



# AWA Happenings

Issue III  
March 2006

## Breakfast Chairs Gearing Up for Success

The 11th Annual Breakfast on the Farm will be on Sunday, April 23 at the West Madison Agricultural Station. A hearty breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. until noon. There will be entertainment, a petting zoo and an education area for all to enjoy. Preparations for breakfast are in full swing! Fourteen of AWA's finest have stepped up to the task of planning and facilitating our 11th Breakfast on the Farm! Planning this breakfast is no small feat, but these chairwomen are ready for the challenge.



**Nicole Hosto** of Juda is a senior majoring in dairy science and ag journalism. Hosto is serving as the general co-chair for this year's breakfast. Hosto hopes to see many AWA alumni in attendance at this year's breakfast.



**Andrea Klahn** is a junior majoring in life science communications from Lodi. She is serving as the second general co-chairwomen. Klahn enjoys seeing all the AWA members come together to pull off this big event.



**Sara Hendrickson** is a junior majoring in dairy science from Viroqua and is serving as the petting zoo chair. This is an important facet of the breakfast allowing the public learn something about agriculture.



**Suzie Benoit** is a junior majoring in dairy science and ag business management from South Royalton, VT. She is serving as a food chair. She took this position to promote AWA and agriculture to the public.



**Lindsy Hagan**, a senior dairy science major from Mauston, is serving as this year's set-up chair. Hagan enjoys working with the great people organizing the materials needed and designing them at breakfast.



**Danyel Hosto** is a freshman majoring in dairy science from Juda. She is serving as the co-donations chair for breakfast. Hosto looks forward to taking a more active role in AWA and expanding the donation list.



**Chrissy Wendorf**, a sophomore dairy science major from Viroqua, is serving as a donations co-chair. Wendorf is the sunshine officer in AWA and looks forward to serving the Madison community a great country breakfast.



**Katie Behnke**, a sophomore majoring in ag business management from Clintonville, is serving as a food chair responsible for planning the menu. She wants to serve up a wonderful meal for the people.



**Kelsi Hendrickson** of Belleville is a sophomore majoring in dairy science and ag journalism. She is working as a publicity chair. She looks forward to promoting the breakfast and increasing attendance.



**Amanda Levzow** is a senior majoring in agricultural education from Rio. She is one of the publicity chairs who will be looking for new ways to promote the breakfast. Levzow's favorite part is educating the public.



**Ali Schultz** is a freshman majoring in life science communications. She is one of the education co-chairs, responsible for collecting materials to share with the public. Schultz likes the good conversation at breakfast.



**Vicki Scannell** of Fond du Lac is a breakfast education co-chair. She is a senior majoring in agriculture and biology education. She is one of the women who must collect materials to display at breakfast.



**Danielle Russell**, a sophomore agriculture education and ag journalism major from Shullsburg, is the third publicity chair for this year's breakfast. She is working to find new ways to promote the event to the public.



**Sarah Kuffel** is a senior majoring in dairy science. She is the breakfast entertainment chair. She must line up music or acts to entertain the people while they are eating and keep them around to visit all the displays.

### Association of Women in Agriculture

1909 University Avenue  
Madison, WI 53726  
Phone: 608-231-3702  
Fax: 608-231-3703  
awa\_news@hotmail.com





## *AWA Inc. President's Report*

**Jenny Spoke**

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of you who care about AWA to consider becoming involved again. AWA needs your passion and enthusiasm to be a thriving organization. It has been a challenging year. The house management and financial management committees are struggling with the prospect of back-to-back years without a full house. Also, the marketing committee was disappointed to have to cancel Real World Workshop, and has taken a risk by changing the format for AWA Day. I have the utmost respect and appreciation for the volunteers who chair and serve on these committees, as well as the corporation board members who give their time to AWA. They have worked diligently this year but could use some assistance.

If you haven't done so already, please register for AWA Day. That would be a great place to show your support. Also, consider signing up for a committee or being nominated for the corporation board. Another great way to support AWA would be to share your experiences with any young women you know who are interested in agriculture and planning to attend UW-Madison. Thank you for your commitment to the success of AWA. Please contact me at [jaspoke@hotmail.com](mailto:jaspoke@hotmail.com) if you would like to be on a committee, nominated for the corporation board, or general information on how you can help AWA.

