

PENNSTATE



College of  
Agricultural  
Sciences

# PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL NETWORK

## 2006-2007 BIANNUAL REPORT



*Pennsylvania Women's Agricultural Network is a partnership of Penn State Cooperative Extension & Outreach, Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture, PA Certified Organic, PA Department of Agriculture, PA Department of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and The Rodale Institute*

# MISSION STATEMENT

The Pennsylvania Women's Agricultural Network (PA-WAgN) supports women in agriculture by providing a positive learning environment, networking, and empowerment.

The Pennsylvania Women's Agricultural Network provides educational events for Pennsylvania women farmers and agricultural professionals. We are pleased to provide this summary of our accomplishments and activities during 2006 and 2007.

Our many outreach and educational activities improved farmers' profitability and environmental sustainability. We attribute the success of PA-WAgN to the involvement of farmers, a research-based approach, and our collaborations with other groups and organizations. Farmers, Penn State Extension educators and specialists, and other partners work collaboratively to plan and deliver high-quality educational programs in supportive learning environments. Our 28 events covered a range of topics including production and infrastructure, business management and marketing, and other timely topics. Many of our events involved hands-on learning on farms or in classrooms. Nearly every farmer (95%) who attended our events reported that they learned something new and plan to modify their operations based on information from our field days or other events.

Involvement in PA-WAgN increases steadily. Our membership has grown exponentially from 100 in 2005 to over 900 at the end of 2007. Our members receive our newsletters and attend events. Our steering committee members and regional representatives work hard to ensure that our programs meet the timely needs of women farmers.

Our goals are to:

- Improve women farmers' enterprises, businesses, and production practices;
- Develop state and regional networks of women farmers, educators, and ag professionals;
- Work with women's ag networks in the United States and internationally; and
- Provide national and international leadership in research on farm women.

Our activities benefit from funding from USDA National Research Initiative, USDA Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education, USDA Risk Management Agency, Penn State College of Agriculture, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology at Penn State, and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. We thank all of our collaborators.

We are excited to work with you and our other partners in 2008 and beyond. If you would like more information on the Pennsylvania Women's Agricultural Network, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Mary Barbercheck, Kathy Brasier, Jill Findeis, Nancy Ellen Kiernan, Carolyn Sachs, Linda Stewart Moist, Ann Stone, Amy Trauger

# STEERING COMMITTEE

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Amy Trauger**, Chairperson  
**Heidi Secord**, Vice-Chairperson  
**Ann Stone**, Secretary

## ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Organizational Representatives primarily, but not exclusively, interact with the organizations of which they are representatives, and build connections with members and representatives of other agriculture-related organizations.

**Natalie Aurand**, VoAg Teacher, Newport High School  
**Cheryl Cook**, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
**Lyn Garling**, Over the Moon Farm  
**Lucinda Hart-Gonzalez**, Paradise Gardens and Farm  
**Laurel Hoffman**, Natural Resource Conservation Service, US Department of Agriculture  
**Amanda Kimble-Evans**, Rodale Institute  
**Linda Moist**, Pennsylvania Women's Agricultural Network  
**Patti Neiner**, Pennsylvania Certified Organic  
**Virginia Phillips-Redpath**, Media contact  
**Allison Shauger**, PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture  
**Kathy Soder**, Agricultural Research Service, US Department of Agriculture  
**Maggie Stonecash**, Dickinson College  
**Mildred Turner**, Farm Service Agency, US Department of Agriculture

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

PA-WAgN Regional Representatives serve on the statewide Steering Committee. They also plan events in their regions, and offer mentoring opportunities to other farmers in their regions and throughout the state.

### NORTHWEST REGION

Lynne Gelston  
Maggie Robertson

### SOUTHWEST REGION

Melanie Barkley  
Sandy Brown  
Barb Kline

### NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Maryann Frazier  
Claire Orner  
Gay Rodgers  
Chris Wise

### SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

June Hertzler  
Sandra Kay Miller

### NORTHEAST REGION

Cheryl Matulevich  
Heidi Secord

### SOUTHEAST REGION

Lynda Farrell  
Kathy Fields  
Anita Russo

# WORKING GROUP

The PA-WAgN Working Group comprises staff and faculty of the Pennsylvania State University who help develop programming, conduct research, and ensure the continuation of support for PA-WAgN

