

2013 Iowa Master Farm Homemakers Guild Inductees

Nancy Beyer - IMFH Class of 2013

Iowa County

A thoughtful leader, Nancy Beyer has contributed to her community and local, state and international organizations. She and Larry, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary earlier this year, have farmed near Marengo in Iowa County since 1968. They have two sons: John, a computer software engineer and Mike, who farms with Larry and Nancy. The family has a detailed transition plan, but in the meantime Nancy is secretary of the family farming business.

After graduation from Iowa State University, Nancy was an Army wife for five years. She taught high school economics for three years, and worked as ISU Extension home economist in Iowa County for 10 years, then both Iowa and Benton counties for five years. She was also a county newspaper reporter for nine years and editor of a magazine for older Iowans for five years.

Beyer's global involvement has included foreign travel, hosting students and international exchanges. Nancy and Larry have been to China on a farm trade mission, where she wrote articles and took photos to publicize what was accomplished, and traveled to Ukraine and Sweden. In turn they've hosted men and women from Ukraine, Sweden, Finland and Russia.

A member of Associated Country Women of the World, Nancy helped organize the ACWW "Women Walk the World" day in Iowa County last year. She was PEO scholarship chair and a past president of Lions Club and PEO. Nancy has also been involved with the First United Methodist Church and 4-H activities for many years.

Nancy has organized more than one community fundraising drive, and most recently spent a year and a half working hard to help produce two books on the 50 year history of Marengo, Iowa. "The books will preserve the history of our community for generations to come," she says.

Carol Gilbert - IMFH Class of 2013

Hardin County

Energetic, hardworking and full of ideas, Carol Gilbert is an organizer. She's been the driving force in developing the Hardin County Community Endowment Foundation, serving as its chair and co-chair since it was started eight years ago. The foundation meets charitable community needs through leadership, grants, donor services and community betterment projects.

Carol's volunteerism began early and continues to the present. She cites the endowment foundation as one of the most meaningful of her volunteer efforts.

She and a friend have also recently started a new philanthropic group in Hardin County called "100 Women Who Care." So far they have 72 members who meet quarterly and donate \$100 per meeting. Members propose charities or community projects for the money gathered each meeting night, discuss the proposals, vote on which ones to accept and decide how much to spend on each. Then they go home. Raising \$7200 per meeting can do a lot for a community project and do it quicker than holding a bake sale.

Carol attended Iowa State University, where she met Charlie Gilbert. Upon her graduation in 1971 and marriage to Charlie, they began farming in the Iowa Falls area. Carol was an ISU Extension home economist for the Hardin and Story counties for three years before deciding to stay home on the farm. Working from home, Carol was a freelance writer for farm magazines and area newspapers, then worked in program

development at Quakerdate School at New Providence, and also worked for the Iowa Falls Chamber of Commerce and Ellsworth Community College.

An avid reader, she's a member of Isabella Literary Club, serves on the ISU Extension Citizen Advisory Council and is very active in the Iowa Falls First United Methodist Church. She's been the Christian youth educator and is currently part of a team that faithfully cooks and serves a Wednesday meal open to all people in the area.

Carol and Charlie helped bring the Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University to the church and community. They have two married daughters, Suzanne Akelson and Kimberly Van Pelt and nine grandchildren.

Lisa Tapper - IMFH Class of 2013

Hamilton County

Lisa Tapper's accomplishments as a teacher for 34 years have earned her many accolades and awards, but it's the things she does outside the classroom that earned her the title of Iowa Master Farm Homemaker. Lisa and husband Scott own and operate a 11000 acre diversified grain and livestock farm near Webster City in Hamilton County. Lisa isn't directly involved in the day-to-day farm operation but she pays bills, is involved in major farm decisions, and her employment provides health care insurance and a steady base income.

Lisa earned a Bachelor's degree in Home Economics Education from Iowa State University and a Master's in Family and Consumer Science Education. Lisa taught for 20 years at Northeast Hamilton High School before becoming a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Eagle Grove High School for 11 years where she manages a strong high school culinary arts and program that offers hours of dual credit classes in cooperation with local community colleges.

Lisa has been a 4-H club leader, a judge at county fairs and the Iowa State Fair, a trainer for 4-H judges and serves as secretary of the Hamilton County Extension Council. "Her whole career has been about kids," declares Scott.

In other activities, Lisa is chair-elect of the National Pork Board's Nutrition Pork Quality and Safety Committee, president of the board of directors of the Iowa Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), is active in the Iowa affiliate of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, and has served on the Hamilton County Fair Foundation.

Lisa was honored as Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher of the Year in 1998. Scott and Lisa are active in the Kamrar Presbyterian Church where Lisa is the organist, Sunday school music leader, and church elder. All three of their children - Matthew, Kathleen and Mark - took responsibility for starting a cow herd with 4-H bottle calves. The proceeds paid for their education at Iowa State University.

Shirley Webb - IMFH Class of 2013

Webster County

Perhaps Shirley Webb's son, Randy, sums it up best, "She always worked hard at home, between four kids, laundry and meals, there were livestock chores morning and night, a huge garden to tend, church every Sunday, and still always there to lend a helping hand when a neighbor needed it."

That's a pretty good description of an Iowa Master Farm Homemaker.

Shirley and her husband Ron farmed for nearly 60 years near Moorland in Webster County. Besides row crops they raise hogs, calves, and purebred Suffolk sheep.

Raising and showing sheep was a major family activity - in 1992 they showed a national grand champion lamb at the largest sheep show in the country in Louisville, Kentucky.

"I've been a homemaker for 58 years," declares Shirley. She's kept farm records and helped with sows, pigs, ewes and lambs. But her true passion is gardening. She has always had a huge garden and canned just about every vegetable, including the sauerkraut her family loves as well as fruit from apple, cherry and peach trees. "We don't buy any vegetables," she says.

Shirley has quilted for 12 years making special quilts for her 10 grandkids and two great grandchildren.

All four children, Randy, Jaci, Scott, and Sheryl, were active in 4-H. Shirley still coordinates the bake sale every year at the fair. Long-time supporters of 4-H, Shirley and Ron were awarded Webster County's 4-H Hall of Fame Award in 2010.

Shirley has served as president of the Fort Dodge Area Gardener's Club and for 20 years has been a reader for the Iowa Radio Reading Information Service for the blind and print handicapped.

At Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Moorland, Shirley helps distribute communion at two weekly masses and takes her turn in this ministry at Sunday mass. Along with several other ladies, she serves all the funeral dinners at the church.