

## 1979 Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild Inductees

Recently honored as Iowa Master Farm Homemakers for 1979 were five outstanding farm women. They were recognized for their fine work with their families, their homes, and community services.

These women represent the many homemakers in rural Iowa who make such contributions. Since the program was started in 1928, a total of 199 farm wives have received this award. This is the 39th-year Wallace Farmer has sponsored the program.

The Iowa chapter belongs to National Master Farm Homemakers Guild, and is associated with Country Women's Council and Associated Country Women of the World.

Judges for 1979 were: Alta Fischer, Avoca, president of Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild; Elizabeth Elliott, assistant dean and state leader, home economics extension programs, Iowa State University; Louise Rosenfeld, program assistant, office of foreign student and visitor services, Iowa State University; and Joanne Couey, home editor of Wallaces Farmer.

### Margaret Ledger - IMFH Class of 1979

#### Washington County

From Margaret Ledger's round-top kitchen table, many problems have been solved and responsibilities shared with her husband James and their four children. This is how they keep their 680-acre Washington grain and livestock farm running smoothly.

Helping with livestock, farm machinery, planting, and harvesting, Mrs. Ledger has also been supportive of her husband as a Master Pork Producer and in other activities.

She is currently president of the Washington County Porkettes, and has been a board member for 4 years. She was chairman of pork cooking demonstrations schools, and has helped edit a pork cookbook for the Porkettes.

A member of St. James Catholic Church, Mrs. Ledger served the parish council, was teacher's aide, church circle leader, and past president of St. James school board and religious education committee. This fall she will serve on the Washington Community School district board.

For several years, Mrs. Ledger managed the Knights of Columbus Hall kitchen. It is not unusual for her to plan, cook, and serve groups as large as 1000. In 1977, Mrs. Ledger organized and prepared the buffet for close to 1000 exhibitors for the Farm Progress Show at the Maurice Crawford farm in Washington, Iowa.

Mrs. Ledger has been county 4-H clothing project leader for 3 years. She enjoys playing the organ, sewing and cooking with her daughters. The children are all active in 4-H, FFA, and sports. The family enjoys showing swine, attending sports events and fishing in the farm pond.

Son Gary is a freshman at Iowa State University, majoring in farm operations. Daughter Linda is a senior at Washington high school, and has been selected Washington County 1979-80 Pork Queen. Son Mark is a junior, and daughter Cheryl a sophomore at Washington High.

### Celestine Persinger - IMFH Class of 1979

#### Grundy County

As a capable helper in all aspects of farm life, Celestine Persinger is an active partner with her husband Francis on their Grundy Center 160-acre grain and livestock farm. She has also contributed much to her church, community, and family.

Mrs. Persinger has served on the administrative board of Grundy Center United Methodist Church and as president of the United Methodist Women. She is a Sunday school teacher and member of the Inter-Church Council.

The Persingers have hosted many foreign students. She is a past president of American Field Service, their sponsor.

Mrs. Persinger, a 4-H leader for 20 years, is an honorary member of the county 4-H clubs. She has been on the county family living committee, and extension council, and with her husband, served 12 years on the county dairy promotion committee.

Mr. Persinger is an Iowa Master Corn and Soybean grower.

An avid gardener, Mrs. Persinger also enjoys needlework and crafts. Mrs. Persinger has served in Farm Bureau, Federated Women's Club, Iowa State University Alumni Club, PTA, and Iowa Holstein auxiliary.

Son Harlan received BS degrees in dairy science and ag journalism from ISU. He works for an agriculture advertising and public relations agency in Milwaukee. Daughter Sheryl Asmus received a BS in home economics and MS in family environment from ISU.

She and her husband, Everett, a school psychologist with AEA 7, live in Grundy Center and have three children.

Daughter Colene Ferrin has a degree in fashion merchandising from Patricia Stevens Career College.

She and her husband Ken live in Marshalltown, where Colene is a police communications operator.

Ken is an engineering technician for the Department of Transportation.

#### Marian Sayers - IMFH Class of 1979

##### Humboldt County

As organist for the United Methodist Church and Congregational Church of Humboldt the past 14 years, Marian Sayers has been called on for many occasions. Her willingness to share herself and her talents is well known in her community.

Mrs. Sayers has worked alongside her husband Keith on their 580-acre Humboldt hog and farming operation. She takes her place on the heavy machinery when needed.