**Mary Barbercheck**, Department of Entomology  
**Kathy Brasier**, Dept. of Ag. Economics & Rural Sociology  
**Jill Findeis**, Dept. of Ag. Economics and Rural Sociology  
**Nancy Ellen Kiernan**, Cooperative Extension Administration  
**Linda Stewart Moist**, PA Women's Agricultural Network  
**Carolyn Sachs**, Dept. of Ag. Economics & Rural Sociology  
**Ann Stone**, PA Women's Agricultural Network  
**Amy Trauger**, PA Women's Agricultural Network

# PA-WAGN IMPROVES FARM PROFITABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



PA-WAgN field days grow participants' skills related to the profitability and sustainability of their farm businesses. Events were organized in response to members' requests, and emphasized hands-on, farm-based, interactive learning opportunities, with time set aside for networking and mentoring. PA-WAgN partnered with many Pennsylvania organizations to offer events.

## PRODUCTION AND FARM INFRASTRUCTURE

### Tractor Maintenance & Repair

February 1-2, 2006 (Centre County)

*Partner: Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Penn State Extension, and Accokeek Foundation*

Shane LaBrake and Davis Hill taught participants about equipment design, usage, safety and maintenance through hands-on work.



### Establish an Apiary

April 10, 2006

Host: Maryann Frazier, Penn State Honey Bee Specialist, Singing Creek Farm (Huntingdon County)

*Partner: Penn State Extension*

Participants (26) learned how to select an appropriate apiary location, the importance of quality hives and beekeeping equipment, step-by-step installation of honey bee packages and nucleus colonies, and inspection procedures for new and established colonies.

### Fiber Workshop

May 19, 2006

Hosts: Rose Marie Kendall of Wild Rose Farm and Terry Fetterolf of Dundee Farm (Beaver and Allegheny Counties)

Participants (28) learned about fencing and herd health, use of natural dyes for yarn; they discussed direct marketing strategies for commercial yarn sales and community-based on-farm education.

### Vermicomposting Workshop

June 15, 2006

Hosts: Claire & Rusty Orner, Quiet Creek Herb Farm and School of Country Living (Jefferson County)

Participants (17) learned basic vermicomposting techniques for use in both small-scale vegetable and farm-scale crop production. Programs were offered for adults and children simultaneously.





### **Adding True Value: Introduction to Cheesemaking**

January 17-18, 2007

Host: Melanie and Mark Dietrich Cochran of Keswick Creamery (Cumberland County)

Participants (24) learned about cheesemaking as a value-added farm enterprise, from raw milk to marketing the finished product. The group made a batch of cheese, learned how to operate equipment, and discussed recipes and marketing options.

### **Hands-On Heavy Metal: An Equipment Practicum**

January 31 - February 1, 2007 (Centre County)

*Partner: Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture*

Shane LaBrake and Davis Hill taught about 10 participants to use heavy equipment safely, and equipment design, usage, safety and maintenance through hands-on work.

### **Hoophouse Construction**

March 10, 2007

Hosts: Anita Russo and Kathy Fields of Flint Hill Farm (Lehigh County)

*Partner: Penn State Extension of Delaware County*

Participants (20) constructed a 12' by 30' greenhouse for the farm. Penn State Extension educator Warren Goll assisted participants as they created the frame and plastic structure from plans drawn by the host farmers.



### **Adding True Value: Introduction to Cheesemaking**

May 30-31, 2007

*Partners: Penn Soil RC&D, Munnell Run Farm (Mercer County)*

Melanie Dietrich Cochran of Keswick Creamery taught 26 participants how to make artisan cheese as a value-added farm enterprise. The group made several batches of cheese, learned how to operate equipment, and discussed regulations, recipes, and marketing options.

### **Soil Quality Workshop**

August 1, 2007

Host: Ron Gargas Organic Farm (Lawrence County)

*Partner: Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences*

Participants (30) learned about strategies and tools to maintain high soil quality, including cover crops, crop rotation, tillage, cultivation, and soil testing.



### **IPM for Greenhouse Growers**

August 8, 2007

Host: Still Pond Nursery (Berks County)

*Partners: Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Pennsylvania Landscape & Nursery Association*

Participants (17) learned about integrated pest management/biocontrol methods applicable to greenhouse and vegetable growers. The hands-on workshop allowed participants to identify pests and discussed strategies for successful biocontrol.



### **Poultry Processing at Friends Farm**

October 16, 2007

Hosts: Chris Wise and John Favinger of Friends Farm (Blair County)

*Partner: Penn State Extension of Blair County*

Participants (18) toured the farm and its poultry processing facility, butchered and cleaned some birds, and learned about food safety techniques.

## FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT & MARKETING

### **Business Planning**

February 2, 2006 (Centre County)

*Partner: Penn State Extension of Franklin County, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture*

Amber Lockawich, Income Opportunities Educator, taught about 20 participants the steps for developing a business plan, including marketing products and financing a farm-based business.

### **Transitioning to Organic Dairy**

July 19, 2006

*Partners: Organic Valley CROPP Cooperative, Pennsylvania Certified Organic, and Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture*

Hosts: Steve and Jen Yoder (Mifflin County)

Participants (55) learned about opportunities and transition strategies and techniques from organic certification professionals and marketing experts.

### **Somerton Tanks**

July 24, 2006

*Partners: Institute for Innovations in Local Farming, Philadelphia Water Department, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture*

Hosts: Steve and Nichole Shelley, Somerton Tanks Farm (Philadelphia County)

Participants (69) toured the 1/2 acre farm that uses the small-plot intensive relay farming (SPIN) farming method.

### **Direct Marketing**

August 9, 2006

Hosts: Sandy Miller of Painted Hand Farm, Jennifer Halpin of Grass Roots Farm, Melanie Dietrich-Cochran of Keswick Creamery, and John & Mary Fisher of Spring Bank Acres Farm (South-Central PA)

Participants (36) toured the host farms and discussed direct marketing; CSA production techniques and member retention; grass-fed dairy and cheese making; pastured sheep dairy production; and marketing of artisan cheeses.

### **Farm Women in Transition**

October 19, 2006

Hosts: Sandy Crawford of Ho-Crawf Dairy (Bradford County)

Participants (47) learned about value-added endeavors such as agritourism, on-farm markets, and custom heifer raising, and methods to evaluate these opportunities for their own farms.

### **Building Financial Sustainability: A Plan for Success**

November 9-10, 2006 (Butler County)

*Partner: Penn State Extension, Penn State Extension of Franklin County*

Jeff Hyde and Amber Lockawich taught 9 participants tools to evaluate their farm business, establish goals and objectives, assess strategies to reach their goals, and increase income opportunities.

### **Kitchen Incubator Tour**

November 17, 2006 (Lackawanna County)

*Partners: Penn State Extension of Lackawanna County and Keystone College*

About 20 participants toured the Kitchen Incubator at Keystone College and discussed how PA-WAgN can serve farmers. Participants identified workshop topics, including: farmer-to-chef, agricultural business skills, season-extension, agritourism and pick-your-own, diversifying dairy operations, farm succession planning, internet marketing, farm safety, farm mechanics, transitioning to organic, and value-added products.

### **Building Financial Sustainability: A Plan for Continued Success**

March 21-22, 2007 (Luzerne County)

*Partner: Penn State Extension, Penn State Extension of Lebanon County*

Jeff Hyde and Winifred McGee taught 8 participants tools to evaluate their farm business, establish goals and objectives, assess strategies to reach their goals, and increase income opportunities.

### **Farming Alternatives: York County Farm Tour**

September 26, 2007

Hosts: Marc and Jenny Shearer of Swissland Acres, Rob and Lucy Wood of Spoutwood Farm, Tom and Donna Perry of Perrydell Dairy Farm (York County)

*Partner: Penn State Extension of Perry and York Counties*

Participants (27) toured farms with value-added and alternative enterprises, including a milk bottling plant and store on a dairy farm, a rotational grazing operation offering pastured meats and eggs, and a CSA on an organic vegetable farm that also offers entertainment and educational events.

## TIMELY TOPICS

### **Embodiment, Empowerment and Holistic Living**

February 2, 2006 (Centre County)

*Partner: Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture*

Theresa Shay, a yoga instructor and holistic life coach, and Rose Bohn, a spiritual director, led 10 participants through exercises to identify their visions for all areas of their lives, including farm, business, relationships, and family.

### **Avian Influenza Panel Discussion**

April 16, 2006 (Harrisburg)

*Partners: Penn State Extension, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, USDA Animal-Plant Health Inspection Service, American Pastured Poultry Association*

This panel discussion for at-risk poultry producers (about 50 attendees) replaced fears and misconceptions with guidelines and methods to protect flocks and investments. For a summary, visit <http://www.cas.psu.edu/docs/biosecurity/avianfluvideos.html>.

