



# AWA Happenings

Issue II  
December 2005

## AWA Welcomes Sixteen New Members

It's has been an exciting semester as membership coordinator! We have an outstanding fall joining class of 16 new members.

The semester kicked off with an informational pizza dinner at the house. At this meeting, interested potential members came to find out what AWA is really about. While they enjoyed dinner, the women had the opportunity to speak with active members and look through scrapbooks of activities in the past years. Following the meal, each person introduced themselves to the group.



Each potential AWA woman received a big sister to guide through the joining process. Big sisters are upperclassmen who volunteer their time to attend activities with their little sisters, offer advice when needed, and help the potential become comfortable with the organization. The relationship bonded at this time is often kept throughout the college years and beyond.

During the joining process, the girls are required to take weekly quizzes on the AWA Handbook and complete a service project and a professional activity. The most challenging part of the joining process is interviewing and getting signatures from 35 active members. The purpose of these interviews are to increase communication and friendship among the members.

For their service activity, the fall potentials chose to haunt a room in Saddle and Sirloin's annual Haunted House. This event is hosted for the community. The theme for their room was a haunted cornfield. The potential AWA members gained professional skills as well during the joining process.

Everyone had a chance to brush up their resume writing skills at a workshop hosted by NAMA and CALS

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Career Services.



Finally, the girls celebrated their semester long work with the initiation ceremony. We started with a pasta buffet dinner at Union South before moving to the house to have the ceremony. Afterwards, everyone enjoyed refreshments and welcomed the new members into the association.

I am very proud of all of the potentials for sticking out the whole joining process, even though we all had to make compromises at times. Everyone put forth a great effort and I think that they will make an excellent new addition to AWA! Congratulations ladies!

New members include:

- Shelly Bohn, freshman, dairy science, Watertown
- Annie Dorshorst, freshman, dairy science/biochemistry, Junction City
- Becky Folgert, junior, landscape architecture, Johnson Creek
- Brittany Hanson, sophomore, dairy science/ag journalism, Highland
- Sara Hendrickson, junior, dairy science, Viroqua
- Joell Henken, freshman, dairy science, Burnett
- Danyel Hosto, freshman, dairy science, Juda, WI
- Nicole Knautz, freshman, genetics, Belmont
- Lindsay Morris, freshman, dairy science/agronomy/ag journalism, Watertown
- Nicki Nicksic, junior, clinical laboratory sciences, Waterford
- Katie Pfeiffer, junior, wildlife ecology, North Freedom
- Danielle Russell, sophomore, ag & applied economics, Shullsburg
- Nicole Schmidt, sophomore, dairy science, Gresham
- Ali Schultz, sophomore, dairy science/ag journalism, Hammond
- Hannah Uhlenhake, freshman, biological systems engineering, West Salem
- Annette Zwald, freshman, dairy science, Hammond

*Lindsey Worden, a junior majoring in dairy science and ag journalism from Cassville, NY, serves as the AWA membership officer.*




**AWA Inc.  
President's  
Report**

**Jenny Spoke**

The holiday season is a time to celebrate with family and friends. It is a time when I am especially grateful for the friendships I've made through AWA. In college you make many acquaintances, but there is such a special bond among the women in AWA. I think it starts with a common rural background, learning together in the College of Ag & Life Sciences, and then there are all of the activities we do together. The social, service, and professional opportunities AWA women enjoy and learn from are unique college experiences. Many students' entire college careers consist of class, studying, and partying. How does that prepare them for the "real world"?

The women of AWA work together to run the organization, plan social and professional events, and provide community service. They learn real world skills such as leadership, organization, public relations, marketing, time management, and compassion. Plus they have the support network of alumni who can provide advice and serve as great references. Taking advantage of the opportunities AWA provides not only helps women prepare for a career in agriculture, it also bonds them with their AWA sisters.

