

1985 Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild Inductees

Five outstanding Iowa farm women have been honored recently as 1985 Master Farm Homemakers. They were recognized for their fine work with their families, their homes, the farm operation 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 230 women have received this recognition. This is the 43rd year Wallace Farmer has sponsored the award. 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 the 1985 awards were: Blythe Edge, Humboldt, 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.

Mardyll Albertson - IMFH Class of 1985

Monroe County

The Albertsons welcome foreign visitors. Many times their farm has been used as a tour stop. Mardyll and her husband Earl, are active individually as community volunteers yet find time to be involved as a couple in church, Farm Bureau, square dancing club, and other organizations.

The Albertsons still serve as 4-H leaders. Mardyll has spent many hours setting up the development of the CowBelles. One of her main concerns has been education in home economics classes. Mardyll has been assistant Monroe county Soil Conservation District commissioner for the last 10 years. Her political involvement includes the election board.

Both Mardyll and Earl are active in Trinity United Methodist Church. In United Methodist Women, Mardyll has held many administrative positions. She was appointed by the National Women's Division to a task force on "Saving the Family Farm." She traveled over the state speaking and participating in workshops.

Adjustments in the lives of the Albertsons have had to be made since Earl's farming accident and his heart attack last December. Mardyll ran the farming operation on schedule. She has a big garden, freezes, cans, raises chickens, and sells eggs.

The Albertsons have two children. Marla Carr, a teacher, lives with her husband and two children in Des Moines. Gary works in construction and helps out on the farm.

Marie Holz - IMFH Class of 1985

Greene County

Marie's skillful leadership has influenced a variety of organizations. She is a past president of Iowa CowBelles and American National CowBelles. She has been a member of the National Live Stock and Meat Board and Iowa Veterinary Examining Board.

Marie has served a term on the Iowa Judicial Nominating Committee. She participated in Farm Bureau and is active in the Federated Women's Club.

Marie and her husband, Royal, belong to Grand Junction United Presbyterian Church. She is a deacon. Marie attended Iowa State University. She has been a member of

Greene County Home Economics Committee, a 4-H leader, a 4-H state officer, and a member of the 4-H and Youth Committee.

Nearly every year sees Marie working in politics, usually as co-chairman for a candidate running for US Senate or House. The Holzes have hosted foreign exchange as well as US students.

The Holzes have five children. Helen Raikes, a PhD from ISU, is director of child services and selective research and lives with husband Ron and three children in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Royal II, has a BS from ISU and farms with his wife, Barbara, and one child. He has two other children.

John, a graduate from ISU and Conklin area sales manager, lives with his wife, Elaine, and three children.

Howard has a BS from ISU and farms with his wife, Mary Ellen, in Grand Junction.

Mary Clause has a BS from ISU and works in communications for ISU engineering extension. She and her husband, Reg, and two children farm in Rippey.

Esther Mosher - IMFH Class of 1985

Marshall County

Esther and her husband, Norval, both graduated from ISU. Then Esther taught home economics and Norval was a county 4-H and youth leader with ISU.

But in 1958, they left their positions to become farming partners with Esther's dad.

Today they raise a 100-head purebred Angus cow-calf herd, an 80-head ewe flock, and farm 775 acres. They were farrowing 90 litters of pigs a year until their son left for college.

Esther likes fieldwork. She also enjoys working as a CowBelle director and helping with beef promotion. The Mashers are in many church activities.

Esther has worked with youth and held several offices. She has been on the Marshall County Extension Council, and active with 4-H. Recently, she was named an Honorary 4-H Member of Marshall county. She is active in Farm Bureau, Legion Auxiliary, Liscomb Alumni, Hobby Club, and DAR.

Esther has been county Republican women's chairman and treasurer, on the county central committee, delegate to state convention, township committeewoman, and held other positions. And besides, she fits substitute teaching into her busy schedule.

Esther and Norval have two children. Dynette received her master's degree from ISU. She is assistant extension advisor in Mercer County, Illinois Jim graduated from ISU and works for Illinois Farm Bureau.

Avonell Nichols - IMFH Class of 1985

Cass County

After marriage to Fletcher, Avonell put aside her teaching career and used her home economics degree from Iowa State University to maintain a farm home and raise eight children. The farm operation was developed so each family member shares in raising Milking Shorthorn cattle and Landrace pigs.

Avonell has taken leadership roles in St. Paul's Lutheran Church. She has worked for betterment of the schools and been a delegate to the state Republican convention. She is a member of the Bear Grove Priscilla Club. Avonell has been a 4-H leader, organizational leader, project leader, and program leader. The Nicholoses have hosted overseas students. In 1981 Avonell was chosen Iowa Mother of the Year.

All the children have attended at least 2 years of college. Jane Becker farms with husband Craig and four children in Cumberland.

Jill Euken, extension home economist, farms with husband Randy and one child in Atlantic.

Dick and wife Cindy have three children and farm near Lewis.

Shirley Moore teaches music and lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, with husband Craig, and two children.

Sherry works in church Youth ministry in Cedar Falls.

Amy Jensen is a secretary and lives with husband Dave in Dubuque.

Allison Greenwald is a secretary and lives with husband Tom in Iowa City.

Bill attends ISU.

Friendly and with concern for others, Donna has stepped easily into community leadership roles.

Donna and her husband, Eldon, are active in Grace United Methodist Church. She was named outstanding United Methodist Women member in 1983. She is a district coordinator of Global Concerns and alternate delegate to the Iowa Annual Conference.

Politically, Donna has been very active. She is a member of the county home health advisory committee and active in Farm Bureau and PEO.

Donna attended Grinnell College and studied voice at Drake University. She is a member of Manson Meridians Singers.

Wherever she can, Donna helps with the farming operation. About 1500 head of hogs are finished per year.

The Stalls have five children. David, who attended UNI, and his wife, Jayne, and two sons farm near Palmer.

Diane Sandy, a registered nurse, lives in Waukee with her husband, Ken, and two children.

Dan graduated from ISU, farms near Palmer, and operates a commercial painting service.

Duane graduated from ISU and works for US Forest Service in Black Hills, South Dakota.

Daryl attends UNI.

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