



Every Step Matters

AWA DAY 2026



2025-2026

Snapshot



ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Welcome

AWA Day 2026

Saturday, April 18



Order of Events

- 5:00 PM** Gather & Graze Social
6:00 PM Buffet Dinner & Program
8:00 PM The Long Run: Lessons in Endurance & Leadership

Emcee *Courtney Booth*



Courtney Booth is the co-founder of Booth Leadership, based in Plymouth. Together with her husband, Chris, she partners with organizations to design customized leadership development programs, professional coaching, and facilitation support that unlock the potential in people and teams. Courtney grew up on her family's farm in Forest Junction. She graduated from UW-Madison with a degree in agricultural journalism and went on to serve as Wisconsin's 50th Alice in Dairyland. With more than

27 years of experience in leadership, sales, and communications, Courtney is known for her authentic presence, connecting energy, and values-centered approach to leadership. She and Chris have been married for 27 years, have four children, and make their home on their family farm, Booth-Haven Holsteins, just outside Plymouth.

Keynote Speaker *Louann Hausner*



Louann Hausner believes in the importance of lifting up others, taking her role as an AWA sunshine coordinator to a whole new level! Going right from UW-Madison to John Deere, she has enjoyed a rewarding 27-year career at John Deere, where one of her favorite activities is mentoring and coaching various teams, whether working on agriculture in Australia or forestry in Finland or construction in Chile! She makes time for volunteering and has completed 12 agricultural or educational mission trips to French-speaking

Haiti & Togo, West Africa. As a third-generation beekeeper, she stays active in the honey industry by providing marketing and media coaching to their national spokespeople. And to keep up with all of this, she was not only flying but also running across the globe, achieving her goal of running a marathon on all seven continents, cheering on many runners, and race volunteers, along the way! Alone we can go fast, but together, we can go far!

Benefit Corporation *President's Message*



Katy Katzman

This past year has been one of meaningful connection, growth, and commitment for the Association of Women in Agriculture Benefit Corporation (AWABC). Our alumni network remains a powerful force of women who advocate for agriculture, lead within their professions, and give back in impactful ways. Through mentorship, financial support, and engagement, our alumni play a critical role in sustaining the strength and legacy of AWA. One of the most rewarding aspects of this year has been strengthening the connection between alumni and student members.

Through events, outreach, and support, we have worked to ensure student members feel encouraged and inspired by those who came before them. These relationships are essential to carrying forward the mission and values of AWA. At the same time, we recognize that volunteer-led organizations face increasing demands today. Balancing professional responsibilities, personal commitments, and service is no small task. Despite these challenges, our alumni continue to show up with dedication, flexibility, and a shared commitment to the mission. Their willingness to adapt and lead with purpose has been essential to maintaining strong governance and ensuring the long-term sustainability of AWA and the AWABC. Thank you to our board, alumni, and supporters for your ongoing investment in AWA and for the many ways you contribute your time, talents, and resources. I encourage all alumni to continue to engage, whether through mentorship, participation, or giving, as we work together to support the next generation of women in agriculture.

Student Organization *President's Message*



Amanda Bender

Our student organization remains deeply committed to advocating for agriculture, fostering professionalism, serving our community, and strengthening our sisterhood. We currently have 73 members, including five new members who joined us this spring thanks to the leadership of our recruitment coordinator. Our membership represents a wide range of majors, from dairy science to atmospheric and oceanic sciences, highlighting the diversity and strength within our organization. Last fall, we hosted Badger Ag Day, welcoming elementary

and middle school students to campus for hands-on agricultural experiences. One of the most impactful moments of the semester was our campaign to support two alumni through a t-shirt fundraiser that raised just under \$2,000. Our spring semester carried that same energy and dedication. Under the leadership of our service coordinator, we hosted our annual Rally to Fight Hunger, packaging 21,000 meals. We also celebrated at Spring Formal through the continued efforts of our activities coordinator. These events would not have been possible without the careful planning and support of our treasurer and our entire officer team. We are incredibly grateful to our alumni for their ongoing support and dedication. AWA continues to grow, adapt, and thrive because of the passion and commitment of the women who make up this organization. Thank you for another remarkable year!