The first day I met my freshman roommate was AWA House Clean-Up, together we cleaned every bathroom in the house, and we were best friends by the end of the day. Four years later my final house job was to clean the third floor bathroom, and Amy Bollinger helped me so that we wouldn't be late for the senior party. These memories I will have forever are not about cleaning bathrooms, but about a lifelong friendship. I don't think we would be as close as we remain today without AWA. Happy Holidays!



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# Congratulations to the Graduates



*Katrina Dvorak*

**Hometown:** Manitotow

**Degree:** psychology, certificate in criminal justice

**Future Career Plans:** Something in the social services - either direct mental health care or residential camp program director

**Where will I be in five years?** I'll have my Master's in social work and be working on saving the world - one child at a time!

**Favorite AWA moment:** I lived in the house for three years and had a ton of good times. My favorite moment would have been the night Laurie Volkman and I had to clean the bathroom and woke up the entire side of the hall because we were giggling so hard. I'll never forget that!

**Advice for underclassman:** You'll never forget the girls you live with in college - why not live with 25? The house offers so many resources: friends, doubles or triples in wardrobes, and unforgettable memories.



*Naomi Uhlenbake*

**Hometown:** West Salem

**Degree:** agricultural engineering

**Future Career Plans:** Working at Resource Engineering Associates in Middleton as an engineering technician

**Where do I want to be in five years?** I would like to have my professional engineering license and maybe starting a family?

**Favorite AWA Moment:** There are so many to choose from: being shoveled in by the Babcockers, playing the "What If" game in the Great Room instead of studying, as well as having dance parties in the Great Room because we weren't old enough to go to the bars.

**Advice for Underclassmen:** Be careful whose toes you step on today, they may belong to the butt you have to kiss tomorrow. Give those who make you mad a second chance, they may end up being your best friend in the end. And most of all, college is the best time to take chances and make mistakes, because, once you get into the real world, there is a whole lot more at stake.

## Sharing the Secret of Senior Wills

Senior wills are a time for the seniors to look back on four (or more) years of college. They look at all the friends and memories to pay tribute. It's also a great time to clean out all the junk - I mean mementos - we've accumulated over the years and pass a little bit of sentiment down on the underclassmen. There are some traditions that get passed down every year such as beer to the girls from Rock County, large lingerie to the next girl to get married, and a pink shirt for the hardest partier at AGR. It's a time for laughing at stories, reliving embarrassing moments, and crying at all the wonderful memories made. Senior wills mark graduation for us - not graduation from college, but graduation from an amazing organization that meant so much to us over the years. It's our way of saying good bye, not to our friends, because the friends you make in AWA last a lifetime, but good bye to that college life. It is a way for us to ensure that our stories and memories live on.

*Katrina Dvorak is a senior from Manitotow majoring in psychology, with a certificate in criminal justice.*

# Announcing the 2006 Breakfast on the Farm

This 2006 Breakfast of the Farm is planned for Sunday, April 23, at the West Madison Agricultural Station. A hearty breakfast of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, applesauce, juice, milk and ice cream sundaes will be served from 8 am until noon. There will be entertainment, a petting zoo and an education area for all to enjoy. This is the Association of Women in Agriculture's 11th Annual Breakfast on the Farm!



Preparations for this year's breakfast are already underway. Thirteen of AWA's finest have stepped up to the task of planning and facilitating our 11th Breakfast on the Farm! Chairwomen will spend the next months organizing for breakfast by collecting

donations, lining-up entertainment and publicizing our event. Breakfast on the Farm is not only a great way to educate and promote agriculture to the public, but it's also AWA's opportunity to get more involved in the community.

Mark your calendars for April 23 and join us for the 11th Annual Breakfast on the Farm. If you'd like more information about the 2006 Breakfast on the Farm please contact Nicole Hosto at (608) 213-6124 or [nahosto@wisc.edu](mailto:nahosto@wisc.edu).

*Nicole Hosto*, a senior majoring in dairy science and ag journalism from Juda, is serving as the Breakfast on the Farm co-chairman.