### **Progressive Dinner**

July 10, 2006 (Centre County)

*Partner: Slow Food Central PA*

Hosts: Lyn Garling, Sue Haney, Raymond Fischer

Three Penns Valley farmers hosted 54 visitors for a progressive dinner (each course was held at a different farm) that forged connections between farmers and consumers and enhanced the farmers' future business opportunities.

### **Celebrating Entrepreneurial Women in Agriculture**

January 9, 2007 (Pennsylvania Farm Show, Harrisburg)

*Partner: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture*

The Pennsylvania Farm Show's third annual Women in Agriculture Day highlighted the growing number of female farmers and how they're changing the face of the agricultural community. Approximately 200 people attended.

### **Tour of the Rodale Institute**

June 13, 2007 (Lehigh County)

*Partners: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and The Rodale Institute*

Participants (52) toured Rodale's demonstration gardens, greenhouse, medicinal garden, CSA, and research fields.

### **Growing Together: Developing Skills & Expanding Networks**

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of PA-WAgN

March 2-3, 2007 (Centre County)

Participants (about 30) attended intensive workshops on business planning, equipment maintenance and repair, and holistic living.

### **Meeting with Senator Casey**

August 15, 2007

Host: Kim Tait of Tait Farms (Centre County)

Senator Robert Casey met with 8 PA-WagN members to better understand the struggles of women in agriculture and the concerns faced by small and mid-sized farms.

### **A Seasonal Dinner at Friends Farm**

August 18, 2007

Host: Chris Wise of Friends Farm (Blair County)

Participants (25) met at Friends Farm, a vegetable farm that serves monthly dinners from its seasonal menu. Participants heard about the importance of local food and supporting local farmers from three multi-generational farm families who provided food for the event. The event forged connections between farmers and consumers and enhanced the farmers' future business opportunities.

# PA-WAGN IMPROVES FARM MANAGEMENT & BUILDS NETWORKS

## *Why did participants come to PA-WAgN events in 2006 and 2007?*

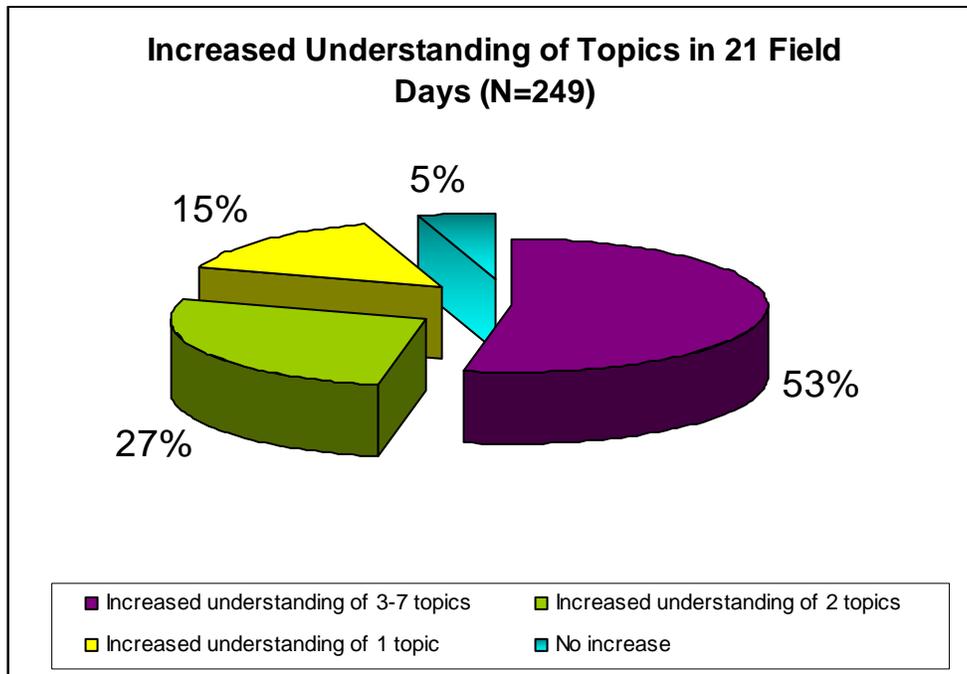
Most (3 in 4 people) came to learn about farming and business practices. In addition:

- 40% came specifically to meet other women farmers in their area,
- about 25% came to become more involved with PA-WAgN
- about 25% came to be a better educator for women in agriculture.

## *What did the participants take from these events?*

Three-quarters of the participants reported they met someone at an event with whom they will stay in contact over the next year. About half of the participants believe they will benefit from this contact by receiving technical information and/or exchanging ideas. In addition, about one quarter believe they will benefit by receiving business leads, sharing experiences, or engaging in other forms of collaboration.