## *AWA Represented at State Fairest Competition*

The AWA girls were out in full force at the Wisconsin Association of Fairs Fairest of the Fair competition at the KI Convention Center in Green Bay, January 9-11. With Susan Orth leading the way as the 2005 Wisconsin Fairest of the Fairs, five of her AWA sisters were representing their counties, competing for her title in 2006. Those participating included: Sarah Galdi, Fond du Lac County; Jeanna Burgraff, Grant County; Becky Folgert, Jefferson County; Eliza Ulness, Manitowoc County and Ashley Huibregtse, Sheboygan County.

On Monday, the girls met with Orth and the 25 other contestants. That night was topped off with the Wisconsin Association of Fairs Auction, where each fairest auctioned off a basket of goodies representing their county. More than \$15,000 was raised at the auction. That money would cover some convention costs as well as travel expenses for the new state fairest.

The next morning the girls were ready to take on another day. Breakfast was spent with the three judges, whom none of the girls had met before, except incognito at the previous nights auction. The day was filled with individual interviews, as well as a presentation by Orth on professionalism. The girls finished the night by presenting their 30-second county fair public service announcement and answering a question.

On Wednesday, the girls were interviewed again in a group setting. There were more guest speakers, including a presentation on resume building by past Wisconsin Fairest of the Fairs and AWA member and current Alice in Dairyland Gena Cooper.



The final evening of the contest was also the wrap-up for the entire Wisconsin Association of Fairs convention, where numerous awards and acknowledgments were presented. After dinner, the contestants were brought on stage in front of more than 250 people to introduce themselves with their 30-second dialogue. The girls were then narrowed down to the top 10, where Galdi, Folgert, Ulness, and Huibregtse were all named. The top 10 girls then answered another impromptu question, before being narrowed down to the top five, which included Galdi and Huibregtse. The top five were asked a final question and the judges made their final decision of the night, with Galdi being named fourth runner-up and Huibregtse first runner-up. Kimberly Schoessow of Ozaukee County was named the 2006 Wisconsin Fairest of the Fairs.

These women all did a fantastic job of representing their counties, AWA and UW-Madison.

*Rebecca Folgert is a junior majoring in landscape architecture from Farmington.*

## *Openings Available at AWA House*

The AWA house has immediate openings for the 2006-07 school year.

The house is located close to campus, less pricey than most student living options, features home-cooked meals four nights a week, and, best of all, strengthens the bond between AWA sisters.

Not only does the house provide a great living opportunity for our members, it is also important to the financial stability of our organization. Unless we have at least 24 renters each year, AWA Inc. will not be able to meet cash-flow projections.

If you know of any incoming freshman, be sure to let them know about AWA's fantastic living environment. We are willing to work with those who may have already signed with UW Housing. Rent for next year is \$858.24 per quarter.

For more information, contact House Management Chairperson Karen Topel at 608-250-4002 (work), 608-576-2580 (home) or [ktopel@madison.com](mailto:ktopel@madison.com); or House Manager Laurie Volkman at 608-628-5748 or [llvolkman@wisc.edu](mailto:llvolkman@wisc.edu).



**Newsletter Editor:**  
**Ashley Huibregtse**  
1909 University Ave.  
Madison, WI 53726  
920-207-9726  
[awa\\_news@hotmail.com](mailto:awa_news@hotmail.com)

# AWA Women Excel at Junior Holstein Convention

Hello everyone. I am Danyel Hosto, and I was recently named the Wisconsin Holstein Princess Attendant. I am a freshman at UW-Madison, majoring in dairy science. I am active in the Association of Women in Agriculture, Badger Dairy Club, National Agri-Marketing Association, and Saddle and Sirloin. I grew up on a 60-cow registered Holstein dairy farm south of Juda and have been involved in the Junior Holstein Association since a young age.

Following in the footsteps of many AWA members, I will be representing the Wisconsin Holstein Association, acting as a spokesperson within the industry and to the general public at dairy shows, Junior Holstein events, and community gatherings. I am very excited to obtain this title and can't wait for the busy year ahead. To start my reign, I would like to recap the Wisconsin Junior Holstein Convention and accomplishments of multiple AWA members active in Junior Holstein.