## AWA Members Excel in FFA

Several AWA members excelled at the National FFA Convention in Louisville, KY during the last week of October. The American FFA Degree, the highest honor which can be bestowed upon an FFA member, was earned by Devon Frei, Susan Orth and Linda Behling. This degree awards FFA members for their leadership development, supervised agricultural project, and overall growth in the FFA program. Linda also received additional honors as one of four National Dairy Entrepreneurship Proficiency Finalist. After undergoing interviews, she placed second in the competition.



*Linda Behling* is a sophomore majoring in dairy science from Fox Lake.

## Sisters Bond with a Old Fashioned Sleepover

Girls from AWA and Sigma Alpha had a night of giggling and fun at the AWA sleepover held on November 18. Fun was had by all while playing games, watching movies and eating popcorn.

The night started out with girls in the kitchen making cookie dough and pizza to start things out right. We played Trivial Pursuit Pop Culture, Scatergories and Scrabble while eating and telling stories.



As the night went on we watched movies, talked, and had some excellent bonding with our sisters in AWA and our friends in Sigma Alpha. Overall, there was a great turn-out and a good time.

Because Sigma Alpha is another CALS organization that is made up of women interested in agriculture, having the sleepover gave us a chance to get to know those girls a little better, since many of AWA's members are in both organizations. We are planning to continue to have activities with Sigma Alpha to encourage friendship within CALS.

*Eliza Ulness* is a junior majoring in dairy science from Valders.

## Service Important to AWA Women

Whether it is gaining new experiences and friends, giving back to the community, getting to know AWA sisters better or volunteering at a meaningful event, members of AWA find many ways that service can be important to the organization, as well as their own experiences.

Members are asked to participate in two service activities per year, which could be brought forth by the coordinator or they could arrange it themselves with approval. Some of the activities that members participated in this semester include: environmental restoration at the Saint Benedict Center, pledge takers for the Wisconsin Public Radio telethon, MadCity Beer and Wine Fest for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Preschools of Hope mentor, decorating for the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra Holiday concert, Autism Awareness Walk, and ticket takers at football games for Angel's Wish.

If AWA can give back to you for all that you have done for us, contact the service coordinator at [kaknapp@wisc.edu](mailto:kaknapp@wisc.edu)  
*Katie Knapp* is a senior majoring in rehabilitation psychology and occupational therapy from Lancaster.

## Association of Women in Agriculture Online

The AWA website, [www.uwmadisonawa.org](http://www.uwmadisonawa.org), will be undergoing some new changes on January 1. The password will become AWA2006, and it is needed to get to important documents on our site like our directory, operating procedures and other protected items. The password is also used to protect the active resumes, which will be updated soon. The website is a great place to find out updates in AWA. If you have any ideas for the website, you can contact the public relations coordinator, Nicole Hosto at [nahosto@wisc.edu](mailto:nahosto@wisc.edu). Go check it out now. To access protected site use AWA2005 but remember the change coming the start of 2006.



*Nicole Hosto* is a senior majoring in dairy science and ag journalism from



# Catching Up With AWA Alumni

**Carla (Hagenow) Gunst**  
**Poy Sippi**  
**Graduated: 1987**

My name is Carla Gunst, a 1987 graduate who majored in dairy science with a specialization in agricultural journalism. I have been editor of *Wisconsin State Farmer*, the oldest weekly agricultural newspaper published in Wisconsin, for more than 15 years. Prior to this, I worked as a communications specialist with Chr. Hansen's Laboratory in Milwaukee.

One of my most exciting ventures took place three years ago when my husband, Willis, and two of our friends, Lynn and Sara Harbaugh (also an AWA alum), formed a partnership and moved to Poy Sippi where we established Wilstar Holsteins, home to 180 head of registered Holsteins. As a result of our successful marketing and breeding program, we recently hosted our first merchandising sale on the farm.

