

## 1995 Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild Inductees

The newest members of the Iowa Master Farm Homemaker Guild (IMFHG) have earned their honors by giving selflessly to others.

Throughout the history of rural America, farm women have played an important role working on the land and improving their communities. Farm women led the efforts for health care, schools, and libraries, roads and rural electrification. Despite household chores performed without running water or electricity, farm women always found the time to improve the lives of others.

In this hectic modern world, everyone is so busy-trying to make a living yet still take time for family and friends. It's hard to set aside extra hours for volunteer projects. The four women recently named to the IMFHG have juggled schedules and tasks at home to make significant contributions within their church, community and state.

Allegra Dane of Iowa City, Lucille Deppe of Maquoketa, Shirley Pilgrim of Nevada and Sally Puttmann of Kingsley are the 1995 IMFHG honorees.

These women represent the thousands of Iowa farm women who are the backbones of their families and communities. They exemplify the hard work and dedication necessary to improve the lives of rural people in this state and nation.

Like previous recipients of this award, Allegra, Lucille, Shirley, and Sally take the time to make a difference. They are role models for youth, working with young people in church, 4-H and school programs. They lead their peers by having the vision to recognize the possibilities and the stamina to carry projects through to fruition. They inspire others with encouraging words and good deeds.

The 1995 honorees join 264 members who have been chosen since the IMFHG was formed in 1928. We salute these extraordinary women for their outstanding contributions to our state through their daily efforts for family, friends, and community.

### Lucille Deppe - IMFH Class of 1995

#### Jackson County

For the past seven years Lucille Deppe has spent a lot of time in jail. She's been forced to clean scrub and scrape paint. And she didn't get time off for good behavior.

On one of the many volunteer projects Lucille has undertaken, she's made tremendous efforts to restore the old Jackson County Jail at Andrew, Iowa. After years of sweat and toil, the jail is nearly completed. In many ways the demanding project has been a special one for Lucille.

"As a little girl, I remember looking across the street at the old jail when I visited my grandparents. My grandfather showed me the tree where they used to hang horse thieves," says Lucille.

The jail, built in 1871 and used until 1896 when a new jail was built in the county seat at Maquoketa, Iowa, is on the registry of National Historic Places. The thick-walled limestone structure is filled with historical displays that give visitors a fascinating look at life in the jailhouse before the turn of the century.

"We've spent hundreds of hours on the jail, but it has been interesting and educational," says Lucille. She and others donated and found historical items, clothing and furniture appropriate for the period. To date, the restoration committee has completed rooms that were used for the kitchen, men's cell block, outside holding pen, sheriff's office, jailer's sitting room and bedroom, and women's cells high up on the third floor.

"If my family ever wondered where I was, they usually knew where to look. I'd be at the jail," says Lucille.

She and her husband Allan farm northwest of Andrew, Iowa with their son, John. They grow crops, run stock cows and finish beef on their 700-acre operation. Lucille has helped with the outside chores and has been farm recordkeeper for 48 years. She grows a big garden every year and has lush flower beds.

Amazingly, the jail project is only one of the dozens of community projects Lucille works on. Her energy is boundless.

"Not only is Lucille willing to be a part of projects, she often initiates them. Her ambition seems to have no limit. Lucille has the right words of encouragement and praise to keep spirits high and motivation going. Her energy and enthusiasm are contagious and everyone around her can't help but be infected by it," writes Kathy Till, mayor of Andrew.

Youth are a special interest of Lucille's and she has always made time for the activities of her children and grandchildren. One day recently she was baking a birthday cake for a granddaughter, making lunch for company while caring for a pre-school grandson, and even finding some time to sew a colorful curtain for another grandson's 4-H beef exhibit at the county fair.

She has served as a 4-H leader for years, helping young people develop communication skills that are useful their entire lives. Lucille also greatly enjoys being involved in religious education, annually preparing a new class of second-graders for their First Communion.

She was an original member of the Jackson County Zoning Commission, serving 12 years as the only woman. She has served in many offices of the Rosary Society at her church, in the Petal Pals Garden Club, Country Club, and has worked extensively with the history of Andrew and Jackson County.

Often Lucille and her family share the same interests and she encourages them to help her with community projects. In this way, the family can work and play together. She and Allan have four children.

James Deppe and his wife Joann live in Ames, Iowa and have two children. John Henry, 10 and Elizabeth, 6. Larry Deppe and his wife Kim farm near LaMotte, Iowa with their two sons, Matt, 18 and Lucas, 16.

Mary Lou Deppe Hudrlik and her husband Steve have three children. Steve, 13, Denver, 10 and Audra, 6. They live in Andrew, Iowa. John also lives nearby with his wife JoEll. They have five children, Heather, 16, Jason, 12, Montana, 5, Chance, 19 months and Austin, 1 month.