January 7-9 was an eventful weekend for many of Madison's AWA members at the Wisconsin Junior Holstein Convention held in Stevens Point. This organization promotes the Holstein industry and provides fellowship for the next generation of Holstein enthusiasts. The annual convention is held primarily for the purpose of recognizing our members' accomplishments and electing the next year's leaders.

The fun kicked off on Saturday afternoon with the senior dairy quiz bowl competition, which is a contest of knowledge and speed. AWA was well represented with Chrissy Wendorf as captain of Vernon County's team; Linda Behling and Shelly Bohn on Dodge County's team; Annie Dorshorst as captain for Wood County; and Kelsi Hendrickson and I on the Green County team.

Sunday included the princess luncheon, which is where all the candidates for Wisconsin Holstein royalty make their first appearance and answer impromptu questions. Besides judging for the next princess, the graduates from the Junior Holstein Association are also announced at the luncheon. Graduates are the members who have reached 21 years of age by January 1 and move on to the adult association. This year's graduates include AWA members: Ashley Yager, Lea McCullough, Nicole Hosto, Crystal McNett and Eliza Unless.

After the luncheon, the next big event was the banquet where AWA really shined. One of the highest awards any Wisconsin Junior Holstein member can achieve is being named a Distinguished Junior Member (DJM). This award involves filling out an application that contains the history of your involvement in the Junior Holstein association and other organizations. An eight-page "Holstein story" is also part of this form, which includes how you started and what you have gained from the Holstein cow. This year there were 15 DJMs recognized, with six of them being AWA members. Those honored were Behling, Wendorf, Hendrickson, Sarah Galdi, Dorshorst and myself. But, this was not the end of the excitement for the night. Later on in the banquet I was named Wisconsin Holstein Princess Attendant, while Shannon Dwyer, a future AWA member, was crowned princess.

Monday morning included the business meeting in which we elect the new Junior Activity Committee (JAC) members and complete the dairy bowl contest. Behling was elected on to the board of

eight people and joins Wendorf and Dorshorst. We also had two AWA members, Ulness and McNett, who had completed their two-year term on the JAC. The final item of business was to determine the dairy bowl champions that will represent Wisconsin in South Dakota this summer at the National Junior Holstein dairy bowl competition. In the senior division, it came down to Green and Wood counties, with Green being victorious with AWA members Hendrickson and myself.

Madison's AWA members are not only strong on campus, but in other organizations that they apply themselves to. As another addition to AWA's strong tradition, I look forward to seeing some of you throughout the year!

*Danyel Hosto is a freshman majoring dairy science from Juda.*



## AWA Takes a Trip to Paradise

Cheeseburgers in Paradise was romantic enough for 20 AWA and Sigma Alpha girls on Valentine's Day. Though the restaurant was packed with love birds, the "girls' night out" was a great way to celebrate the holiday. The ladies were greeted at the door by Mary Kay consultants with roses and a chance to win a free facial for you and friends.

Eliza Ulness and Sarah Kuffel went early to cut down the hour and 45 minute wait for a table for 20. The wait was well worth it, as the girls enjoyed cheeseburgers, dock burgers, fries, chocolate nachos and the signature characters made of fruit like Bungalo Bob and Louie the Lizard.

Suzie Benoit was very surprised when a friend from Vermont called the restaurant offering a \$100 tab for the girls. Everyone was surprised and jealous when the waitress came over and told them that he had called, making the night semi-romantic after all!

After about an hour of eating and chatting, the girls headed for home and went back to studying for mid-terms. It was yet another successful AWA/Sigma Alpha outing that was fun for all.

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

---

**Check out the AWA website for updates!**

[www.uwmadisonawa.org](http://www.uwmadisonawa.org)

Password: AWA2006

Please keep this password information confidential for AWA use only.



# Catching Up With AWA Alumni

**Kimberly Adams**

**Dayton, Ohio**

**Graduation: 2003**

Greetings from Buckeye country! I am Kim Adams originally from Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. I am a 2003 animal science graduate. I am currently living in Dayton, Ohio where I work for the Iams Company in research and development. My day-to-day job responsibilities focus around coordinating nutritional feeding trials, caring for the cats and the daily management of the cat research facility. I am also involved on research project teams that deliver new initiatives and technologies for the company. If you've seen the new Iams Multi-Cat diet, you've seen the final product of my work!

I was very surprised to be selected as a "featured alumni" for the newsletter this year. It hardly seems like I should be old enough to offer any advice to active members. Although, after thinking about where my life has taken me, I think I have a few gems to pass on.