2025 - 26
Benefit Corporation

Board Members

Principal Officers

President



Katy Katzman

Vice President



Dianne Deaton Viehlhuber

Secretary



Marjorie Stieve

Treasurer



Jaden Henneman

Committee Chairs

Advancement



Nicole Broegee

Communications



Taylor Gracyalny

Education



Bethany Dado Senn

House Management



Sharon Brantmeier

House Management



Jill Makovec

Programming



Anne Runde

Programming



Sabrina Servais

Directors

Director At Large



Dorothy Harms

Director At Large



Taylor Reisimer

2025 - 26
Student Organization

Officer Team

Principal Officers

President



Amanda Bender

Vice President



Grace Mansell

Secretary



Bailey Botterman

Treasurer



Natalie Hensen

Coordinators

Activities



Sydney Schott

Alumni



Maya Wiltzius

Communications



Jenna Kudrna

Fundraising



Haylie Habeck

Recruitment



Rachel Kalbas

Sentinel



Claire Esselman

Service



Kelly Herness

Sunshine



Chloe Breunig

House Team

House Manager



Justyne Frisle

House Steward



Gina Frisle

House Assistant



Olivia Uttech

2025-2026 Student Activities

Alumni Activities

- Poised, Professional & Polished Seminar
- Life After College Seminar
- Alumni Dinners

House Activities

- Kahoot Night
- Baby Pumpkin Painting
- Trick or Treat
- Bingo Night
- Friendsgiving
- Ornament Painting
- Card & Board Game Night
- Valentine's Exchange

Service Activities

- Blood Drive
- Christmas Card Making
- Rally to Fight Hunger
- Valentine's Day Card Making
- Cat Bed Making

Social Activities

- Brewer Game With AGR
- Henry Vilas Zoo
- Pumpkin Carving
- Drive Through Christmas lights
- Christmas Party
- Study Day

Outstanding Class Members

Freshman

- 2025 Olivia Uttech
- 2024 Natalie Hensen
- 2023 Maryann Gudenkauf
- 2022 Sydni Mell
- 2021 Mae Buttles

Sophomore

- 2025 Kelsey Hardy
- 2023 Maryann Gudenkauf
- 2022 Natalie Roe
- 2021 Nicole Broege
- 2020 Sophy Henisz

Junior

- 2025 Amanda Bender
- 2023 Tamra Ihm
- 2022 Ana McCourt
- 2021 Sara Johnson
- 2020 Kimberly Mason

Senior

- 2025 Emma Vos
- 2023 Nicole Broege
- 2022 Alexis Kwak
- 2021 Alexis Luedtke
- 2020 Emily Franke

The Outstanding Senior is recognized by the AWA Benefit Corporation with a lifetime alumni membership.



2025 - 2026 House Update

The AWA House extends beyond just a place to live. It is a home rooted in tradition, community, and legacy. Over the past year, the House Management Committee thoughtfully prioritized and completed projects to ensure the house continues to serve both current and future members. Following a comprehensive walk-through in May 2025, the committee executed an ambitious list of updates and improvements, while also laying the groundwork for future enhancements. Our goal remains to ensure the house is a safe, welcoming, and functional home for all residents.

Completed Projects

- Reconstructed the donor brick entry to house
- Purchased new furniture for the Great Room
- Painted the first-floor interior and outside back doors
- Hired a new cook and a maintenance person
- Installed logo wall art and a house rendering
- Replaced security lighting and updated exterior lighting
- Epoxied the basement floor and walled off the mechanical room



Thank you to the **House Management Committee** for its commitment to 1909!

Chairs: Sharon Brantmeier & Jill Makovec

House Manager: Justyne Frisle

House Steward: Gina Frisle

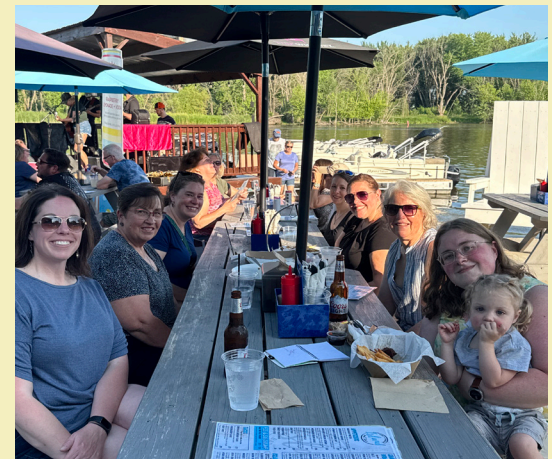
House Assistant: Olivia Uttech

In-House Rep: Maya Wiltzius

Out-of-House Rep: Jenna Kudrna

Alumni Committee Members

Kylene Anderson, Nicole Broege, Maureen DeBruin, Jaden Henneman, Stephanie Hoff, Ann Hoskins, Brenna Johnson, Katy Katzman, Kate Leverich, Mena Schmitt, Deb Wendorf Boyke



