

Women in Agriculture News

End of Summer Greetings!

I am hopeful that this edition of the Women in Ag news finds you enjoying the autumn weather, and looking forward to the change of seasons.

In the April newsletter, I offered to feature a farm in future editions of the Women in Ag news. I am excited to highlight Fifer Orchards in this issue. Please enjoy reading about their farm! Also, please let me know if I can feature your farm in a future issue.

In this newsletter, you will also find ideas for promoting your farm market, more about a women in ag network, information on living wills, and dates for upcoming programs, including the *2007 Women in Ag Conference in Delaware*.

**Autumn arrives, array'd in splendid mein;
Vines, cluster'd full, add to the beauteous scene,
And fruit-trees cloth'd profusely laden, nod,
Complaint bowing to the fertile sod.**
- Farmer's Almanac, 1818

Featured Farm

Fifer Orchards

Mary Fennemore and her brother, Carlton Fifer, are proud of Fifer Orchards, their family's farm, and all that they stand for. Their family has been farming and growing fruit at Fifer Orchards, in Wyoming, Delaware, since 1919. In the 1960's the family opened a farm market. This market is open six days a week - April 15th through December 23rd.

Fifer Orchards is a busy hub of activity throughout the growing season, inviting the community to come to their farm to sample a little bit of local agriculture – the tastes, the sights, and the sounds.

The Fifer family enjoys educating people and sharing their heritage with the public, whether it be an individual customer, a school group, or the participants of a 5K benefit run. They welcome visitors from near and far to their farm.

Their apple orchards, abundant with apples this time of year, line the roads leading to their farm market. There is plentiful parking just outside the huge converted barn where the market is located.

Crates of fresh produce and the beautiful display of farm-grown flowers for sale are immediately noticeable. Upon entering the market, your eyes are drawn inside to the displays of apples, peaches, nectarines, apple butter, and more. You might be tempted to say, "I'll take one of everything".

Fifer Orchards is proud of their staff, as well as the thank you letters from visiting school groups, which are posted for customers to read. The Fifers are stewards of the land and are



Freshly picked Fifer's peaches and apples.

community-friendly. It is their purpose to help keep agriculture a prominent and viable industry in Delaware.

(more on page 2)

Fifer Orchards cont.



Fresh-cut flowers for sale at Fifer Orchards.



Fifer Fall Fest — Sept 16 - Oct 28, Mon - Sat
Harvest Hustle — 5K Race Walk - Sept 23rd
4-H Front Porch Demos — Sept 9, Oct 14, Nov 18

For more information:
www.fiferorchards.com

Fall at Fifer's means Fresh Apple Cider, Apple Cider Doughnuts, Apples in the pick-out bins, PYO Pumpkin Patch, and all the activities surrounding the 2nd Annual Corn Maze, themed PRODUCE...GOOD HEALTH!!

Living Wills

Living wills or health care directives are important for you and your family to understand. I had the opportunity to attend a seminar which included a discussion on living wills. I found the seminar interesting and want to encourage you to learn more about living wills.

What is an Advance Health Care Directive?

Living Wills explain your wishes regarding your medical decisions and your caretakers. It is a form that allows you to give specific instructions, by making choices, about what your desires are in the event that you become unable. This form also allows you to designate another person to make decisions for you - this is known as a power of attorney for health care. A Living Will, or Advance Health Care Directive is a voluntary, legal document that specifies how you wish to be treated, medically, in the case that you become incapacitated.

How is an Advance Health Care Directive obtained?

A lawyer can create an Advance Health Care Directive for you. In addition, hospitals and long term health care facilities may have forms available to you. As with any legal decisions, it is advisable to consult with an attorney before completing a living will.

Contact Laurie Wolinski if you'd like a fact sheet about Delaware's Advance Health Care Directive.

Each state has its own codes and definitions regarding living wills. Please be sure to follow your state's guidelines.

