

1969 Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild Inductees

Six Iowa farm women have been named Master Farm Homemakers for 1969. Each year Wallace Farmer and the Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild present these awards to a few outstanding farm women.

They are selected to represent the many deserving rural women throughout the state. In a small way, it's a means of saying "thank you" to all fine homemakers.

Nominations are made by local clubs or organizations. Sponsoring groups fill out a nomination blank provided by Wallace Farmer. Final selections are made by a committee of judges. Individuals are chosen on the basis of family work and community service. Names are now being accepted for next year's awards. If you know of anyone who should be nominated, write to Wallace Farmer for entry blanks.

Florence Becker - IMFH Class of 1969

Clayton County

Florence Becker just completed a 4-year term as president of the 'Women's Society of Christian Service at Giard United Methodist Church. She was the church school superintendent 17 yrs.

Active in the reorganization of the local school, Florence encouraged her 3 daughters' participation in school activities. "Mom" to many other young people who needed her, Florence sometimes provided a home for such youngsters and served as a church youth counselor.

She was Farm Bureau County chairman 5 yrs., is serving her 4th year on the state women's committee for Iowa Farm Bureau, and was on the state resolutions committee. As township precinct committeewoman she attends political events. She is a member of the Order of Eastern Star.

The Becker children are all married. Dorene, now Mrs. Harry Larson, lives near McGregor.

Beverly, now Mrs. Leland Parizek, and Joyce, now Mrs. Tom Huinker, both live in Cedar Rapids. There are 5 grandchildren.

Vivien Heikens - IMFH Class of 1969

Clay County

Vivian Heikens is accredited as a national landscape design critic and amateur flower show judge.

In addition to judging shows, she has served as district director of a garden club and state flower show evaluation chairman.

Also active in politics, she has been precinct committeewoman, president of a women's political club, member of the State Council of Social Services, and member of a state tax study committee.

Vivian has been a member of the state extension advisory council and has served as local 4-H leader.

Among other positions she has held are secretary and circle chairman in the Sacred Heart Church of Spencer, and director of the local historical society. She also works part time as an interviewer for the Statistical Laboratory of Iowa State University.

Her hobbies include hooking rugs and cross-stitching.

Children include George Jr., who is studying for a doctorate at the University of Minnesota; Mary Kathleen, now Mrs. Clavin Christensen, and Barbara, now Mrs. Royal Holz II. Mary's husband is helping operate the home farm. Barbara and her husband are in Germany where he is stationed with the armed forces.

Carol Needham - IMFH Class of 1969

Butler County

Carol Anna Needham is a city girl from Des Moines, making good on a large farm near Greene. Horseback riding, camping, and ice skating with 5 active children are a regular part of her life.

Carol believes in accepting community responsibility when it will not interfere with her family's needs. She staggers her community assignments so that she is not heavily burdened at one time.

She is general chairman of the Women's Society of Christian Service in the local Methodist Church. She is chairman of the home economics committee which recently held a local world food fair in cooperation with the girls 4-H club.

She has served as chairman of the Butler county Farm Bureau women's committee and has worked on local school board campaigns. Carol refinishes furniture but thinks that a high gloss and a smooth surface aren't as important as the people who use the furniture.

She helps in the field when Darrell needs the assistance. Her 4 older children are in 4-H. Children are Tom, 17; Rosanne, 14; Joe, 12; David, 9; Mary, 5.

Anita Russell - IMFH Class of 1969

Taylor County

Anita Russell is a member of a family that traces its traditions thru 4 generations in Taylor county. Her home contains several outstanding collections of antiques.

Her grandfather brought the first Angus cattle into the area 75 years ago. Continuing this interest in cattle, Anita did the office work for her husband who was secretary of the Iowa State Angus Association until his appointment to the state ASCS committee.

Now Anita and her 16 year old son Henry handle the family's 100 cow Angus herd and operate 480 acres when HK is away on ASCS duties.

Anita is active in politics, serving on the county central committee of her party. She is also chairman of the Farm Bureau county women's committee and a member of the Federated Women's Club.

She has served as teacher and secretary for the local Methodist Church, PTA, president, and girls 4-H leader.

In addition to son Henry, other children include Opal, and Evelyn C. Frey, both of Des Moines; and James F. Lucas of Bedford. There are 5 grandchildren.

Lillian Thiemann - IMFH Class of 1969

Hancock County

Lillian Thiemann serves on the executive board of North Iowa Area Development (NIAD). She organized a women's forum on communication for the area. She attended

the governor's commission on status of women and a recent state women's leadership forum.

Active in Klemme United Church of Christ, she served as president of the women's guild and taught in church school.

The county 4-H alumni award was presented to Lillian in honor of service as local leader, member of the county committee, and junior leadership sponsor.

She is a member of the county Farm Bureau women's committee and is active in the Youthpower program.

Numerous other activities include, O.D.O. homemakers club, precinct committee woman, and county historical society.

She helped organize a group of volunteers to visit the county home each week. The Thiemanns are now sponsoring their 2nd Taiwan student in a 3 year nursing school course.

Children include Larry, who lives in Burlington, Iowa, and Joyce, who is now Mrs. Ron TenHaken of Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Anna Lea Willits - IMFH Class of 1969

Willits County

Anna Lea Willits has served on the Union-Whitten school board and during that time worked to secure an addition to the school. She played an important role in establishing the library in a new recreational center located in Union.

In Bangor Friends Church, she has worked in missionary society and church school. Her present church position is recording clerk of monthly meetings.

Anna Lea is an active member of Farm Bureau and served several terms as county women's chairman. She has also been county committeewoman for her political party.

She was a member of the county 4-H committee and a local 4-H leader. In this work she gave personal attention to the special needs of individual youngsters.

Children include Earl, who teaches political science in a Des Moines high school; Nancy, now Mrs. Ron Woodward and a senior at Iowa State University; and Donald, 12, in 6th grade. The Willits also provided a home for a niece for a while.