

| | |
|---|--------|
| Notes from Ruth | p. 1 |
| Loving Tribute to Bob Wells: Award in His Memory | p. 1-2 |
| Managing for Today and Tomorrow Training | p. 3-4 |
| MS Hosts Training: Three New States | p. 4-8 |

Newsletter
Brought
to you by
Iowa State
University
Extension
& Outreach

January
2014



Risk Management Education for Farm and Ranch Women

Notes from Ruth

Dear Educator Friends,

Hoping very Happy Holidays were had by all my educator friends – the ones who make Annie's Project possible. Along with the gladness of the holidays, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the loss of Bob Wells. I lost a friend and Annie's Project lost a major champion of women's education. We will be remembering Bob along the way in the next few months. You may pass along any of your remembrances of Bob, and we will use them as we reflect on his legacy.

I also have to express my gratitude to the major players of Annie's Project as they had a role in supporting me in 2013. I could not have functioned without the work of Madeline Schultz, Tim Eggers, and Kelvin Leibold from Iowa State University. My thanks to Iowa State University Extension and Outreach for allowing them to grow the program to the nationwide status farm and ranch women benefit from. Also a big thanks to Lani McKinney. I had the privilege of meeting her mother and grandmother at the Annie's Project Tenth Anniversary Celebration held in Ames, Iowa this past September. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the advisory and financial help Farm Credit has afforded Annie's Project over the last several years, especially the input from Gary Matteson, Farm Credit Council, VP Young, Beginning, Small Farmer Program and Outreach. Remember a prayer for Gary and his family for the loss of a dear wife and mother, Sabrina.

You may be seeing a new look to Annie's Project in 2014 as a professional marketing firm, The Meyocks Group, works with us through a pro-bono contribution. They are looking at us through new and fresh eyes to upgrade our public image. Stay tuned for developments!

And finally a word about our ten years of education for farm women. When Annie's Project began in February of 2003, I could never have imagined the growth and demand for this program. I knew farm women were different when it came to education, however, I never envisioned how much more effective farm women are when they help each other.

Here is to a new year, good health and love to my friends.

Sincerely,
Ruth Hambleton, Annie's Project Founder



Bob Wells and Ruth Hambleton received the State of Iowa Governor's Proclamation in September.



Bob Wells

July 26, 1945 -
October 4, 2013

New Sharon, Iowa

"Some days
chickens, some
days feathers."



Loving Tribute to Bob Wells

by Lani McKinney

Bob Wells, 68, of New Sharon died Friday, October 4, 2013, at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City. He graduated from Harrah High School in Harrah, Oklahoma with the class of 1963. He furthered his education at Oklahoma State University earning his B.S. and M.S. in Agricultural Economics. Early on he worked for University of Missouri Extension as a farm management specialist. He then took a position with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach as field specialist in farm management and agribusiness, where he was working until the time of his death. Bob was passionate about agriculture and preserving our nation's food source. He was one of the

founding members of the National Leadership Team for Annie's Project. The Annie's Project mission is to empower farm women to be better business partners through networks and by managing and organizing critical information. He could also be heard on the radio discussing agriculture related topics.



On October 7, many of Bob Wells friends, family and colleagues met to remember him, his life and his legacy in Oskaloosa, Iowa. Everyone shared a few tears, a few laughs, a few stories

and memories. Madeline Schultz even baked one of his favorites of hers, a carrot cake. Only two weeks earlier, Bob Wells received a plaque at the Iowa Annie's Project Tenth Anniversary Celebration at Iowa State University on September 18, 2013. The award was presented by Dr. John Lawrence, Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension and read, "In recognition of ten years of outstanding dedication and excellence in educational programming by fulfilling the Annie's Project mission." Not long after his memorial service, at an Iowa Annie's Project planning meeting and on a conference call with the Annie's Project National Leadership Team, we each took a few moments to mention the things we remembered and would miss the most. Not surprisingly his laugh and the smile and twinkle in his eyes was a common theme. Bob Wells will be and is already very missed by many. To read a eulogy written by Madeline Schultz visit - <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/annie/bweulogy.html>. A full version of his obituary can be viewed here - <http://hosting-3454.tributes.com/show/Bob-Wells-96499041>.



Dr. John Lawrence, alongside Madeline Schultz, presents an award recognizing ten years of outstanding service to Bob Wells.