First, I cannot stress how important it is to connect and develop with your advisors, professors and fellow alumni. It is only through the connections I made with Dr. Crenshaw that I landed my job with the Iams Company, a division of Procter and Gamble. Additionally, stay in contact with your supervisors from internships. You never know when you might need a reference or assistance that only they can provide!

Second, don't be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone. For those of you who don't know, I grew up on a diversified livestock farm (beef cattle, hogs and sheep). Never in a million years did I think I would work with cats and dogs, or wind-up in Ohio! I planned to go into production agriculture and stay in Wisconsin! However, I

stepped out of my comfort zone and found a new passion. You have to be flexible.

Third, stay in touch with your AWA sisters after graduation. "Real life" has its challenges, just like college did. I cannot tell you how many times I've picked up the phone and called upon my AWA sisters for a little support, understanding and a stroll down memory lane!

If you are ever in the Dayton area, don't hesitate to stop in and catch up. I can be reached via email at [kmadams@uwalumni.com](mailto:kmadams@uwalumni.com). On Wisconsin!

**Wendy (Rademacher) Clark**

**Waupun**

**Graduation: 2000**

Upon graduating in December 2000 with a degrees in dairy science and agriculture journalism, I accepted a position with John Deere as a forage marketing representative in Ottumwa, Iowa. My position involved training dealer sales personnel, writing sales manuals and product bulletins, and managing information and training between Zweibrucken, Germany, and Ottumwa.

During this opportunity, I worked with German colleagues and traveled throughout the United States, Canada and Germany. After three years, I took a position in Waterloo, Iowa as a product manager for the 6003 Series Tractors. I began managing relationships between Mexico, their manufacturing location, and Waterloo. I was responsible for communications, future development, marketing research, and competitive analysis for the North America market.

I worked primarily with men - both customers and salesmen, and I learned how important it is for women to be confi-



dent enough to share their ideas and perspectives. It can be easy to be overshadowed in sales meetings or brainstorming sessions, and one should never be intimidated. Within a few months, I quickly learned I needed to choose which battles I wanted or needed to fight, and I developed a strong backbone. Besides the business skills, it was a great experience for traveling and learning about agriculture within our own country and others.

However, my greatest gift from John Deere was not the work; it was the opportunity to meet Randy Clark, a mechanical engineer from LeRoy, Wisconsin. Randy went to school at UW-Platteville, and he is from a dairy and beef operation. We both worked on the Self-Propelled Forage Harvester team at John Deere, and we shared many common values, passions, interests and laughter. We were married on October 22, 2005, and we moved back to Wisconsin and settled in Waupun.

Currently, I am working for Vita Plus Corporation as a dairy specialist working with dairy producers on their dairy rations and dairy troubleshooting. Randy owns and operates RCI Engineering, LLC designing and testing specialty hay and forage equipment and attachments.

We are very happy to be back in Wisconsin, and we are much closer to our family and friends. We greatly enjoy entertaining, and I enjoy trying new recipes after watching the food channel! We look forward to canoeing, hik-



ing and exploring in the state after trekking across the country the last five years. Perhaps we will see you, and we look forward to it!

**Maggie (Ivey) O'Leary  
Clinton**

**Graduation: 2001**

Whenever I receive the AWA newsletter, I am in awe of the women chosen to write an update about themselves. Their stories are interesting and exciting. When I received a letter from the AWA newsletter editor, I had mixed feelings. I was happy to be chosen to write an article about myself but a little apprehensive about what I would write about.

I joined AWA in the fall of my freshman year. It was one of the best things I did! I met so many "sisters" who shared a common interest. Believe me, it was a breath of fresh air compared to my dorm, which didn't include many women with agricultural interests! I moved into the house a year later. I would continue to live in the house until I graduated. I can't begin to describe my experiences in AWA and living in the house. I met many of my friends and learned so much about agriculture and the great people in it. I served on many committees and also was a dairy breakfast set-up co-chair. I also served as fundraising chair and house steward. Now that was an experience I will never forget! One of the first times I ventured out to the store I made the mistake of going by myself. Not a good idea. Three carts and one-and-a-half hours later I finally made it out of the store! From that point on, I tried to bring someone along. Usually, my future husband, Jeff, was the lucky one nominated! I know the checkout people at Copps (our usual grocery store of choice) thought we must have had 15 children because they gave us weird looks when we came through with 20-plus gallons of milk! I didn't even begin to tell them what it was for nor the fact that it would only last us until Thursday or Friday! My own sister Jessie joined AWA her freshman year which was my senior year. It was

neat belonging to AWA together and enjoying the activities that year.

