed you are and make time to Thank God for all that you have and the special people in your life.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Don't be fearful of getting involved or asking questions. When you find someone that you believe is successful ask them to be your "Mentor", it will be a huge compliment to them and give you the greatest opportunity to one day become a "Face of Ohio Women in Agriculture". Know that there are so many opportunities available, you just need to know how to find them. There are always challenges facing the agriculture industry, the weather, the economy, vegetarians, major corporations like HSUS just to name a few. It is important to be professional, composed and polite to those opposing what we do. You are involved in this industry either because of the love of it or through your family roots and you should be proud of that. My husband always reminds me, "If it were easy, everyone would be farming", it is not easy but it is a very rewarding way of life. Make the most of it don't settle for anything less than the best!

### Stark County honors **BECKY VINCENT**

BECKY has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, and sales representative since 1980.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Closed Circle Farm

**Biography:** My husband, Jack Warner, and I were doctors at Columbus Children's Hospital. We purchased our first land in 1962 and established a fed cattle operation. After Jack's death in 1996, I became co-manager with the brothers farming with us on shares. I changed the 570-acre operation from (close to) continuous corn and a 600-head confinement system to a 4-year rotation of corn, beans, wheat and hay. The corn (ensiled and shelled) and hay (ensiled) were fed to the cattle (reduced to 220 head); the beans and wheat were sold. This paradigm diversified the operation and reduced risk. The manure was spread on the hay field after haylage was made. The subsequent crops needed little purchased fertilizer. I no longer own the farm - my efforts are now directed to farmland preservation. I also co-founded the Stratford Ecological Center (educational farm and nature preserve) in Delaware, OH, and I was on the founding boards of Innovative Farmers of Ohio and the Ohio Forage and Grassland Council.

### Pickaway County honors **LOUISE WARNER**

LOUISE has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, and co-manager since 1962.

**Favorite quote or saying:** Aldo Leopold: "We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. There is no other way for land to survive the impact of mechanized man, nor for us to reap from it the esthetic harvest it is capable, under science, of contributing to culture. That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics. That land yields a cultural harvest is a fact long known, but latterly often forgotten."

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Be gentle with the earth.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

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**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Holter's Holstein Farms, Webb Company Cattle, Porter's Pumpkin Patch

**Social media:** Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/holters.holsteinfarms?ref=ts>

**Biography:** I am 28 years old and grew up on a dairy farm. I have helped my family my whole life. I graduated from OSU in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. I love raising cattle, growing flowers and a garden, growing pumpkins for my fall stand, and raising a family. I hope to process our milk from the farm to have my own ice cream shop someday and to keep producing my fall pumpkin stand and corn maze. My husband and I also raise beef cattle and plan to grow crops for our own grain. I want my son to know what hard work is by growing up on a farm just like I did.

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**Favorite quote or saying:** A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work.  
-Colin Powell

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**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** I think any woman can work on a farm, raise cattle, grow produce, or even run their own farm if they have the love and ambition to do it. It takes a lot of passion and hard work in agriculture but if you have the determination, you will succeed.



### Meigs County honors **ALYSSA WEBB**

ALYSSA has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, and daughter since 1996.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

*Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:* Wentling Farms

*Biography:* I did not grow up on a farm, but quickly learned that I have a love for agriculture when I met my husband, Andy, in 2006. Since then, we have tripled the size of our grain farm and are still growing. We currently grow corn, soybeans, wheat, and hay.

I am a stay at home mother of two beautiful little girls. Hannah is two and Alivia is one. They keep me busy and also have a love for the farm life. Both girls love to be outside and they often help me in the garden. I enjoy being able to grow food for my family and am happy that I can pass that on to my girls. I also enjoy volunteering some of my time to the Stark County Farm Bureau, where I currently sit on the board and have helped with their many events. In the past, Andy and I have also served on the Young Agricultural Professionals Advisory Team for the Ohio Farm Bureau for two years, one of which we served as the chair couple.

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*Favorite quote or saying:* Could you live without farmers?

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*Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:* Just because agriculture has been a predominately male occupation, the number of women in agriculture is growing. If you love it and have a passion for it, stick with it and you can make your dreams come true.