#### Shirley Pilgrim - IMFH Class of 1995

##### Story County

The success these young people are having is due to the life skills they learned in 4-H." The Pilgrims operate a 380-acre farm. They were involved in pork production until Dick's allergies made it difficult to raise hogs. Shirley helped with the livestock operations and also raised, dressed and sold chickens and eggs for many years. She is an avid gardener and has encouraged her grandchildren to learn about gardening by providing a place for them to grow vegetables.

Shirley and Dick are also active in the Central Presbyterian Church in Nevada, Iowa. They have served as elders, Sunday school teachers and choir members. Shirley is presently moderator of Presbyterian Women. The pastor, Brad Braley, speaks highly of

them: "Shirley and Dick's definition of "family" differs from most. At their 40th wedding anniversary, I was introduced to their "kids", the hundreds of young people they nurtured through 4-H over the years.

"Shirley gives of herself in many areas." he continues. "She gives out love and a commitment to share gifts for the betterment of others."

Shirley sees a renewed sense of community through the church, primarily due to their energetic pastor, she believes. But no doubt the young couples also appreciate the dedication and positive examples set by the Pilgrims. They show their faith through the way they live, with sincerity and compassion. "I don't think you survive life without having faith," she quietly adds.

Among Shirley's other activities are the Nevada Community Historical Society, PEO chapter

Sally Puttmann - IMFH Class of 1995  
Plymouth County

Leading by example is the way Sally Puttmann lives her life. She has worked side-by-side with her husband Dwight, driving tractors and feeding hogs. Her beautiful homestead is neat and tidy. Sally donates her time and talents to numerous church, community and regional groups. She never asks of others what she hasn't done, or wouldn't do herself.

Sally's practical, hard-working approach to her own life is a role model for others. A born leader, she gathers opinions and builds consensus to find the best solutions for problems facing agriculture today.

She's not afraid to tackle some of the industry's toughest issues. In fact, this forthright farm woman seems to relish the challenges.

"The concerns that affect agriculture are what interest me," says Sally. She likes world affairs, politics and business, all areas that influence farming.

Sally has become a noted leader in northwest Iowa and throughout the state. Appointed by the governor, she served eight years on the State Soil Conservation Committee. She was recently asked to serve on the board of the Leopold Center, an organization that evaluates research and provides funding for sustainable agriculture.

Sally was among the first women in Iowa to be a county president of the Farm Bureau. She has also been involved with Farm Bureau activities at the state level, as a member of a task force to study the women's organization and as chairperson for Farm Bureau's state environmental resource committee.

"They've asked me to do some things that were not really popular," says Sally. She has worked on tough issues, from large hog confinement operations to conservation compliance.

Sally has suggested changing Farm Bureau women's programs to more closely reflect modern farm women and the consuming public.

"Educational programs such as 'Farm Safety for Kids' and 'Ag in the classroom' need more emphasis. We must move toward more educational programming because so few people are involved with agriculture now. Nearly everyone who lives in the city, and seven out of 10 people who live in the country, need to know what our business is about," she notes.

Through her work with Farm Bureau Speaker's Bureau Sally has expanded the public's knowledge of agriculture by speaking to civic and school groups and to the media.

She and Dwight own a 700-acre crops and livestock farm southeast of Kingsley, Iowa. Throughout their marriage, Sally and Dwight have shared the field work and livestock chores. Sally has also kept the books. Decisions about their farming operation were made jointly. That sharing of the "business" end of farming has helped Sally weigh the economic, environmental and social consequences of her actions on state committees.

Sally has a unique balance of honesty and intelligence, coupled with her ability to listen to others that makes her a valuable asset to the many groups she participates in. She feels that families who farm are better stewards of the land resources than corporate, absentee landowners. She has a sincere desire to improve the lives of farm families. She believes that family farms can survive and prosper.

"I think farms will continue to grow in size. As farms get larger and more automated, farm families can supply the necessary labor while working together to achieve common goals. With more automation and less hard physical labor, there will also be more opportunities for women in agriculture," says Sally.

As strong advocates of education-both she and Dwight were community leaders who supported a local school bond issue-the Puttmanns place a high priority on learning. Sally has trained to teach adults how to read through the Adult Literacy Program.

In spite of her busy schedule, Sally treasures her family time and looks forward to visits from her grandchildren. Daughter Sandy Puttmann Salmon and her husband Matt have three boys, Caleb, 12, Jesse, 9, and Peter, 7. They live in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Daughter Kay Puttmann Michaelson lives in nearby LeMars, Iowa, with her husband Brian and their two children, Adam, 10, and Jenelle, 5.