When participants were asked about their understanding of relevant topics before and after each event, 95% reported they had increased their learning in the following way:



Additionally, the farmers indicated that a WAgN event inspired them to take action in various ways within the next 2 years:

ACTION	% of farmers (N=247)
Modify my operation	96%
Become more involved in PA-WAgN	98%
Seek information and people with expertise related to my farm business	96%
Attend educational events	97%
Organize and present an educational event on my farm	88%

### ***Who did these events attract?***

Although most of the participants were farmers (71%), they ranged dramatically in the years they have been farming. About one-third have been long-time farmers (over 20 years), another third are new farmers (1-4 years) and the rest fell in between (5-19 years).

The other participants were primarily educators, but there were also representatives from agricultural businesses, the food industry, non-governmental organizations, the media, as well as student/interns and a public official. Men comprised 7% of the participants.

### ***What do these participants believe?***

These participants demonstrated strong homogeneity in their values:

- 75% think that profitability is of great importance
- Even more, 93%, think environmental stewardship is of great importance
- 57% believe that community acceptance of their farming practices is of great importance.

### ***What do participants want WAgN to focus on in the future?***

Having a strong belief in the importance of profitability, it is not surprising that participants want educational events on topics in these areas:

- Marketing, business management, and finances
- Machinery, equipment, and farm infrastructure
- Crop production techniques
- Livestock production and pasture management
- Activism and change

# PA-WAGN ENHANCES LEADERSHIP OF WOMEN FARMERS



## **Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow**

March 2-3, 2006, in Woodward

PA-WAGN Regional Representatives and Steering Committee members enhanced their leadership skills through the *Learning Today, Leading Tomorrow* program. This program, developed by Penn State Extension, allowed participants to develop skills for the benefit of their businesses, their communities, and PA-WAGN. Special thanks to the following educators who taught the workshop:

Patty Anderson, Clarion County

Neal Fogle, Montour County

Bill Kleiner, Southeast Regional Extension Director

Joann Kowalski, Susquehanna County

Jon Laughner, Indiana County

Mike McDavid, Northeast Regional Extension Director

Joyce Morrison, Delaware County

## **October Steering Committee Meeting and Strategic Planning Session**

October 2, 2006, Shavers Creek Environmental Center (Huntingdon County)

Participants in the leadership workshop insisted that more strategic planning was needed, so that was the focus of the next Steering Committee meeting. The resulting roadmap identified needed educational opportunities, organizational development actions, networking avenues, and leadership opportunities for PA-WAGN members. Regional Representatives were empowered to host events in their regions, to identify potential members and their educational needs, and, based on this information, plan additional field days.

## **Regional Potlucks, Field Days, and Focus Groups**

Regional representatives planned events to provide education and networking opportunities for women farmers in their region. These events publicized PA-WAGN and what it can offer, but more importantly, asked women farmers what they want from PA-WAGN. Workshop topics identified in these events were used to plan field days for 2008.