*Stark County*  
honors  
**TERA**  
**WENTLING**

TERA has been contributing to agriculture  
as a mother and wife since 2006.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

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**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Rolling W Farm

**Biography:** I grew up on a family dairy farm. As I have always been interested in livestock, farming is a way of life I have always enjoyed. When the children were growing up, they always went with me to do chores, thus this gave them the opportunity to experience farm life, which has carried them into the vocations. I was one of the first women in this part of the country to learn and use A.I. in my herd of Registered Angus Cattle. I worked off the farm after my children were in school, first for Producers Livestock Association and then for OSU Extension. After retiring, my husband and I still work on a daily basis with the Registered Angus Cattle marketing Registered Angus Bulls & Females. We also enjoy our Australian Shepherd /Border Collie Cross-Bred Stock Dogs, would be hard pressed to get along without them. We consider ourselves to be preservers of the land and pass our way of life to the next generations.

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**Favorite quote or saying:** Take care of the land and it will take care of you. Water is so important, use it wisely.

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**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** If you enjoy working the land, caring for livestock and working long, rewarding hours, then the farming end of agriculture will fit you fine. Find a partner that has the same aspirations as you have, and you will go far.

### Guernsey County honors **CAROL WHEELER**

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CAROL has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, daughter, and educator since 1955.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Blue Willow Farms

**Contact information:** <http://idwickli.wix.com/bwfcattle>

**Social media:** Facebook: Blue Willow Farms

**Biography:** I started my business in 2006 with one open heifer. I now have 23 head of cattle, consisting of eight registered Simmental cows, four crossbred cows, 10 calves and one registered Angus bull. I market my calves as club calves and replacement breeding heifers. I am currently a Sophomore at The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute studying in a Associates degree in Livestock Science with a specialization in Beef. I plan to continue at OSU main campus for a Bachelors degree in Animal Science specializing in Genetics. My long term goal is to always raise cattle and be actively involved in the beef industry.

**Favorite quote or saying:** The greatest boundaries we face in our lives are very often the ones we ourselves create in our minds.

-Ellyn Spragins

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Don't let anyone or anything keep you from chasing your dreams. Have faith in your abilities and give it all you've got.

Union County  
honors  
**JESSICA  
WICKLINE**

JESSICA has been contributing to agriculture as a daughter since 2006.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Williams Farms LP

**Biography:** Raising horses on 3 acres did not prepare me for my role in agriculture as I married my dairy farmer husband. That was total culture shock. Farmer Don had his work cut out for him but I finally graduated from Ag 101 with flying colors. Raising 2 children on our Licking County farm was my career but after their departure to college I needed another outlet for my agricultural endeavors. Public speaking gave me an opportunity to promote the love I had for farming by reliving the many humorous events that happened daily on our farm. These adventures resulted in national recognition as I was named "Farm Spokesperson of the Year" in 1996 by Farm Journal. Speaking throughout the United States and Canada became the norm for several years. I became the coordinator for the V.S.P. program for the Ohio Soybean Council and was inducted into the Licking Co. Ag Hall of Fame. As president of American Agri-Women I was given the opportunity to do what I do best - promote and talk about agriculture.

**Favorite quote or saying:** I can't just use one quote. Since life is so unpredictable I keep these in mind: 1) Remind yourself it's OK not to be perfect. 2) The longer you wait for the future, the shorter it will be. And finally: 3) You can make a difference if you try.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** You are the beginning of a new generation of opportunities, challenges and ideas. Embrace the new ideas, be prepared for the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities. Always keep your values, your health, your faith and your family close beside you. Take time for yourself because if you don't there won't be anything left to help someone else. And remember: "If Plan A doesn't work -the alphabet has 25 more letters - Stay Cool!"

### Licking County honors **MARCIE WILLIAMS**

MARCIE has been contributing to agriculture as a mother, wife, and spokesperson since 1968.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** RE-AL Winner Farms, Ltd. and Winner Family Farm, Inc.

**Social media:** Facebook: Winner Family Farms and Harvest Barn

**Biography:** Renee, alongside her husband Alan, and 10 children live and farm in Logan County. Thirty-two years ago she left her job as a veterinary technician and started milking a herd of 10 cows in a stanchion parlor. These humble beginnings have given way through the years to the current system that uses eight innovative robots to milk 400 dairy cows at the home and "Secondary" farms. This new concept allows both increased individualized treatment for the cows, and flexible free time for the family. These innovations have not taken the work out of dairying, but have certainly changed our job descriptions.

