

1982 Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild Inductees

Honored recently as Iowa Master Farm Homemakers for 1982 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 219 farm women have received this award. This is the 40th year Wallace Farmer has sponsored the program. The Iowa chapter belongs to National Farm Homemakers Guild, and is associated with Country Women's Council and Associated Country Women of the World.

Judges for the 1982 awards were: Lorrene Klever of Gray, Iowa, president of Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild; Elizabeth Elliott, associate dean and state leader, home economics programs, and Louise Rosenfeld, program assistant, office of foreign student and visitor services, Iowa State University; and Joanne Couey, home editor of Wallace Farmer.

Jeanne Handy - IMFH Class of 1982

Wapello County

From the beginning of their marriage, when they rented farmland, Jeanne and Verle Handy have worked hard as a team in their farm operation. They now raise grain and livestock on 890 acres. Jeanne is as competent driving a tractor as she is keeping farm records.

Both Jeanne and Verle are active in the community. They are members of Wesley United Methodist church. Jeanne has taught Sunday school and served on various local and state church boards and commissions. In politics, they have worked in many capacities.

Verle is on the county conservation board and state temporary land preservation committee. The Handys were named Outstanding Farm Family by Kiwanis.

Jeanne has been a 4-H leader and worked on several charity drives. She is a member of the Ottumwa Chamber of Commerce, serving on the retail strategy committee. The Handys have hosted foreign students and visitors. They visited one of the students in New Zealand. Jeanne is on the Iowa Commerce Commission Consumer Round Table.

Jeanne and Verle Handy feel compelled to interpret farming and farm people to others. They make use of their involvement and contacts to promote farming.

The Handys have created a family atmosphere that provides opportunity to learn and grow. They are a close family and enjoy boating, water skiing, and refinishing furniture.

Recently Jeanne and Verle have gotten their real estate licenses, adding another activity to their busy lives.

The Handys have four children. Terry, the oldest, farms near Ottumwa. Myrna attended Northeast Missouri State University and is assistant manager of McDonald's in Ottumwa.

Jeannette attends Iowa State University. Craig is a junior at Ottumwa high school.

Sandra Harsin - IMFH Class of 1982

Emmet County

Enthusiasm for all her endeavors accounts for one of the reasons Sandy piles up success after success. Her activities are many and she assumes responsibility for each with confidence and zeal.

Sandy and her husband, Larry, farm 860 acres, raising grain and livestock. The Harsins and their three boys are staunch believers in agriculture. This is evident to all who come in contact with them.

Sandy is an officer in both CowBelles and Porkettes. She received the Bellringer award in 1980 for doing the most for the pork industry in Emmet County.

The Harsin family is active in the United Presbyterian church. Sandy is an officer of the women's organization and represents the church on the local board of church women. She also is a member of several committees.

With extension, Sandy helped organize a farrowing school for farm women. She assisted with a community attitude survey.

Sandy and Larry actively participate in aiding their political party. Larry is ASCS committeeman, serves on the junior board of the Superior Co-op Elevator, and is on the Farm Bureau board of directors. Sandy also belongs to several neighborhood clubs.

The Harsins like to work together on the farm. They also enjoy nature and watching wildlife. Fishing is a favorite pastime. They have a big garden and preserve the harvest.

Gourmet cooking is one of Sandy's delights. Other interests are sewing her own clothes and numerous types of crafts. She is always ready to learn something new at adult education classes.

The Harsins have three children. Steve has graduated from Iowa State University and is in graduate study, majoring in forensic anthropology at the University of Tennessee. Ward attended Iowa Lakes Community College and now farms with his parents. Grant entered the army in September and is stationed at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

Wanda Cornelius - IMFH Class of 1982
Jackson County

On a typical day, you might find Wanda Cornelius sorting seed com, fixing lunch, keeping records, and working on committees. These are just a few of the things this busy farm homemaker has on her schedule.

Wanda is a vital partner in the farming operation and in the Cornelius Seed Com Company. The Cornelius farm is about 1600 acres in hilly Jackson County. They raise seed com and purebred Hereford cattle. In addition, they are part owners and operators of the seed com business.