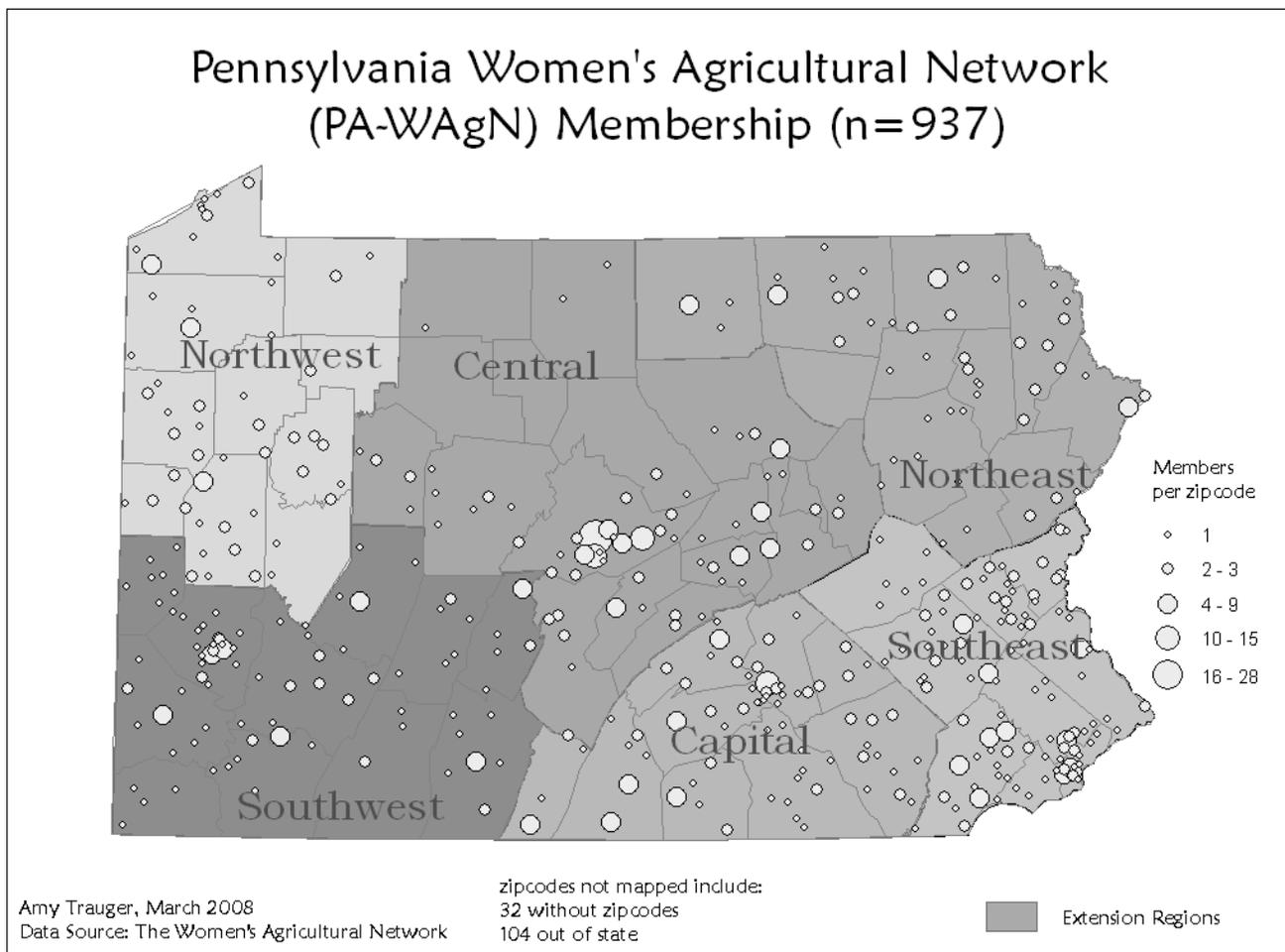
## **Volunteer Commitment**

We estimate that approximately 1,800 hours of volunteer time were given to PA-WAGN activities during 2006-2007. This generous donation of time includes: farmers who hosted field days, regional representatives who planned and coordinated activities, steering committee members who attended quarterly meetings, and women farmers who were interviewed or attended focus groups.

# PA-WAGN CONNECTS WOMEN FOR SUCCESS & SUPPORT

## PA-WAgN Membership

PA-WAGN experienced unprecedented growth during 2006 & 2007. Membership grew from 125 in January of 2006 to just over 900 in December of 2007, with new members joining daily. Members are diverse, including women farmers, agricultural professionals, educators, food service representatives, and consumers.



### Members share information through several channels:

- PA-WAGN website (<http://wagn.cas.psu.edu>) provides information about and online registration for field days, workshops, and special events. Also posted are announcements, current and back issues of the newsletter, and an online membership application.
- E-News is a web page that includes upcoming events and classified advertisements for members.
- Newsletter provides field days, special events, workshops, and conference reports. A calendar of upcoming events and articles are featured in every issue, offering tools and ideas for building skills and knowledge. The quarterly newsletter is distributed PA-WAGN members, Penn State Extension, agriculture professionals, and other interested individuals.

## PA-WAgN Researches the Needs and Opinions of Women Farmers

Grants which combine research and extension efforts are the main source of support for PA-WAgN activities. We conduct research that will benefit members and contribute to the development of the network. Here we summarize the main findings from this research.

