

## 1980 Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild Inductees

When November was officially proclaimed National Farm Wife Month 7 years ago, it added further credence to the important roles women play in farming. Each year Wallaces Farmer recognizes a few outstanding farm women for their work with their farms, families, homes, and community involvement as Iowa Master Farm Homemakers. They represent the many Iowa women who make these contributions.

A total of 204 farm wives have received this award since the program was started in 1928. This is the 40th year Wallaces Farmer has sponsored the program.

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

Judges for 1980 were: Alvina Sellers, Clarion, president of Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild; Louise Rosenfeld, program assistant, office of foreign student and visitor services, Iowa State University; Mildred Ryan, retired assistant state leader, home economics extension programs, Iowa State University; and Joanne Couey, home editor, Wallaces Farmer.

### Dorothy Camp - IMFH Class of 1980

#### Clinton County

A lot of Clinton County people feel fortunate that John Camp was not the only politically active member of the family. Even though John may have been in the spotlight more as state representative, his wife, Dorothy, carries a lot of clout.

Her concern for the community is evidenced by the active role she has played as a school board member serving as president for 2 years. She's now on her third term and faces the tough issues of declining enrollment and collective bargaining with the teacher's association.

Dorothy has been politically involved in the local precinct, county, and state Republican committees. She has served as president of the State Federation of Republican Women and secretary of National Republican Women. Dorothy has helped with several campaigns besides her husband's.

Of course, Dorothy does not hit the campaign trail as often now that her husband has retired. And they rented out the farmland Dorothy and son Jim kept watchful eyes on while John served in the Iowa legislature. Now Jim lives in Clinton with his wife and son. But, the Camps remain busy grandparents and active participants in community affairs.

Dorothy has served as a 4-H leader and worked with state and county extension groups. Son Jim was an active 4-H member. The Camps are members of the Ascension Lutheran Church in Goose Lake-a relatively new congregation. Jim was organist of the church on many occasions. Dorothy has served as president of the Cedar Rapids Conference of American Lutheran Church Women and served the American Bible Society for several years.

Dorothy has planned bus tours for the Clinton County Farm Bureau women. These tours are a mixture of beautiful Iowa scenery, restored historic sites, and contemporary institutions.

Dorothy and John have traveled extensively outside the state. She was an Iowa Farm Bureau delegate to the Associated Country Women of the World conference in Australia and more recently to Kenya. After returning from these trips, she shares the information through slide shows and other presentations.

### Blythe Edge - IMFH Class of 1980

## Humboldt County

You don't even have to visit Blythe Edge's home to get some idea of the type of cook she is. Just turn on your citizen's band radio and call for the Cookie Factory and you'll be tuned in to Blythe's kitchen.

She enjoys making all varieties of cookies and breads for her family, friends, and neighbors.

Blythe is an accomplished seamstress. She makes most of the clothes for herself and her daughters. Blythe and her husband Edwin farm near Humboldt. They have five children, ranging in age from 9 to 23. All have been active in school and church activities.

She has supported all her children during 4-H memberships and the family has been a part of the Iowa 4-H 400 Foundation. She feels that 4-H is an educational experience and has taken her turn as leader.

Currently, Blythe is serving her second term on the Humboldt Community School board. She is vice chairman of the Farm Bureau Women for the county and has promoted their Youthpower programs. She is past president of the township's women's club.

The Methodist church is an important part of Edge's life. Blythe is an active member in the church and its women's club. She has taught 6<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school for several years.

The Edge children are involved in various occupations. Daughter Dana is a University of Iowa graduate who now works as a registered nurse in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Dave graduated from Iowa State University in farm operations and he and his wife farm with his parents.

Son Mark is a junior in international agronomy at ISU. This fall he has been on a learning fellowship in Central America.

The two youngest children live at home. Ann is a senior at Humboldt high school and Jay is enrolled in the 4th grade.

## Henrietta Groenenboom - IMFH Class of 1980

### Mahaska County

Stepping into the home of this farm homemaker, you can feel hospitality in the air. And a close inspection of the home's interior tells you about the hobbies and interests that are a big part of Henrietta Groenenboom's life.

She and her family have restored their farm home which is about 100 years old. Henrietta handled the design and decorated it with much of her own artwork. Needlework, painting, and arranging natural materials are just a few of her hobbies.