2025 - 26
Anniversary Class Members

1976

Ronna Morton Ballmer
Darlene Eckerman
Donna Humphreys
Kathleen Krause
Emily Uhlenhake
Kathryn Waite Braun

1996

MaryEllen Karls
Krista Knigge
Tracie Luedtke
Colleen Oestreich
Kimberlee Schoonmaker
Jolynne Schroeffer

2016

Erica Ballmer Riley
Alexus Berndt
Liz Beth
Mikaela Breunig
Bethany Dado Senn
Jessi Dercks Getschel
Alyssa Gehring Foss
Sara Harn Ryerson
Rachel Hartlaub
Lindsey Hellenbrandt Tjugum
Kate Jaeger
Kayla Langer
Erica Olson Gentry
Olivia Peter Dearborn
Jaime Sawle Remer
Katie Schumacher
Emily Selner

1986

Jill Becker
Lisa Graser
Lisa Hagenow
Valerie Johnson Renk
Julie Larson
Barbara Sattler
June Strupp
Marcy Tessmann
Gail Wyse

2006

Rhonda Braun
Nicole Breunig
Christine Lindner
Laurie Pilgram
Roberta Pruski
Susan Rieden
Crystal Ripp
Beth Schaefer
Amanda Seichter

2021

Jenna Broege
Amanda Gimenez
Taylor Gracyalny
Emma Gwidt Powers
Megan Lehr
Ashley Nelson
Lindsey Sarbacker
Alexis Schultz
Emily Schwanke
Emily Vander Grinten

2026
Graduating Seniors

Faith Baerwolf



Agricultural & Applied Economics, Life Sciences Communication
Certificate: Digital Studies

Alonda Bardney



Animal and Veterinary Biosciences

Amanda Bender



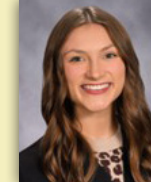
Plant Pathology

Bailey Botterman



Legal Studies

Lauren Breunig



Life Sciences Communication
Certificates: Ag Business, Entrepreneurship, Food Systems, Digital Studies

Gina Frisle



Dairy Science

Justyne Frisle



Agricultural & Applied Economics, Life Sciences Communication

Jenna Gries



Dairy Science

Kelly Herness



Agricultural & Applied Economics, Life Sciences Communication

Rachel Kalbas



Biology, Global Health
Certificate: Athletic Healthcare

Sara Kronberg



Life Sciences Communication
Certificates: Public Policy, Entrepreneurship, Digital Studies

Jenna Kudrna



Life Sciences Communication

Elli Lalor



Animal Sciences

Grace Mansell



Biological Systems Engineering
Certificate: Fermented Foods and Beverages

Alexandria McCourt



Textiles & Fashion Design

Lilly Olsen



Dairy and Food Animal Management

Sydney Schoot



Communication Sciences and Disorders
Certificate: Disability Rights and Services

Clarissa Ulness



Dairy Science
Certificates: Life Sciences Communication, Art Studio

This year, we will award 18 scholarships totaling \$18,750.

Thank you to the Selection Committee of Angie Christenson, Kylie Konyn, and Sarah Lenkaitis, as well as to the Education Committee chaired by Bethany Dado Senn and including Ciera Ballmer, Kylie Konyn, Meg Sage, Jolynne Schroepfer, and Brooke Trustem, for their efforts.

A special thanks to our generous donors for making these scholarships possible.

AWA Endowment Fund Scholarships

Delma Woodburn Memorial Scholarship

Delma was born near Mt. Horeb. She graduated from UW-Madison in 1921 with a degree in economics and from Farm & Industry Short Course in 1940. Delma had a keen interest in history, agriculture and land conservation. She provided encouragement and fiscal support to AWA when our idea of a house was just a dream. Delma loved attending our annual meeting and other events when she could to see and meet younger women in their quest for success in agriculture.

Dr. David Dickson Memorial Scholarship

Dr. Dave was a dairy science professor, long-time coach of the UW Judging Team and advisor to many dairy science students. He impacted the lives of countless students throughout his time at UW and was a big supporter of AWA. He was a major contributor to the new house fund and supported AWA in many other ways, including providing piano entertainment at AWA Day. Dinners in honor of his birthday were held each year at the house in appreciation of his long-time friendship and support.