While in college, I was active in a variety of activities including AWA, Badger Dairy Club, and NAMA. One of my greatest accomplishments in college was being named the first-ever national ADSA president from Wisconsin. Upon graduation, I remained involved in the AWA, serving as corporation president during the new house building project and secretary, as well as numerous committee responsibilities. I also worked with the silent auction for many years. Other organizations I've been involved with include the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin, Wisconsin 4-H Foundation, Wisconsin Holstein Association, Young Dairy Leaders



Institute and the Waupaca FFA Alumni Association.

I have so many fond memories from AWA, particularly living in the house. These AWA women are life-long friends. One of my favorite memories was sitting around the living room floor the morning after the gang had gone out to catch up on the night's festivities. We also enjoyed cooking meals and making cookies, although the majority of the dough was eaten before we ever baked them!

My advice to actives is enjoy your college years - have fun, but still hit the books and get involved in extracurricular activities, as many employers these days look for a good balance. You may not think so now, but your college years go by fast, but the memories last a lifetime!

**Jessica Jacobsen**  
**Glenview, IL**  
**Graduated: 1997**

My name is Jessica Jacobsen, a 1997 food science graduate. As I remember back to the start of my college career, my vision of where I'd be 10+ years down the road is quite different than what I'm actually doing today.

Growing up outside of Appleton, I lived in a rural area and was active in 4-H, among other extracurricular activities. I started college in the fall of 1992, planning on pursuing a career in pharmacy. I had never heard of AWA other than that my oldest friend, Kim (Bungert) Schoonmaker, was going to be living in a house of theirs rather than in the dorm like me. Within a couple of months I became friends with many of the AWA sisters and decided to join that spring.

I lived in the "White House" the following school year and have fond memories of college life with my housemates. About this time I was contemplating a major other than pharmacy—I had been taking all the prerequisite science courses, but my heart really wasn't into it. Someone gave me a vague description of food science, and since I'd always liked cooking and working with food, I changed my major knowing that all my coursework to date would be applicable. That summer I stayed in Madison and had my first real taste (literally) of food science. I worked in a lab helping a researcher analyze samples to better understand flavor development in cheddar cheese. I attended many taste panels, learned about microbiology and other test methods, and got to help make cheese in the dairy plant.

As I continued my studies in food science, I had the opportunity to be involved in the Dairy Products Evaluation Team. Similar to dairy judging that many of my AWA sisters were involved in, we had to evaluate samples of milk, ice cream, yogurt, cottage cheese, cheddar cheese and butter for flavor, texture and appearance defects. The regional contest held annually at Kraft in Glenview, IL was my first real exposure to a food company—little did I know I'd be working there in the future! After learning more about the food industry through a summer internship and an eight-month co-op assignment, I decided to pursue a graduate degree upon completion of my bachelor's degree.



Graduate studies were challenging, on top of the ambiguity and frustrations of research, but I felt that the work



and leadership experiences, in addition to those I had already gained through AWA and other organizations, would continue to prepare me for future employment. I completed my Master's in August of 1999 and started working at Kraft the following week. My first assignment was in the pizza division, leading a variety of projects across DiGiorno, Tombstone and Jack's Pizza over the next three years. I learned about manufacturing, engineering, product & process development, and food safety, not to mention learning about how businesses and cross-functional teams interact on a daily basis. Since then, I've spent the past three years in our cheese & dairy sector in various positions of increasing responsibility. It's challenging to learn all the intricacies of the dairy industry such as which milk class pricing corresponds to which dairy product, what standard of identity regulates each product, and how the seasonal and/or regional differences in milk quality and supply can impact our product manufacture. Currently, I'm leading a group of six developers working on new product initiatives for the cream cheese and cultured categories. This encompasses projects for brands such as Philadelphia, Breakstone's, Kraft and Polly-O. My group also interacts frequently (via email or phone) with our global technology centers in Munich and Melbourne to share ideas and solve problems.

In the future I'd love to have an assignment at one of our international locations, but for the time being I follow my wanderlust with an annual international vacation. This spring I spent two weeks exploring Denmark and northern Germany. In my spare time, I enjoy outdoor activities, cooking, reading and scrapbooking. My family lives three-hours north of Chicagoland, so I am able to go home for most family events and holidays.

