

1986 Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild Inductees

Honored recently as Iowa Master Farm Homemakers for 1986 were three outstanding farm women. They were recognized for their fine work with their families, their homes, and community services.

Since the program was started in 1928, a total of 231 farm women have received this award. This is the 44th year Wallace's 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 the 1986 awards were: Harriet Smith, Newton, president of Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild; Ruth Deacon, Iowa State University dean of the College of Home Economics; Elizabeth Elliott, ISU associate dean and state leader, home economics programs; and Joanne Couey, home editor of Wallace's Farmer.

Lucille Wilson - IMFH Class of 1986

Union County

The challenges of today's agriculture are met capably by Lucille. She is an active, civic-minded farm woman.

Lucille has served on the school board for 10 years, currently as vice president. Lucille is in every way an equal partner in the Wilson's large farm operations. She spends many long hours in all areas of fieldwork, doing nearly all the primary tillage. Lucille has a big vegetable garden and she cares for a large yard with many flowers and planting. Besides raising corn and soybeans, the Wilsons have a 200-head commercial cattle calving-to-finish operation.

Lucille and her husband, Wendell, belong to Afton United Methodist Church, where they both have responsibilities and take part in many activities. Lucille plays the organ and piano during worship and for special occasions.

Over the years, Lucille has been active in different 4-H divisions at county fair and has been 4-H leader for two clubs. She has been named Honorary 4-H Club Member.

She has also been active in Farm Bureau Women.

Lucille has been an integral part in the success of the Union County CowBelles. She has served two terms as president and has represented the CowBelles at the women's county commodity promotion group for 3 years. Lucille gives lessons and demonstrations, assists in promotion for Ag Day, the county fair, radio publicity, grocery stores, state fair exhibits, and educational seminars.

The Wilsons have two children. Steven graduated from the University of Iowa. He farms with his parents and is an insurance agent. He and his wife, Cynthia, have two sons.

Sheila Brown graduated from Southwestern Community College and works as secondary marketing loan officer in Creston. Her husband, Kenny, farms with the Wilsons. They have a son.

Susanne Mross is also considered a daughter. She was hosted by the Wilsons as an exchange student from Heidelberg, Germany.

Betty Thedens - IMFH Class of 1986

Buchanan County

There is more to life than merely earning a living.

The Thedens family have shown this by not only working hard to establish themselves in farming but also in the community as an active, responsible family who contributes to a better place to live.

Betty and her husband, Jim, have continuously attended and participated in extension service educational programs related to agricultural production management, and marketing. And they take part in agriculture policy meetings. Their farm operation has been a positive influence on the community.

Betty keeps a good set of farm records, which she and Jim use to help management decisions. When needed Betty helps with fieldwork and chores on the farm. The Thedens family raise corn and soybeans. They had a hog farrowing-to-finish operation until last year. Twice Jim has received the Outstanding Young Farmer Award.

The Thedenses belong to Rowley Presbyterian Church, where they shoulder many responsibilities. Betty has worked with youth, area mission, and served on the hunger committee for Presbytery.

Betty has been active in school activities. She has been on the Family Living Committee of home economics extension for 3 years. She was a 4-H leader, and is a regular supporter of extension programs. She has been on the Farm Bureau legislators committee. Before her marriage Betty attended the University of Northern Iowa.

Other activities include cub scout den mother, Rowley Day committee, Porkettes, and volunteer at the extended care nursing center.

The Thedenses' children are: Kevin, a graduate of Iowa State University, who works as a mechanical engineer in Columbus, Indiana. He and his wife, Janice, have two daughters. Ken graduated from Hawkeye Institute of Technology and Ellsworth Junior College. He is farming with his parents. Kirk graduated from ISU and works as fitness coordinator at the Decathlon Club in Waterloo. Kimberlee attends ISU.

Esther Schmidt - IMFH Class of 1986 Jasper County

Since 1966, over 3000 school children have toured Albert and Esther Schmidt's Hill-O-Spruce dairy farm near Newton. The visitors see how cows are milked and cared for and bottle feed calves.

A senior citizens club enjoys an annual visit at the Schmidts' farm. They come for a day of picnicking and entertainment. The Jasper County retirement home also visits the farm.

The Schmidts have a herd of 50 dairy cows. Esther has always done all the milking and helps with chores.

Esther reached beyond the boundaries of the farmstead. She frequently addresses a group of business people on agriculture awareness or a class of third graders studying nutrition. Her aim is to bring the importance of agriculture to the attention of all civic groups in her community.

She supports FFA and promotes National Agriculture Week in the schools and community.

The Jasper County Dairy Promoters was organized by Esther. She has been secretary of Mid American Dairy Association.

The Schmidts are members of First United Church of Christ, where Esther has been active in many capacities.

Esther has served on the extension council board and Jasper County Agriculture Society.

Esther is a member of the Malaka Fun and Fellowship Club. She is an active member of American Business Women in Newton, being its first and only farming member.

Other activities include president of Church Women United in Newton, vice president of the nursing home auxiliary, and member of Baxter Garden Club.

The Schmidts have hosted three Japanese grade school teachers. At Christmas Esther distributes candy to children and freshly baked breads to adults.

The Schmidts have three sons. Tim graduated from Hawkeye Institute of Technology. He and his wife, Connie, farm in Marshall County. Dale graduated from Marshalltown Community College and is an electrician in Marshalltown. Paul graduated from Iowa Lakes Community College. He and his wife, Chris, farm.