I graduated in the spring of 2001. Three weeks later Jeff and I were married. It was really neat to see the members of AWA who attended our wedding stand up together and sing a song at our reception. Jeff's grandparents asked later, "Who were all those girls who stood up and sang?" I smiled and said, "Some girls I went to school with." I couldn't begin to explain to them what a neat group of people they were and what they stood for. A few months after we were married, Jeff and I purchased a small farmette east of Clinton, where we will still reside.

I began working at Semex USA in Madison during my last semester at UW and continued on full time after graduating. I eventually began working in the beef division of Semex. Our daughter Maddie was born in February of 2003. Parenthood has been one of the greatest achievements of our life! I can't begin to describe how much I have learned and grown as a person because of our daughter. She is the joy of our life! After Maddie was born I left Semex for seven months for a non-agriculture job located closer to home. But, I soon missed agriculture. I returned to Semex in January of 2004 to a job that allowed me to work out of home two days a week. Currently I work with beef inventory, certificates, semen orders, purchasing semen and coordinating storage and shipments among other things. I truly enjoy my job and am grateful that I was given a chance to work out of home and in a field that I grew up in. Today, our family keeps busy with our cattle business. We buy and resell club calves to 4-H and FFA families and have a hand full of beef cows. We enjoy traveling to fairs and shows with the calves and the families we sell to. I am amazed that I usually run into a past or current AWA member at these events. Though I guess I shouldn't be surprised because

of the great member network that exists through AWA.

If I could give any advice to current AWA members, it would be to appreciate and enjoy your time in school and AWA. I am sure someone has told you this before, but it is true. Each time in your life (i.e. school, work, marriage, parenthood) will mean something different to you and will teach you something different. Get the most out of each of your experiences. The experiences will be priceless and the friends you meet will be lifelong friends!

**Angie (Brey) Ulness  
Valders**

**Graduated: May 2000**

It has been five years since I walked the UW campus as a student, however, I still can imagine the crisp fall mornings and the excitement of Badger Saturdays. Other happy times that flood my thoughts are studying at Steenbock Library with friends, those hot judging practices in the fall, going to parties with sisters, AWA formals and all the fun we had after the dancing was over! Many of my favorite times occurred while in college, most made possible because I was involved in AWA. My best friends all lived in the house and a lot of us all joined together that fall of '96.

College for me can be summed up in one word and that is complete. I received a wonderful education, met tons of really great people, and achieved some goals that I had set for myself. The bonus was that I met the love of my life, Mark Ulness, at college.

After receiving a degree in dairy science with a business option, I took a job with the National Holstein Association as a regional field representative. It was a dream job and I enjoyed it very much. I was able to meet a lot of breeders across the state and help members with identification

**(continued on page 7)**



# *AWA Alum Shares Important Life Lesson*

"The results are back, you have follicular thyroid cancer," said the doctor matter-of-factly. I was sitting in a thin hospital gown, with a fresh bandage around my neck, and my entire world had changed on August 6, 2004.

Association of Women in Agriculture women are tough, independent, smart and perceptive. We believe we can accomplish anything we put our minds to, and we typically work long hours, whether it be raising a family, managing a business, or proving we are as good as or better than the men we work with. We strive to better ourselves and our industry each day, and we may or may not pay enough attention to ourselves.

Being diagnosed with a potentially fatal disease shocked me to the core. I am young and invincible, and nothing was going to stop me from achieving any goals. Except now, my goal was to live and be healthy - something I took for granted for my 26 years.

For several months, I had been not feeling well. My job required me to travel, and I was catching any cold or virus around me. I thought nothing of it, except to take more pain and sinus medication. Finally, my mom encouraged me to visit the doctor and see what was happening. Luckily, I had a female physician assistant who would spend an hour or more listening to me. I came prepared with symptoms and questions, and I even apologized for sounding like I was making something out of nothing. She encouraged me to keep talking.

