

1968 Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild Inductees

Each year Wallaces Farmer presents the Master Farm Homemakers award to a few farm women who are doing an outstanding job in their homes and with their families, and who still have time to work for the betterment of their communities.

There are many farm women in the state who are deserving of this award but it is impossible to personally recognize all, so a few are selected, and through these we express our appreciation for all.

These women were nominated by a local club or organization. This sponsoring group filled out a nomination blank provided by Wallaces Farmer. They organized letters of recommendation. Final selection was made by a committee of judges. This year the judges were Louise Rosenfeld, assistant director and state leader, home economics program, Extension Service, Iowa State University; Mrs. Margaret Yoder, assistant state leader, home economic Program; Mrs. C.E. Warland, Fort Dodge, Master Farm Homemaker 1963; and Zoe Murphy, former home editor, Wallaces Farmer.

Irma Harpole - IMFH Class of 1968

Madison County

Mrs. Harpole lives on her 400-acre farm near Patterson. Five of her 10 children were minors at the time of her husband's death in 1953.

She has a long record of service in her community. This includes her church-the Methodist-the Farm Bureau, extension council, and her work with the local school district at the time of the reorganization.

Mrs. Harpole has reason to be proud of her fine family. All but Brian, her youngest child, are married.

Harriet Smith - IMFH Class of 1968

Jasper County

Mrs. Smith (Harriet) was born and raised on a Jasper County farm. She was active in farm youth organizations and met her husband at a 4-H conservation camp.

The Smiths have four children: Ellis, 16; Tim, 10; Juliann, 9, and Brian, 7.

They farm 200 acres and have a herd of purebred Guernseys. Mrs. Smith helps with milking and fieldwork in busy seasons.

She has held responsible offices in the Farm Bureau, her church, extension, and the county homemaking service programs.

Alvesta Heffernan - IMFH Class of 1968

Bremer County

Mr. and Mrs. Heffernan were both born and raised in town and started farming during the depression. Today they are farming about 1,000 acres. Mrs. Heffernan (Alvesta) helps in the fields driving the tractor and combine.

They have five children. Oldest daughter, Jean, her husband, Daryl Schwartzstein, and three children, are living on the farm. William is a professor at the University of Louisiana. Son Keith and daughter Karen attend Iowa State University; Ann is in high school.

Alvesta has served the Farm Bureau as county leader and president.

Gerry Lackender - IMFH Class of 1968

Johnson County

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Lackender own and operate a 400 acre farm near Iowa City. They have six children. Sherry, their oldest daughter, is married and lives on a nearby farm. Other children are Penny, 22; Vicki, 18; Cathy, 16; Randy, 12, and Rhonda, 6, all at home. There are two grandchildren.

Mrs. Lackender (Geraldine) did not live on a farm until after her marriage. She has a large garden and beautiful lawn, and helps her husband when needed.

Nina Phelps - IMFH Class of 1968

Van Buren County

Mr. and Mrs. Phelps are well known. Mr. Phelps is a past state senator and Mrs. Phelps (Nina) has represented various organizations on the state level. These include her church (Baptist), Farm Bureau, and her political party. She has served on the extension council as chairman of the family living committee.

Mr. and Mrs. Phelps own and operate a 600-acre farm.

They have two children-Dewey, Jr. of Atlantic, Iowa and Carol McLealand of Freeport, Illinois. There are five grandchildren.

Dorothy Earnest - IMFH Class of 1968

Henry County

Mr. and Mrs. Earnest own and operate 160 acres near New London. They have two daughters, Ruth lives in Normal, Illinois, and Roberta in Colorado Springs, Colorado. There are six grandchildren who enjoy visiting their grandparents' farm. Mrs. Earnest has a wide range of interests both at home and in her community.

She has served on both the state and local level in some of her activities. These include her church (Presbyterian), Farm Bureau, and political party.