Cynthia Benevenga Memorial Scholarship

Cynthia was an active member of the Madison community through the Daughters of Demeter (now Demeter), The University League and the League of Women Voters Dane County. She was a believer in women's equality and scholarship and came to AWA Day for many years and presented scholarships to our members on behalf of Demeter. Cynthia was a great supporter of AWA and admired the passion she saw in our members.

AWA Active Member Scholarship

Awarded to AWA student members with a strong dedication to AWA activities and values.

AWA House Resident Scholarship

Awarded to AWA student members contributing to a positive AWA house community as residents.

Other Scholarships

Demeter Scholarship

Demeter is a nonprofit organization that provides support for students in the College of Agricultural & Life Sciences. Its members also engage in community projects and promote friendship and fellowship among agricultural and life science professionals, their families and community members.

Dr. Larry Satter Memorial Scholarship

Dr. Larry Satter worked in the Dairy Science Department, then at the USDA Dairy Forage Research Center, as one of the world's foremost scientists in dairy nutrition. Early on, Dr. Satter took a keen interest in AWA and our members. He helped guide us in our quest for a living unit, first contacting Rural Insurance, who ultimately loaned us funds to build our house. At his retirement reception, he listed AWA's success as one of his most notable accomplishments. He saw the need for AWA, the students' desire for it and the potential for our group - on campus and in the ag arena at-large.

Grateful Badgers Scholarship

First awarded in 2018, this scholarship is presented annually, alternating each year between AWA and AGR. It is made possible through the generosity of AWA/AGR alumni Krista Knigge and Corey Geiger.

Nicole Bangart Memorial Scholarship

The Nicole Bangart Memorial Scholarship was established in 2015 through the generosity of the Bangart family, Brady Kees and AWA. Nicole had a great love for agriculture - especially animals - that started at a young age, and she spent many hours helping out on the family farm. After high school, UW-Madison was Nicole's only choice to continue her education. Coming from a small, rural town, Madison had its challenges for Nicole, but she found her place as a member of AWA and thrived. She loved all the activities AWA had to offer, being a big sister, and all the friendships she made.

Kelsey Jo Olson Memorial Travel Scholarship

Kelsey Jo Olson graduated with a degree in life sciences communication in May 2015 and passed away in September 2015. She contributed to the UW-Madison campus through her involvement in AWA and NAMA, competing with the marketing team at the national level. Her family shares her legacy by providing a scholarship to a young lady who is involved in both AWA and NAMA. This scholarship will offset the travel expenses to the national competition in memory of Kelsey Jo and her drive to succeed.

2025 - 2026

Donors

Scholarship Individuals

Erica Ballmer-Riley
 Cindy Bangart
 Thomas & Tammy Beard
 Roger & Lisa Behnke
 Andrew & Naomi Bernstein
 Dean & Mary Booth
 Rachel Christiansen
 Robert & Susan Crane
 Maureen DeBruin
 Margaret Dentine
 Corey Geiger & Krista Knigge
 Rosalie Geiger
 Lydia Hardie
 Craig Hardy & Janet Vosberg
 Philip & Mary Hasheider
 Louann Hausner
 Witold & Marcia Henisz
 Joe & Elizabeth Henry
 Eric & Carol Hillan
 Taylor Holterman
 Carl & Jodi Hoynoski
 Donna Humphreys
 Jessica Jacobsen
 Brad & Kate Jaeger
 Chuck Jinkins & Jill Armbruster
 Randal & Linda Jones
 Nancy Kaufman
 Brady Kees
 Tommy & Kaitlyn Kesler
 C Pete Knigge
 Carol Knox
 Deanna Kovar
 Sandy Larson
 Lynn Leahy
 Barbara Lee
 Mariah Martin
 Lawrence & Elaine McCann
 Jerome & Christina Meyer
 Kristin Natzke
 Timothy & Barbara Natzke
 Michael Pope & Karen Marsh
 Marc & Jessica Powell, PMJ Farm Service
 Christopher & Lynnette Pozorski

Scholarship Individuals

Russell & Karen Rindsig
 Eliza Ruzic
 Charles & Barbara Sattler
 Richard & Susan Schultz
 Bart & Janice Schyvinck
 Ivan & Mary Schuster, Bee-Bow Acres
 Randy Shaver & Sharon Brantmeier
 Lise Thomas
 Rick & Dianne Vielhuber
 Kent & Anna Wendorf
 Monica Woldt