My advice for AWA actives would be to take advantage of the opportunities

presented to you and to maintain relationships with your fellow sisters. When one of my professors encouraged me to apply for a co-op position, it was a difficult decision knowing that many of my friends would be graduating that semester while I would be gaining work experience and delaying graduation for another year. I ultimately realized that the experience gained was worth the time invested. I still keep in touch with many of my AWA sisters; the network helps keep me in touch with both personal and career information.

**Valerie (Casper) Gaffney**  
**Dodgeville**  
**Graduated in: 1997**

**The Next 30 Years**

As many of us hit milestones this past year, I hope you took time to reflect on the past and make more plans for the future. The days since I left Madison have been filled with running the rat race.

In the career area, I have enjoyed working with the Wisconsin Pork Producers and Wisconsin State Fair. My current full time job takes me to Dodgeville



High School, where I teach agriculture and natural resources. It is always a great day at school when I can open up the ag papers and find an article about the people I went to college with. Of course I make my students learn about my friends and all they have accomplished with their degrees from Madison. The job includes an extended contract of 45 days, mostly completed during the summer.

My husband, Scott, and I

are in the process of buying his parent's farm. He works to build our purebred Angus herd and crop operation. Scott and I look forward to regrouping and making the farm and home our top priority.

Our girls (Paige-6, Bree-4 and Kelly-1) enjoy showing pigs, gardening, and just hanging out at home. Paige and Bree attend school in Barneveld.

In the upcoming years I look forward to becoming Scott's full-time partner on the farm and a full-time mom. I am grateful for all of those I met at Madison, as they have helped me become what I am today. As I help students try to get into Madison, I value the relationships I have with you all even more.

For those who turned 30 this past year or will be shortly, below is a tribute to you courtesy of Tim McGraw and Phil Vasser. May your next 30 years be filled with many more great things.

In My Next 30 Years.....

I think I'll take a moment, celebrate my age  
 The ending of an era and the turning of a page  
 Now it's time to focus in on where I go from here  
 Lord have mercy on my next thirty years

Hey my next thirty years I'm gonna have some fun  
 Try to forget about all the crazy things I've done  
 Maybe now I've conquered all my adolescent fears  
 And I'll do it better in my next thirty years

My next thirty years I'm gonna settle all the scores  
 Cry a little less, laugh a little more  
 Find a world of happiness without the hate and fear  
 Figure out just what I'm doing here  
 In my next thirty years



# AWA and Babcock Join for Another Successful Homecoming

Eye patches and peg legs were no rare occurrence during Homecoming this year as Bucky turned pirate to show Purdue that "W Marks the Spot." AWA joined Babcock once again to participate in various Homecoming activities throughout the week. Overall our organizations took third place while competing for points against other student organizations on campus.

We kicked off the week by following the "treasure map" around campus during the annual charity run/walk. Fun was had by all, and we all worked up a sweat for a great cause.



On Monday people dressed like pirates, spinning around bats while trying to "walk the plank" and having tons of fun at the Shell during the Badger Games. Float planning and pirate mimicking were underway very early in the week.

Though an unfair advantage was given to WASBE during the Tug-o-War on Tuesday, AWA sisters showed off their muscles to everyone. The Witte volleyball courts were filled with people heave hoeing while trying to gain the title of Tug-o-War champions.

Wednesday you could hear the band playing and the cheerleaders

cheering during the Spirit Parade, leading up to Yell-Like-Hell. Gwen Steffani's "Rich Girl" had its words changed to "Badgers" as Babcock and AWA tested their vocal skills.

Float decorating was well under way as Thursday rolled around and continued into the night. The theme for our float was "Barry" the Boilermakers, having a Boilermaker pirate buried in the sand by Badger pirates. The buried treasure consisted of a treasure chest filled with golden footballs on a bed of sand.

On Friday we finished the float and drove around the construction-filled campus with a tractor and flatbed trailer. Everyone congregated at the Pep Rally and fireworks at the Memorial Union following the parade.