More information on health care directives is available on the following websites:

For Delaware <http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dsaapd/advance.html>

For Maryland <http://www.oag.state.md.us/Healthpol/AdvanceDirectives.htm>

For New Jersey http://www.state.nj.us/health/ltc/documents/advance_directives_brochure.pdf

Women in Ag Network

We are continuing to work on forming a Women in Ag (WIA) Network. We have received feedback from several women who are interested in learning more and participating in a WIA network.

This "network" would be a way to share information in an inexpensive and less formal setting than a day-long conference, with hands-on workshops - both on and off-farm. A group such as this learns and shares valuable information among members. Many states and regions have been successful with forming these groups, whose members find them particularly useful. For one example of a Women in Ag Network, please go to

<http://wagn.cas.psu.edu/>

On page 4, you will find a form to complete, which will help us plan workshops. Please take a minute to complete and return the form.

Fun for the Farm and the Community!

Fall is a time for reunions - school or family. Consider inviting high school classes to your farm for their reunion! Families could enjoy a few hours together with “no muss - no fuss” entertaining, while gathering on a hay wagon or around a bon-fire for a couple of hours of relaxation and fun.

Poetry Contest - Plan a contest for the community to describe your farm, or your market while promoting agriculture. You might suggest age categories and/or themes (seasons, farm activities, etc). Announce winners in your market or in your local newspaper or school news.

Take the Farm to the Classroom - Although fuel prices are currently falling, they are still high. As a result, school field trips may be fewer this year. Consider promoting agriculture and educating school children by taking the farm to the school. If you have a market, include a coupon in the take-home material that their parents can use on their next visit to your farm. And while it would require some flexibility in planning, this approach might be considered in the event that inclement weather interferes with a well-planned school visit to your farm.

Looking Ahead...

2007 Women in Agriculture Conference

Friday, January 19, 2007 at the Dover Sheraton. Please read more below.

Delaware Ag Week 2007

Monday, January 22 - Saturday, January 27 at Delaware State Fair Grounds, in Harrington, Delaware. More information will be available soon.

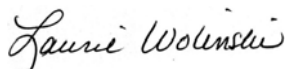
Estate Planning Workshop

In March of 2007, we will be holding workshops in Delaware on the topic of transferring the farm to the next generation. The dates are March 14 in Sussex County and March 15 in New Castle County. More information will be available in early winter.

Planning the 2007 Women in Ag Conference

Mark your calendars! The 2007 Women in Ag Conference is being planned for **Friday, January 19, 2007** at the Dover Sheraton, in Delaware. One of the questions on the 2006 conference evaluations asked about length of conference - one-day vs. two-day. The response was divided - hence the conference planned for 2007 will be one day. The conference planning committee is lining up some great workshops, but we are interested in hearing more from you about what you would find beneficial. Please contact me with your suggestions, by using the form on page 4.

Thanks in advance!



Extension Associate, University of Delaware

Please complete the 3-part form below. You may return your responses by e-mail, fax, or U.S. mail. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me. I look forward to hearing from you.

2007 Women In Ag Conference - Please indicate which topics would be beneficial and of interest to you (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writing a mission statement | <input type="checkbox"/> Simulated Grain Marketing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organic Production 101 | <input type="checkbox"/> Stress Management/Mental Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cut Flower Production | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing and Promoting your Product | Suggestions _____ |

Women in Ag Network

I am interested in learning more about a Women in Ag networking group.

Please indicate which on-farm, casual workshops you would be interested in (check all that apply):

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Chain-Saw Use and Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> High Tunnel Tour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pasture Walk | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Tour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vineyard Walk & Tour | <input type="checkbox"/> Organic Production |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Woodland Walk | Suggestions _____ |

Day preference: Weekday _____ Saturday _____ Either _____

I would consider hosting an on-farm workshop.

Please add my name and address to the Women in Agriculture mailing list!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Preference for receiving newsletter: U.S. Mail _____ E-mail _____

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