### Learning Environment

Women farmers we talked to indicated that they would like a learning environment that includes the following characteristics:

- Interactive, hands-on learning – the chance to learn by doing
- Time specifically for networking – other farmers are important sources of information and long-term support and mentoring
- Horizontal relations – all participants (especially experts) take turns being teachers and learners
- Learning from others who share their experiences, as women and as farmers – recognition that some skills are done differently and effectively by women
- Informality – opportunities to follow topics not formally on the agenda and allow learning through interaction and building connections

### Educational Topics

Specific topics women farmers want to learn about:

- Marketing and business planning
- Production techniques (for both livestock and crops), especially for alternative methods
- Equipment maintenance and building farm infrastructure
- Alternatives to using large equipment

### Barriers to success for women farmers

Two-thirds of women farmers report that not being taken as seriously as male farmers is a moderate or considerable barrier to their success. In addition, more than half of women farmers identified the following as barriers to their success:

- sense of isolation from other women
- sense of isolation from other farmers
- sense that women are not welcome in many ag groups
- lack of family support for role in managing farm
- lack of computer knowledge
- lack of farming background
- need for child care

### Characteristics of women's farm businesses

- Women farmers who responded to the survey were about evenly split between fruit and vegetable and livestock farms (59% each).
- Nearly half (46%) report diverse enterprises, including value-added products, nursery products, education, and multiple products.
- More than three-quarters (79%) report using direct marketing strategies, and about one-third sell through retail (39%), CSA (30%), and subscription (30%).

During a Focus Group conducted by PA-WAgN, a participant expressed a need for peer-to-peer learning:

*“Usually in an audience, at least in farming, there are a lot of people there with a lot of collective experience, whether they know it or not. When they start asking questions, that is when you learn it.”*

## Extension Programming for Women Farmers

Interviews with Extension educators interviewed showed that:

- Experience with women farmers influences educators' perceptions of the challenges women farmers face, their primary responsibilities on the farm, and the importance they place on targeting and marketing their programs specifically to women farmers.
- The majority of educators responding (59%) report that the educational needs of women farmers are somewhat or very different from men farmers.
- One-third (33%) believe that it is moderately or very important to market programs specifically to women farmers.
- Penn State Extension educators have limited experience with women farmers in Pennsylvania.
- Half of educators responding to the survey knew 5 or fewer women who are currently farming.
- 62% report that fewer than 5 women farmers have attended their workshops in the past year.
- About one-fifth (22%) report that no women farmers have contacted them for information in the past year.
- About one-third (32%) report that no women farmers have invited them to visit their farms.

PA-WAgN focus group participants agreed that agricultural education was best obtained through hands-on work and learning by doing. One participant expressed an appreciation for PA-WAgN field days:

*"Field days are such a great way (to learn) because other people ask questions. You go...well I have never thought about that. So I really do like field days. I get a lot out of them. It is a good way to learn and network at the same time."*

## Publications and Presentations by PA-WAgN

Sachs, C. 2007. "Going Public: Networking Globally and Locally." *Rural Sociology*

Agricultural Education: Gender Identity and Knowledge Exchange." Forthcoming in the *Journal of Rural Studies*.

"Our Market Is Our Community: Women Farmers and Civic Agriculture in Pennsylvania, USA." *Agriculture and Human Values*.

"Our Market is Our Community: Women Farmers and Civic Agriculture in Pennsylvania, USA."

Presented at the 2007 meeting of the Agriculture and Human Values Society, Victoria, BC.

"Understanding Effective Educational Programming For Women Farmers In The United States: The Case Of The Pennsylvania Women's Agricultural Network." Presented at the 2006 meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Louisville, KY.

"Pennsylvania Women's Ag Network: Innovative Educational Programs for Women Farmers." Presented at the 2006 National Extension Women in Agriculture Education Conference. St. Louis, Missouri.

"Developing a Network for Women Farmers." Presented at 2006 Women in Agriculture Conference, Dover, Delaware.

## Awards and Recognition

Outstanding Exhibit at the Penn State Extension 2007 Spring Statewide In-service

Abdullah, G. "Not Your Father's Farm." *Penn State Agriculture*. Winter/Spring 2006.

Hons, C. "The Changing Face of Farming." *Penn State Outreach*. Spring, 2006.

Penn State University Vice President for Outreach Award for Learning and Community (2005).

## PA-WAgN Obtains Resources to Sustain the Network

USDA NE Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education: "WAgN: Sustainable Ag Network by and for Women Producers." 4/1/05 - 6/30/08

USDA National Research Initiative Competitive Research Grants Program "Sustaining Small Farms and Rural Communities: The Role of Women Farmers." 7/1/05 - 6/30/08

Northeast Center for Risk Management Education: "Risk Management for Northeast Women Farmers: Adapting Annie's Project." 7/1/2007 - 6/30/2009

Penn State Cooperative Extension POW Mini-Grant Program: "Developing Leadership and Learning Communities Among Women Farmers." 1/1/2007 - 7/1/2007.