The real reason for Homecoming, the football game, turned out in our favor as the Badgers and Barry trounced the Boilermakers. AWA sisters enjoyed the fun filled week as it came to a close by singing the time honored "Vaaarrrr-sity" to end the week.

*Eliza Ulness is a junior majoring in dairy science from Valders.*

## Spooky AWA Sister Bonding



After Homecoming events wrapped up, the sunshine, membership and activities committees teamed up to host a pumpkin carving night to get everyone in the Halloween mood.

Many members worked hard to carve pumpkins ranging in design from Badger-themed to farm tractors to spiders and black cats. Traditional pumpkin faces were popular too. It was a great time filled with pumpkin guts, creativity, and some tasty roasted pumpkin seeds!



*Christina Wendorf is a sophomore from Viroqua majoring in dairy science. She serves as the sunshine officer.*

## Potentials Scare to Serve

This year the Saddle & Sirloin haunted house was held in new location, the old horse barn. Several AWA potentials helped set up the haunted house, which had a haunted cornfield, the themed room the potentials were in charge of.

Danyel Hosto, Brittany Hanson, and Katie Pfeiffer headed the project by getting the needed supplies: cornstalks, straw bales, leaves, spider webs, bats, and scarecrows.



The haunted house was open to the public the Thursday and Friday before halloween. The first hour of each evening the lights were kept on as younger children went through the haunted house. This year was quite successful, with a greater number of people going through the house. A good time was had by all!

*Katie Pfeiffer is a junior majoring in wildlife ecology from North Freedom.*



## Favorite Holiday Recipes from AWA Actives

### Cheesy Potatoes-Eliza Ulness

- 1 bag frozen hashbrowns
- 1 can cheese soup
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/3 cup chopped onions
- 3/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 1/2 cups corn flakes

Mix the hashbrowns, soups, sour cream, onion, shredded cheese and spices in a 9x13 glass baking dish. Cover the mixture with the corn flakes and bake in the oven at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until bubbling.

### Cranberry Caramel Date Bars-Ali Schultz

- 1 cup Cranberries
- 1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoon sugar
- 2 1/3 cups all purpose flour
- 2 cups oats
- 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup butter, melted
- 1 1/2 cups dates, chopped
- 3/4 cup chopped walnuts toasted
- 1 cup caramel ice cream topping

Heat oven to 350 degrees. In bowl, combine cranberries and 2 tablespoon sugar. in separate bowl, combine 2 cups flour, oats, remaining sugar, brown sugar, and soda. Add butter; mix well. Reserve 1 cup crumb mix; press remainder firmly on bottom of 9x13-inch backing pan. Bake 15 min. Sprinkle dates, walnuts and cranberry mixture over crust. Mix caramel topping and remaining 1/3 cup flour; spoon over fruit and walnuts. Top with reserve crumb mixture. Bake 20 min or until lightly brown. Cool. Cut. (makes 24 bars)

## AWA Hires New Cook

When it comes to cooking, Mike Dickman knows how to get-r-done.

Dickman began cooking for AWA this fall and has thoroughly enjoyed his time here. He is no stranger to cooking for groups of more than 100, as he has worked with restaurants such as Country Kitchen, Luther's Fine Dining, and Coffee Cup.

Growing up in Stoughton and working on the farm has helped Dickman fit in quite well with the girls at AWA. He said he enjoys the friendly faces and work environment in his afternoons at the house.

Dickman would like to some day own a catering business for serving home-style meals for holidays or reunion-type events. He is very passionate about cooking, and it shows in the quality meals received weekly.



Dickman cooks dinners four nights a week for the women in the house. AWA members who live outside of the house are welcome to come to five free meals a semester to spend time with fellow AWA ladies and enjoy Dickman's home cooking.

*Asbley Yager, a junior majoring in dairy science and ag journalism from Highland, serves as the House Steward.*



## Active President's Report

### Devon Frei

For many of the women involved in AWA, the holiday season and the end of the year is a time of hustle and hurry. It requires us to squeeze even more into our already hectic schedules. While rushing from here to there, we very seldom take the time to stop and be thankful for all this organization has given us and to simply enjoy the time spend with our AWA sisters.