She is president of the Humboldt United Methodist Women, and has been circle leader, Sunday school teacher, member of council of ministries, administrative board, and on the scholarship committee.

Keith serves on the church board, local cooperative elevator board, county fair board, and Red Cross committee.

She is assistant music chairman for the Christian Women's Club, member of the hospital auxiliary, Republican Women, Humboldt Federated Women's Club, and Farm Bureau. She has served on the county home economics committee, and is a member of the Beaver Township Ladies Club. She has supported school projects and music boosters.

Cake baking and decorating, square dancing, interior decorating, and crafts work fill her leisure hours. She and her husband share an enthusiasm for flying.

Their three children are all graduates of Iowa State University. Jacki, a home economics major, is a substitute teacher in Humboldt schools. She lives in Humboldt with her husband and two daughters. Jim has a BS in public service and administration in agriculture and is working on his master's degree.

Jon completed a year as a social worker in Appalachia after graduation with a BS in sociology and public service administration in agriculture. He is working on a master's degree in social work at the University of Tennessee.

#### Dorothy Swanson - IMFH Class of 1979

##### Winnebago County

Dorothy Swanson has always been interested in young people. She has been a challenger and counselor of youth as Youth Power and co-commodity chairman with the Winnebago County Women's Farm Bureau.

She has been a positive influence on many girls in her 25 years' of 4-H activities, and was a state 4-H past president.

The Swansons farm 160 acres. In addition to their farm duties, Wallace and Dorothy have served on various Buffalo Center United Methodist Church boards and Farm Bureau committees. Mr. Swanson has also been a school board member.

Mrs. Swanson has held all offices in the church women's society and church circle, and has been a Sunday school teacher and superintendent. She is Grand township voting registrar, and member of the Order of the Eastern Star, and Grant Neighborly Birthday Group.

Dorothy makes many of her own clothes, and is a talented woodworker. Her jewelry, plaques, and knick-knacks have been displayed and sold at a Living History Farms crafts festival. Her husband also enjoys woodworking. Together they make grandfather locks, lamps, and furniture.

The five Swanson children were active 4-H members, played piano, and were in the band. Music has been an important hobby to Mrs. Swanson and her family. The family also enjoys reading, golfing, and fishing.

The four Swanson sons are married and have families of their own. Duane, a graduate of University of Northern Iowa of Northern Iowa, is an insurance agent in Kasson, Minnesota; Dennis, an Iowa State University graduate, has a welding business in Buffalo Center. Brian, also an ISU graduate, is a technician for Pioneer Seed Company in Grimes. Ronald got his degree from Mankato State University and is a speech and drama teacher at Grundy Center, Iowa. The Swansons' daughter Cynthis is a senior in home economics education at ISU.

#### Anna Lou Wille - IMFH Class of 1979

##### Hancock County

"Helping people help themselves" is a philosophy of Anna Lou Wille's. With her husband Glenn, responsibilities are shared on their 400-acre grain and livestock farm near Gamer.

Mrs. Wille also raises broilers, and enjoys having guests for an annual chicken fry.

The Willes have been active in Farm Bureau, and both have held many offices and served on various committees. Glenn is past president and director on the county board.

The Willes have had a special interest in 4-H exchange students, and have shared their home with many foreign students for as short as a weekend and as long as a year.

Mrs. Wille is active in St. Boniface Catholic Church in Garner. She has been treasurer of the Rosary Society, on the parish council, and secretary-treasurer for the church Women's Family Affairs commission. She was in PTA and Music Mothers.

In 4-H, Mrs. Wille has been a girl leader, garden project leader and garden judge for 13 years, and Youth Power chairman. She has given support to the Farm Bureau Hope program and Association of Country Women of the World scholarship. She is past president of Our Day Out, a local extension group, and serves on the home economics committee of the Hancock County extension group.

Willing to share her craft ideas, Anna Lou Wille is ready to lend a hand to others interested in crafts. With each project she tackled, at least one family member would become involved. Her home is full of wall hangings, mobiles, and hooked rugs.

The Willes' three children were 4-H members and enjoyed family cookouts and camping.

Daughter Debbie Staudt attended Northern Iowa Area Community College, is married, and has one child.

Daughter Lu Ann also attended NIACC, and is presently assistant manager of a department store.

Their son Randy farms with the Willes.