Henrietta shares her knowledge as 4-H member of the year in Mahaska County. She has completed 20 years in 4-H.

Wilbur and Henrietta like to travel. One special trip was to Holland where their parents were born and relatives still live. Henrietta speaks, reads, and writes Dutch fluently.

An active gardener, she cans and freezes most of their winter supply of food. However, she and local gardeners can market their produce, thanks to her efforts in organizing the Ruritan Farmers Market in Oskaloosa. This market is easily accessible to the elderly and low income, for whom Henrietta takes special time and consideration.

One of her primary interests is the Association for Retarded Citizens, of which Henrietta is county president. She recently represented volunteers who work with disabled youth at a Washington conference. The Groenenbooms have four children.

The oldest daughter, Joyce, graduated from Iowa State University in home economics. She's now married and has two children.

Daughter Phyllis graduated from the University of Northern Iowa. She and her husband farm and have one child.

Son John also graduated from ISU and is now married. He's an aerospace engineer for McDonnell-Douglas.

Their youngest son, Jeffrey, attends Christian Opportunity Center in Pella.

#### Ruth Peters - IMFH Class of 1980

##### Plymouth County

As any sheep producer knows, it takes a lot of work to raise sheep. But for Ruth Peters, the job is more pleasure than pain.

She first tended sheep when she raised the wooly animals previously. Then they went out of the sheep business until the 1970's, when sons Jim and Mark were in 4-H and FFA. The sheep were the children's project at the time, but Ruth cared for them while they were in school. Through her continued interest in sheep, they have built an outstanding purebred flock.

Ruth has also helped expand their hog operation. And, she promotes pork through the Plymouth County Porkettes, receiving the Elanco Bell Ringer award for her efforts.

The Plymouth County Fair also benefits from Ruth's promotional work. She handles the writing, preparation, and distribution of fair brochures and posters. Ruth writes news stories and interviews 4-H members and others for a radio program.

Along with fair work, she has helped other extension activities. Many 4-Hers have selected sheep projects on the basis of Ruth's helpful suggestions. She has taught many of the members about sheep health, nutrition, etc.

A member of St. John's Lutheran Church, she has taught Sunday school and catechism classes. Ruth was choir director for several years. Frequently, she provides the congregation with a different type of music—displaying her talent as a violinist.

Although Ruth is involved in many organizations, her primary responsibility is to her family and farm. She does a lot of farm work, because her husband is also busy working for the Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative. Son Mark helps around the farm. He especially enjoys working with the livestock.

The Peterses have another son, Jim, who is married. He farms near LeMars and also helps Ruth and Don. Daughter Pat attended Spencer Business College. She and her husband live in Omaha, Nebraska, with their two children.

#### Adeline Volesky - IMFH Class of 1980

##### Linn County

Adeline Volesky wants other people to know the important role women play in farm families. She testified on behalf of homemakers at a local White House Conference on family living. She has represented farm wives on TV and other media.

But, probably the best presentation she gives for farm women is the example she sets in her own day-to-day activities. Each morning Adeline milks the few cows they keep on their farm and checks the small coop full of chickens. Both endeavors supplement the family food supply. On Wednesdays, you might find her sharing these chores with grandson Scotty. In strollers, 8-month-old Kimberly and 6-month-old Todd accompany them during nice weather.

Adeline and John have chaperoned band and 4-H trips or worked with the family in 4-H fairs, conferences, and suppers. The Voleskys have involved other families as well-hosting underprivileged children and 4-H children from other countries.

Whenever possible, she and John served on committees together, such as public relations and legislative Farm Bureau committees. They have worked to promote farm products and farm living through these channels. Adeline has served as Linn County Farm Bureau women's chairman. She was also health chairman, soliciting for cancer drives and planning a tour of the Medical Security Facility in Oakdale. She chaired a vaccination clinic for childhood diseases at Prairie Schools.

Adeline and John are members of the board of trustees and the administrative board of the Asbury Methodist Church. Together they have served as leaders of a church social group.

The Voleskys enjoy frequent visits from their children, who all live near the Cedar Rapids area. Daughter Carol attended Kirkwood College and the University of Northern Iowa. She's now married and takes care of two sons in their Cedar Rapids home.

Daughter Nadine also attended Kirkwood and now lives in Cedar Rapids. She's a dental assistant and computer operator.

Son Denny lives with his wife and baby in rural Swisher, where he's a specialized mold maker.