Penn State Extension administrators and educators have contributed to individual projects and regional efforts:

- Daney Jackson, Director of Extension
- Dennis Calvin, Associate Director of Extension
- Mike McDavid, Northeast Regional Director
- Many educators from across the state

Penn State University College of Agricultural Sciences administrators provided funds for individual projects and programs as well as facilities:

- Bruce McPheron, Associate Dean for Research
- Marcos Fernandez, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education
- Steve Smith, Head of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology



This project was supported by the National Research Initiative of the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, USDA, Grant # 2005-55618-15910.



This project was supported by Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education Grant # LNE05-226.



Northeast Center for Risk Management Education  
This project was supported by a grant from the Northeast Center for Risk Management Education, Project #RME-DJN02030

## Events Planned for 2008



Collecting sap at Journey's End Farm

March 20. Maple Syrup Production at Journey's End Farm in Wayne County.

April 25. Planning Hands-on Building Workshop at Friends Farm, Blair County.

May 8. Producing & Direct-Marketing Grassfed Meats/Poultry, Cow-a-Hen Farm, Mifflinburg.

May 16. Raising and Marketing Pastured Lamb, Jamison Farm in Latrobe, PA.

May 21. Rodale Research Tour. Emmaus, PA.

June 6. Small Ruminant Production at three Bedford County farms.

June 7, 2008. Hands-on Building Workshop in Perry County.

June 9. Construction of Portable Animal Shelters, Painted Hand in Cumberland County.

July 16. Holistic and Frugal Small Farm Management, So'Journey Farm, Greene County.

August 7. Building a High Tunnel Hands-on Workshop at Josie Porter Farm, Stroudsburg, PA.

September 25. Adding Artisan Cheesemaking to a Conventional Dairy Operation, Birch Run Hills Farm in Chester Springs.



Sukie & John Jamison of Jamison Farm



Touring Research Fields at Rodale Institute

September Date TBD. Farmstead Cheese Tour in South-Central Pennsylvania.

September 11. Taste of Harvest Winery Tour at t J. Maki Winery at French Creek Vineyards, Chester County.

October 16. Community Supported Agriculture Roundtable Discussion at Mildred's Daughters Farm in Pittsburgh.

October Date TBD. Energy-Efficient Vegetable Storage in Springhouses at Clan Stewart Farm in Huntingdon County.

## Supporting Organizations

### **The Pennsylvania State University**

Penn State is a multi-campus public land-grant university that improves the lives of the people of Pennsylvania, the nation, and the world through integrated, high-quality programs in teaching, research, and service. As a land-grant university, it holds a unique responsibility for outreach and public service to support the citizens of Pennsylvania. It engages in collaborative activities with industrial, educational, and agricultural partners here and abroad to disseminate and apply knowledge.

### **Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture**

PASA is a non-profit organization working to improve the economic and social prosperity of Pennsylvania food and agriculture. We work with the farmers that grow our food, the consumers that eat the food, and those concerned with the ecological well-being of our environment and natural resources.

### **Natural Resources Conservation Service**

NRCS puts nearly 70 years of experience to work in assisting owners of America's private land with conserving their soil, water, and other natural resources.

### **Pennsylvania Certified Organic**

PCO, a membership-based non-profit organization, assures the integrity of organic agricultural products through education, inspection, and certification of Pennsylvania-based growers, processors, and handlers.

### **Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture**

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture encourages, protects, and promotes agriculture and related industries throughout the Commonwealth.

### **Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection**

The Department of Environmental Protection's mission is to protect Pennsylvania's air, land, and water from pollution, and to provide for the health and safety of its citizens through a cleaner environment. The agency partners with individuals, organizations, governments, and businesses to prevent pollution and restore our natural resources.

### **The Rodale Institute**

The Rodale institute works with people worldwide to achieve a regenerative food system that renews environmental and human health working with the philosophy that "Healthy Soil = Healthy People."



**Visit PA-WAgN on the web:**

**<http://wagn.cas.psu.edu>**



**PENNSTATE**



The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. It is the policy of the University to maintain an academic and work environment free of discrimination, including harassment. The Pennsylvania State University prohibits discrimination and harassment against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Discrimination or harassment against faculty, staff, or students will not be tolerated at The Pennsylvania State University. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 328 Boucke building, University Park, PA 16802-5901, Tel 814-865-4700/V, 814-863-1150/TTY.