We ran all sorts of tests, and I went back in for another appointment. All the blood panels and tests had come back normal, but during my physical exam, she found a small lump under my neck. She ordered an ultrasound, and I went reluctantly. After the exam, the size indicated that I needed a biopsy. I still thought it was nothing, and I never even told my family about the appointment. When they told me they would stick a needle in my neck, I did not want to go. My physician assistant even called me at home, and talked me into making the appointment. I still think about what would have happened had she not talked me into going.

After the biopsy, a general surgeon told me the results were abnormal. How can a biopsy be abnormal in the 21st century? He explained that I had about an 80 percent chance that it would be just a benign growth, and again, I pondered whether or not I really needed to have the growth removed. I really thought nothing was wrong - many people have a goiter and I could not see it in the mirror. Why should I subject myself to a surgeon's knife? I even saw another surgeon for a second opinion. After all, I was relatively healthy, and I was a lead instructor for a product introduction for 5,000 people in a month. Did I really need this? Turns out, I did. I never thought it would be cancerous, and I never thought it would be me.

Thyroid cancer is extremely rare - it accounts for less than 1 percent of all cancers diagnosed in the United States, according to the American Cancer Society. However, it is one of few cancers that has experienced increases over the last few years. It is estimated that there will be a 17 percent increase in diagnosis in 2006 compared to 2005. It occurs more commonly in women compared to men, and most people are diagnosed between the ages of 20-50.

After surgeries to remove my thyroid and radiation therapy, I am in remission. I will be on thyroid hormones for the rest of my life, and I will need follow-up visits for several years. But, I am here telling my story and enjoying life. I feel extremely fortunate that I had a treatable cancer. I am sharing this story, so you can learn from my potential mistakes.

Things I have learned:

- Listen to your body's signals - Too often we dismiss our body's signals to stress, lack of sleep, or not eating well. We live in a busy environment, and it is easy to pass it off as something else.
- You are not invincible - Treat your body well and take time for yourself. Do eat well and get plenty of exercise. You never know when you may become ill, and keeping your body in good shape will help your recovery. We spend much time trying to help others, when we may be hurting ourselves.
- Utilize a good physician - In my work, we talk about having a good consulting team. Good health requires a good team to ask questions, feel comfortable, and be heard. Do not allow a doctor to dismiss your body's signals. You know your body the best.
- Life is short. Make every moment count. Do not sweat the small stuff, and make sure those you love know how special they are as often as possible.

My family, friends, and especially my husband, gave me so much strength and reminded me how important it is to be healthy. This experience, while painful and scary, helped me prioritize my important people and mission in life. Hopefully, this message will help you do that too. I wish I could have come to these conclusions without having this experience, but maybe someone was trying to tell me the job and career I was working so hard on wasn't all that important. Randy and I were married about a year later, we are living closer to our families, and we love being together. We treasure our time together, because you never know what tomorrow will bring.

*Wendy (Rademacher) Clark of Waupun is employed by the Vita Plus Corporation.*

## *AWA Parents' Day a Success*

Spring was in the air at this year's Parents' Day. On March 4, parents, families, friends, and AWA members gathered at the house for a spring-time grill out. House Manager and grilling extraordinaire Laurie Volkman manned the grill, while guests enjoyed brats, burgers, and all the classic picnic fixings.

Parents' Day is held each year so parents can see our house, learn more about AWA, and meet fellow members. This year, approximately 25 guests had the opportunity to enjoy lunch, view a presentation about AWA, and take a look at the house. Afterward, parents were able to spend the afternoon with their daughters.

It was a nice afternoon get-together to say good bye to winter and enjoy AWA.

*Laurie Volkman is a senior majoring in dairy science and ag journalism from Black Creek.*



(continued from page 5) needs on their dairies. During all of this Mark and I purchased his families 76-cow registered Holstein farm, Ragnar Holsteins, from his mother in May of 2002. We got married September 2002 and have been living our dream ever since. In December of 2003 we welcomed our first child, Clarissa, and in February of 2005 Garrett came along. Life is so rewarding watching them interact, grow and change each day.

In August of this past summer, Mark and I decided it was time for me to stay at home and be full time on the farm and to take care of the kids. I love my

time I have with them and am happy.

Cherish the time at school and try to get involved in many activities, while still having fun. I remember studying and classes, but I savor the weekend a group of AWA sisters went to Minnesota to the Badger game, a trip to Texas, and the Rose Bowl trip to Pasadena.