The size of the operation requires additional labor-usually three full-time employees and seasonal help. Wanda may be called on to supervise a detasseling crew, assist with pollination in the research nursery plot, or run germination tests. She can also deliver an order of seed corn or take cattle to the sale barn. Wanda says one of her most important functions is to relay work details and messages to employees.

Many times, employees and visitors eat their noon meal with the Cornelius family, which Wanda prepares.

When the Comeliuses designed their ranch-style home, they kept these various activities in mind.

The Comeliuses are involved in the Salem Lutheran church. Wanda is on the extension council youth committee and works with 4-H. She has received 4-H alumni and honorary member awards. Hospital guild, PTA, Farm Bureau, and politics are some of Wanda's other activities.

She enjoys crafts and likes to collect antiques. Her husband, Gerald, is on the school board and fair board and is church treasurer.

Wanda and Gerald have three children. The oldest, Nancy, graduated from Iowa State University in home economics. She and her husband, Lester Johnson, live in Ankeny. Son Chuck is a senior at ISU this year, majoring in agronomy. He plans to return to the farm and seed business after graduation. Their youngest child, Julie, is a junior at Andrew community school.

Beverly Alexander - IMFH Class of 1982

Monona County

Children must be given the opportunity for learning and creativity at an early age, according to Beverly Alexander. When her youngest son, Peter, was prekindergarten age, Beverly helped organize a nonprofit, state-licensed preschool. She worked as director and teacher of Playmates preschool for 6 years.

The Alexander family works as a unit, lending encouragement and support to each other in their various projects and activities. Beverly and her two boys have a large vegetable garden and apple and cherry trees. They work together from planting to harvesting to preservation. Bookkeeping became a project when her oldest son, Jamie, was in 4-H.

Beverly and Peter continue this operation.

Beverly and her husband Jim are active in the First Congregational church in Onawa. Besides activities in Women's Fellowship and Semi-Circle, Beverly teaches Sunday school and Bible school. She also participates in Eastern Star, PEO, and the Burgess Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. As a member of the citizen's advisory committee for the West Monona board of education, she helped reorganize school buildings.

Music and books are among interests shared by the Alexanders. They also enjoy fishing.

Beverly has a special talent for making storybook dolls. These are also called upside-down dolls and can be used as hand puppets to dramatize a story. Beverly has made shirts, vests, and jackets for the boys.

The Alexander family has hosted several foreign exchange students. Jamie went to Germany as an exchange student.

The Alexanders' crop and livestock operation consists of around 1250 acres. Jim is a Soil Conservation District Commissioner. He is also active in church, the community, and Farm Bureau. He helped develop a zoning plan for Monona County.

The Alexanders have two children. Jamie is a premedical student at the University of Iowa. Peter is in the eighth grade.

Elaine Eash - IMFH Class of 1982

Johnson County

Why should a person be involved in so many different jobs and activities? For Elaine Eash, the answer is simple.

"It's what I can do for others that is lasting," explains Elaine. She feels that in a small way, her efforts will make the world a better place to live. It's that kind of positive attitude and enthusiasm for helping others that keeps Elaine Eash constantly on the go.

Her interest in helping others grow and learn is one reason Elaine enjoys substitute teaching.

Elaine enjoys working in many organizations. She's provided leadership as chairman of her county Farm Bureau Women's group. The Eashes have been an International University Students host family. Elaine has worked with 4-H as a leader, project instructor, judge, and on the county youth committee. She has judged beef and pork queen contests and served as a parent-teacher organization board member.

Elaine and her husband, Maynard, are active in the West Union Mennonite church. Maynard is an ASC county board member, Washington township trustee, church trustee, and active in Farm Bureau and community affairs.

Elaine helps coordinate farm work. Together with Maynard, she keeps track of all farm and financial records. The Eashes farm about 250 acres and raise livestock.

For recreation, the Eashes like camping and boating. Sometimes they take off for the weekend with three or four other families.

Elaine likes to draw, paint, and make ceramics. She also enjoys sewing.

Kendra Lea is the daughter of the Bashes' oldest daughter, Rita, and son-in-law Lowell. Both Rita and Lowell work at Thorp Finance in Muscatine.

The other Eash children include: Randy, a shop foreman and mechanic for International Machinery and Autos; and Ruby, a cashier at Thorp Finance in Iowa City.