

1953 Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild Inductees

A farm woman, no matter how talented she is, does not get to be a Master Farm Homemaker by herself. We always find a good husband and a fine family behind her. Take the John Doerring family from Clayton County, Iowa. The family orchestra plays for a lot of neighborhood functions. But the real fun for the family comes in the hours that they spend in practice.

Even tho Barbara Marston, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gayle Marston of Madison County, Iowa, works in Des Moines, she finds the farm home of her parents a wonderful place to spend week-ends.

Family relationships are also important in the Joe Wirt family in Des Moines County. The basement of their new home is arranged for recreation for the family and for neighborhood groups as well.

It may be because these homemakers have been able to establish good relationships in their homes that they have been willing and able to take on community responsibilities.

This year we have chosen five Iowa farm women who we feel have earned the title of Master Farm Homemaker. These five represent many other women who are doing a superb job of raising their families and working in their communities.

Anyone can help choose a Master Farm Homemaker. The nominations come in to us voluntarily from friends, neighbors and co-workers. Each candidate is thoroughly investigated and the final selection is made by a panel of judges.

This year the judges who served were Miss Louise Rosenfeld, Director of Home Economics, Extension Service, Iowa State College; Miss Ann Nygaard, District Home Economics Supervisor; Mrs. Clarence Decatur, farm woman, Poweshiek County, Iowa, and the Homemaking editor of this paper (Wallaces' Farmer). Here are the new Master Farm Homemakers:

Mrs. John Doerring - IMFH Class of 1953

Clayton County

Mrs. Weigle has taken special interest in the educational and social life in her community. At the same time she has been a splendid homemaker and mother.

Mr. and Mrs. Weigle have three children. The oldest boy is in the air force in Europe.

Mr. and Mrs. Weigle live on a 160-acre farm. Mr. Weigle is an able and progressive farmer.

Mrs. Weigle helped to organize her township for the Farm Bureau. She organized and has been a leader of a group of 4-H club girls. She has served faithfully in her church-the South Waterloo Church of the Brethren, which is an outstanding rural church.

Gayle Marston - IMFH Class of 1953

Madison County

Both Mr. and Mrs. Marston were born and raised in the community where they now live. They have three children.

The Marstons live in a large remodeled house on a 160 acre farm. They own other farms in the vicinity. The family belongs to the Presbyterian church in Earlham, where Mrs. Marston teaches a class of young married people.

Mrs. Marston has been active in extension and Farm Bureau work. She has headed Red Cross and cancer drives. And last fall she worked on the chest X-ray program for the county.

Mrs. Lewis Morris, Sr. - IMFH Class of 1953

Polk County

Mrs. Morris has been a Master Farm Homemaker for many years but this is the first public recognition of the fact. She is past 80, the mother of six children and the grandmother of 12.

Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Morris has continued to live on the home farm. She keeps an active interest in the Presbyterian church in Grimes. She attends Farm Bureau, extension and other community meetings.

For many years her greatest hobby has been her flower garden. She specializes in delphiniums and has given plants and seeds to friends and acquaintances all over the midwest.

Vera Shivvers - IMFH Class of 1953

Marion County

Mr. and Mrs. Shivvers live on a 500 acre farm near Knoxville. They have three daughters. Both Mr. and Mrs. Shivvers have been interested and active in community affairs.

Mrs. Shivvers has been a 4-H club leader, and has served on the local school board. She has also served on the board of directors for the rural Christian church near her home. She has been chairman of the county CROP drive.

Buelah Wirt - IMFH Class of 1953

Des Moines County

Mr. and Mrs. Wirt live on a 280 acre farm near Burlington. They are the parents of three children. Their oldest daughter, a graduate of Iowa State Teacher's College, is teaching near home. One son is attending Iowa State College and a younger son is at home.

Mrs. Wirt helped to organize her township 4-H clubs and is still an active leader for girls. Mr. and Mrs. Wirt worked to reorganize their neighborhood so that the Kingston Methodist church could be reopened. Both are active in Farm Bureau and extension.