As we move closer to a new year, I would like to take a little of everyone's time to share excerpts of a poem very special to me in hopes that everyone takes the time to realize that we as individuals and as an organization have a lot to be thankful for.

### *Slow Dance* - Anonymous

Have you ever watched kids on a merry-go-round. Or listened to the rain slapping on the ground?

Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight  
Or gazed at the sun into the fading night?

You better slow down. Don't dance so fast  
Time is short. The music won't last.

Do you run through each day on the fly  
When you ask "How are you?" do you hear the reply?

When the day is done, do you lie in your bed,  
with the next hundred chores running through your head?

You'd better slow down. Don't dance so fast.  
Time is short. The music won't last

Ever lost touch, Let a good friendship die  
'Cause you never had time to call and say "Hi"?

Life is not a race. Do take it slower  
Hear the music, Before the song is over.

## All About AWA Alumni and Actives

- Kristin (Barlass) Paul** married Brian Paul on August 27th. Brian is the brother of active AWA member, **Erin Paul**.
- Laurie Winkelman** started working as the dairy program specialist for The Ohio State University. She is working with dairy youth program development as well as dairy nutrition extension activities. She will finish her Master's degree in dairy nutrition at OSU to graduate his December.
- Good luck to everyone competing at the Wisconsin Junior Holstein Association Convention in January!
- Naomi Uhlenhake** recently accepted a position as an engineering technician at Resource Engineering Associates in Middleton. She will begin following graduation.
- Sarah Watson** began working at the Bank of Oregon as a personal banker.
- Good luck to all AWA members competing for the Wisconsin Fairest of Fairs!
- Congratulations to all AWA ladies who worked in Saddle & Sirloin to pull of another successful Badger Kick-Off Classic: **Susan Orth, Keela Retallick, Shauna Carter, and Buffy Sacia**.

### Marketing Committee Chair:

**Tracy Smithback**

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**Stoughton, WI 53589**

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# Calendar of Events

# Wisconsin Agriculture: Trees

## December

5: AWA Christmas Party, 6:30

19-23: Fall Semester Final Exam Week

24: First Day of Winter Break

## January

17: Classes Resume

23: AWA Meeting, 6:30

## February

6: AWA Meeting, 6:30

20: AWA Meeting, 6:30



Whether you top it with a star or an angel or decorate it with hand-made ornaments or ones from Hallmark, the Christmas tree is the cornerstone of Christmas decorating. And, Wisconsin is a great place to get the perfect Christmas tree.

There are more than 1,300 Christmas tree farms in Wisconsin, spread over a span of some 36,000 acres. Christmas tree farming contributes \$50 million to the Wisconsin economy through the means of equipment, jobs, supplies, and sales. This is just a small portion of the state's \$2.7 billion Green Industry.

Each year, around 1.8 million Christmas trees are harvested in Wisconsin, placing Wisconsin fifth in the nation for number of trees harvested. Christmas trees can be used for more than just decorating in your living room; there are more than 600,000 wreaths and garland made with Christmas tree materials each year in Wisconsin as well. There are seven prin-

cipal kinds of trees grown in our state: Balsam Fir, Fraser Fir, Scotch Pine, White Pine and Spruce, including White, Black Hills, Colorado Blue Spruce.

Every year, the Wisconsin Christmas Tree Producers Association votes on one Grand Champion Wisconsin Christmas Tree, which will then go on to the National Contest. The winner of the National Christmas Tree contest has the privilege of presenting a tree to the President, for display in the Blue Room at the White House. Wisconsin members have won this right six times, most recently in 2003.



Whether you have a 10-foot Fraser Fir or a classic 'Charlie Brown' Christmas tree, AWA wishes you and yours a safe and happy holiday season!

*Andrea Klahn is a junior majoring in life sciences communications from Lodi.*