Aside from the dairies, the family farms over 3,000 acres of corn, beans, wheat and hay. They are dedicated to preserving the county's agricultural heritage as well as its natural green space, and have preserved over 1,050 acres as farmland forever, and another 65 acres as permanent wetlands. A natural extension of this dedication is expressed through Renee's current position with the Logan County Land Trust as Vice President, and the two terms she served as a board member of the Logan Soil and Water Conservation District.

Winner Family Farm, Inc. serves as a liaison between the general public and agriculture as a wedding reception venue. Here, Renee works to provide brides with a beautiful country setting amidst the surrounding working farms! The family plans to once again provide educational tours that facilitate an understanding of farm life to those not fortunate enough to live it!

**Favorite quote or saying:** Here at home it's "Faith, Family, and Farm"

At Winner Family Farm we encourage visitors to "Come out to the country and make some new memories...that will last a lifetime."

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:** Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something! Think outside the box and put your shoulder to the wheel. You can do it!



### Logan County honors **RENEE E. WINNER**

RENEE has been contributing to agriculture as a mother and wife since 1982.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Contact information: [summit.osu.edu](http://summit.osu.edu)

Social media: Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/OSUESummit>

**Biography:** Danae Wolfe serves as the Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Educator in Summit County. Her areas of expertise include invasive species and native gardening. In her role as Extension Educator, she teaches the community about a variety of topics including invasive plant ID and management, the importance of native plants and pollinators in the landscape, and garden and insect photography. Danae also provides diagnostic services to the community through plant, insect, and disease identification. She is specifically interested in helping connect people to nature and promoting sustainable behaviors.

**Favorite quote or saying:** "In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we have been taught."  
— Baba Dioum

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**  
I encourage young women to explore the great variety of directions that a career in agriculture can take. From the traditional career in farming to working in the horticulture industry, there are so many great opportunities to work in agriculture. Never be afraid to try a few different things before choosing something you love!



### Summit County honors **DANAE WOLFE**

DANAE has been contributing to agriculture as a wife since 2012.



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## WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

**Name of agricultural enterprise or farm:** Wellington Implement Co., Inc.

**Contact information:** [www.wellingtonimplement.com](http://www.wellingtonimplement.com)

**Social media:** Facebook: Wellington Implement; Google+: Wellington Implement

**Biography:** I am 3rd-generation owner of a family farm equipment dealership, Wellington Implement. As a woman in this business, I am following in the footsteps of my Grandmother Eva who, upon the untimely death of her husband in 1937, stepped into the International Harvester dealership he started in 1929 to keep the business going. I graduated from Ohio Wesleyan Univ. and received my M.A. degree from Hunter College in NYC. I relocated to Cincinnati and New Orleans while working for Delta Queen Steamboat Co. In 1998, I returned to the family business to work with my cousins. We moved to a new larger facility, hired more sales and technical staff, and have increased our presence in the farming community. I have worn many "hats" serving as a manager, the secretary/treasurer of the corporation, the human resource person, and the public relations contact. Today, we proudly say that we are a leader in our industry.

### Lorain County honors **PATTI YOUNG**

PATTI has been contributing to agriculture  
as an Owner/Manager of Case IH  
Dealership since 1998.

**Favorite quote or saying:** I have a couple:

#1) "Sleep on it." Do not make important decisions lightly. It is much better to think about it for a day or two before acting.

#2) Surround yourself with the best people you know in the field. You will have a good team plus they will make you look really smart.

**Advice to the future generation of women in agriculture:**  
This is an industry that has a different outcome every year. Some years are extremely good with success, happiness, positive attitudes and financial rewards. Other years can be just the opposite with challenges, bad moods, tension and money is tight. Just know the industry operates in cycles and that the good times will eventually come again. You have to live through some of those bad times in order to truly appreciate the good years.



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# Thank You for your help in honoring Ohio Women in Agriculture!

- OSU Extension Faculty and Staff
- Farm Science Review Committee
- Kim Showalter
- Teresa Funk
- Brian Neal
- Clermont County Extension Staff
- Ohio Women in Agriculture Team
- John Schoenhals
- Elizabeth Roche
- Brian Kleinke



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Honors

# “100 Faces of Ohio Women in Agriculture”



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