Scholarship Organizations

AWA Benefit Corporation
 Balchem Corporation
 Compeer Financial
 John Deere Foundation
 Union Pacific Foundation

Additional Scholarship Recognition

Community Foundation For the Fox Valley Region Inc (in memory of Nicole Bangart)
 Dairy Conferences LLC
 Grateful Badgers
 Kelsey Jo Olson Family

AWABC Professional Development Fund

Mikaela Breunig
 Dorothy Harms
 Wes & Katy Katzman
 Sandy Larson
 Valerie Renk
 Christine Sydow

AWABC House Conservation Fund

Erica Ballmer-Riley
 Kevin & Julie Larson
 Sandy Larson
 Lindsey Worden

2025 - 26

Awards

Outstanding Woman in Agriculture

The Outstanding Woman in Agriculture is recognized by the AWA Benefit Corporation for her significant influence on the agricultural industry.

2025	Katy Katzman	2019	Cathy Sherman
2024	Tammy Vaassen	2018	Deb Reinhart
2023	Mary Knigge	2017	Shelly Mayer
2022	Pam Hodgson	2016	Laura Daniels
2021	Dr. Sandy Curran	2015	Julie Larson

Founders Award

The AWA Founders Award is presented by the AWA Benefit Corporation to an individual who has had a significant influence on AWA.

2025	Ronna Morton Ballmer
2024	Jill Armbruster
2023	AWA Founding Members
2022	Deb Wendorf Boyke
2021	Jill Makovec
2018	Valerie Johnson Renk
2017	Sue Schultz
2016	Kylene Anderson
2015	Daphne Holterman
2010	Marjorie Stieve

Outstanding Alumnus

The Outstanding Alumnus award is presented by the student organization to an AWA alumnus who is excelling in her agricultural career.

2025	Sydney Flick
2024	Katy Katzman
2023	Deb Wendorf Boyke
2022	Eliza Ruzic
2021	Laura Daniels
2019	Kaitlyn Riley-Kesler
2018	Pam Selz-Pralle
2017	Krista Knigge
2016	Kristin Natzke
2015	Sharon Brantmeier

Honored Guest

The Honored Guest is recognized by the student organization for significant time and/or resources donated to AWA, demonstrating outstanding support.

2025	Gaffney Family Cattle
2024	Charles Sara
2023	Anna Gudenkauf
2022	Alice in Dairyland Program
2021	Maple Leaf Landscaping
2019	Dane County Dairy Promotion
2018	Dave Warren
2017	Bob Williams Family
2016	Robby Weyker (UW Meat Lab)
2015	Dave Black & WSUM

Friend of AWA

The Friend of AWA is awarded by the student organization for going above and beyond the call of duty to help AWA and its members throughout the year.

2025	Brenna Johnson
2024	Anne Runde
2023	Julie Larson
2022	Dr. Heather White
2021	Megan Lauber
2019	Maureen DeBruin & Barb Lee
2018	Megan O'Rourke
2017	Jill Makovec
2016	Jessica Held
2015	Melissa Cheeks

How to Get Involved



The AWABC Annual Meeting will be held **Monday, April 27** at 6 pm. The meeting is open to all student, associate and alumni members.

Join in person:
Vita Plus
2514 Fish Hatchery Rd
Madison

**Register to
join virtually:**



Get involved and make a difference! AWA thrives when members actively participate on a committee, working closely with the student organization to drive its success.



Strengthen your connections and celebrate our sisterhood by attending an upcoming event!

Football Tailgate.....September 19
Sisterhood at the Supper Club.....Early 2027
AWA Day.....April 2027



Help us share the story of our growing alumni network by engaging in the AWA Alumni group! If you see an alum in the news, give her a shoutout and help us celebrate her success!



Help sustain and grow AWA's impact by making a tax-deductible gift! Your donation allows us to grow events, award additional scholarships, make improvements to the house, and develop new opportunities for members.

AWABC - a 501c3 nonprofit organization that provides student housing, leadership, scholarships and professional support for its members - is eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions.

Thank you to the
Programming Committee
for its work planning AWA Day!

Chairs: Anne Runde & Sabrina Servais

Alumni Coordinator: Maya Wiltzius

Alumni Committee Members:

Katy Katzman, Julie Larson, Liz Matzke,
Taylor Reisimer, Valerie Johnson Renk,
Marjorie Stieve, Emma Vos

Visit our website for more information: www.awamadison.org

Program Sponsor



Program designed by: Anne Runde