I wish all the actives the best with their experiences at the University and finding a career path that makes them happy. Keep dreaming big and you'll fulfill all of your goals. Congratulations on all of your successes as an organization. You should all feel very proud. Go Badgers!

## February Member of the Month: Kara Kasten



Kara Kasten, a junior majoring in dairy science and ag journalism from Richfield, was selected as the AWA February Member of the Month.

Kasten was nominated by Crystal McNett because of the strong leadership role she takes in AWA, as well as other campus organizations. She is the current AWA vice president and is also very active in the National Agri-Marketing Association and Badger Dairy Club. Off campus, Kasten is employed by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

## Dean's List AWA Women Lead ADSA

Congratulations to AWA members earning a grade point average of 3.25 or above in the fall 2005 semester!

- Laurie Volkman
- Nicole Schmidt
- Lea McCullough
- Molly Florent
- Keela Retallick
- Ashley Huibregtse
- Emily Miller
- Michelle Fischer
- Nicole Hosto
- Abby Wochinski
- Ashley Gramza
- Katie Behnke
- Sarah Peters
- Katie Knapp
- Annie Dorshort



Pictured above are the representatives of UW-Madison at this year's ADSA-SAD Convention, which was held February 24-26 at the Sheraton Hotel in Madison. More than 400 students attended this educational and social event, which brings dairy enthusiasts together from across the Midwest. Congratulations to the AWA women who planned this successful event: Lindsey Worden, Leah McCullough, Alane Uhe, Linda Behling, Kelsey Hendrickson, Laurie Volkman, Laurie Rieden, Jeanna Burggraf and Haley Mell.

## All About AWA Alumni and Actives

- **Andrea Brossard** and Tim Martin, both of Beaver Dam, are engaged to be married.
- **Jenny (Topel) Spoke** and her husband, Jeff, have a new baby boy, Ian Alexander, born on February 16.
- **Ali Schultz** has recently started her own Mary Kay business.



## Active President's Report

Devon Frei

All of the exams, meetings, and activities the AWA actives have penciled into their schedules can mean only one thing—spring semester has started and is well underway here in Madison. While dealing with the lingering cold and the anticipation of spring, the active membership is finding itself, once again, busy planning and preparing to make this semester great.

Already we have welcomed a new potential class, which is busy meeting and interviewing their soon-to-be AWA sisters. Under the guidance of Lindsey Worden, they'll be joining later this spring.

Plans are also underway for this year's Competitive Edge. Led by Molly Florent, actives have been working along with the men of AGR to prepare for the March 25 event.

The same night, actives will get the chance to dance the night away at AWA formal, planned by Eliza Ulness.

AWA Day is set for April 8 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. With some greatly appreciated help from the alumni marketing committee, Alane Uhe is planning this year's social event.

On April 23, the Madison community will be learning about where their breakfast comes from at AWA's Breakfast on the Farm. Nicole Hosto and Andrea Klahn are leading a crew of dedicated chairwomen to plan this event at the West Madison Research Station.

These events wouldn't be possible if it were not for the AWA women willing to step up and take charge. I believe, a big THANK YOU is in order to those AWA women, past and present, who take the additional responsibility and run with it. You are the reason AWA is what it is today.

Marketing Committee Chair:

Tracy Travis

2519 County Rd W

Stoughton, WI 53589

608-423-3035

tlsmithback@uwalumni.com



# Calendar of Events

---

## March:

- 11-19 Spring Break
- 20 AWA Meeting
- 25 Competitive Edge
- 25 AWA Formal

## April:

- 3 AWA Meeting
- 8 Governor's Egg Hunt
- 8 AWA Day
- 13 Ronald McDonald House
- 17 AWA Meeting
- 23 Breakfast on the Farm
- 24 AWA Senior Rec
- 30 Active Officer Elections

## *AWA Spring Semester Goals*

The 2005 - 2006 AWA Officer team selected three new AWA spring semester goals at the winter officer retreat:

**Have an average of 58 out of 64 members at attendance at all professional and alumni events**

\*

**Hold two Big and Little Sister activities**

\*

**Have 100 percent participation at Breakfast on the Farm**



*Association of Women in Agriculture*

1909 University Avenue  
Madison, WI 53726

**Address Correction Requested**