Annie's Project Women in Ag Educator Award Presented in Memory of Bob Wells

Award Background

Bob Wells (1945 – 2013) was a Farm Management Field Specialist at Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. His interest in educational programs for farm women peaked in 2003 when he heard Ruth Hambleton talk about her new Annie's Project program at the Risk Management Educators Conference. Through Bob's leadership and hard work, Annie's Project grew to impact more than 8,000 farm and ranch women in 34 states. In September, 2013, he received an award from his peers in recognition of ten years of outstanding dedication and excellence in educational programming by fulfilling the Annie's Project mission "to empower farm women to be better business partners through networks and by managing critical information." Just two weeks after receiving that award, Bob Wells passed away. His colleagues established this annual peer award for other educators to honor his memory.

Award Guidelines

Purpose

The purpose of this award is to recognize Bob and other educators who share his passion for educating farm and ranch women, his skillfulness in teaching farm management, and his leadership and vision in bringing the resources together to deliver impactful programs.

Eligibility

1. The award is open to all educators serving women in agriculture in the United States and its territories.
2. Nominees must have been actively engaged in educating farm and ranch women during the past one year, including at the time the award is presented.
3. The application should be completed by one or more peers on behalf of the applicant. Self-nominations are discouraged.

Nature of the Award

- An annual cash award will be given to the winner, along with a personal plaque, and nameplate on a continuous plaque to be maintained by ANNIES at Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. The cash award amount for 2014 is \$500.00.
- The winner must attend the Risk Management Education Conference where the award will be presented. If unable to attend, the award will be forfeited and presented to the next most deserving nominee. The 2014 award will be presented in Indianapolis, IN, April 2-3, 2014.

Criteria

- Nominee demonstrated extraordinary dedication to educating women in agriculture.
- Nominee exhibits a history of excellence in providing leadership.
- Nominee motivates others to provide lifelong learning opportunities for farm and ranch women.

Guidelines

- Electronic applications are due by February 28, 2014.
- Submit the application in MS Word (2003 version or newer) to Claudette Roper at croper@JWCC.edu. Questions may be directed to Claudette as well. Her telephone number is 573-760-9773.
- Prepare a cover page with the following information for both the nominator(s) and nominee:
 - o Name
 - o Title or Role
 - o Name of University or Organization, and Department or Unit
 - o Office Address
 - o E-mail
 - o Telephone
- Prepare an essay describing why the nominee is deserving of this honor. Include specific accomplishments that support why the nominee should receive the award and statements that address award criteria.
 - o The maximum number of words allowed for the essay is 400. Please use 12 pt. type and double spacing.
- A committee of women in ag educators and partners will score and discuss each application received to determine the winner.
- The winner will be notified by email and telephone about March 17, 2014.

Award Presenters and Contribution Information

This annual award is offered by the Annie's Project Education for Farm Women Not-for-Profit Organization and the Annie's National Network Initiative for Educational Success (ANNIES) at Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Contributions to help fund the cash award in future years are welcomed. We thank you in advance for your consideration and generosity. Contributions may be made to Sue Jones, Gift Processing Manager, Iowa State University Foundation, 2505 University Ave., Ames, IA 50010. Please specify the Bob Wells Memorial Account Number 270-37-29.

Managing for Today and Tomorrow Educator Training in 2013

by Ruth Hambleton

The year 2013 is finished and I do not know where the time went. Our Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) is well into its third and final year of developing Managing for Today and Tomorrow (MTT), an Annie's Project Level II program rich in the traditions of making education fun and useful for farm and ranch women everywhere. Our goal is to have 74 programs delivered before the end of 2014 and every one of you has a part to play in that delivery. Annie's Project has had several Level II programs but what makes MTT unique from all other Level II programs is the curriculum we've developed over the last 24 months.

In 2012, we delivered seven pilot programs in Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Missouri to evaluate the curriculum, and have since made



Educators from Indiana, Nebraska and Michigan sharing program experiences with MTT trainer, Tim Eggers at a SARE supported training program in 2013.

improvements. We delivered another round of 19 MTT courses in 2013. The curriculum is ready and ANNIES is training educators to deliver MTT throughout the United States where we have partners in delivery.

So far, we offered MTT training in Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, Nebraska, New York, and South Dakota. The next scheduled training site is Joliet, IL on January 30, 2014 (a Thursday) from 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Weitendorf Ag Center of Joliet Junior College on Laraway Road, just east of the intersection of Rt 53 and Laraway road on the north side of the road. More details can be found at <http://www.jjc.edu/about/campuses/weitendorf/Pages/default.aspx>.

The purpose of the training is to introduce you to the curriculum, how to use it as it was designed, and give those who attend the training the ability to take the program back to their states and deliver it to farm and ranch women dealing with estate and transitioning issues on their farms and ranches. The program itself is a great resource on the topics related to estate, retirement, succession and business planning.

Contact Ruth Hambleton via email if you are interested in attending this training. Travel assistance is available up to \$300 at ruthhambleton@wildblue.net.

Southern SARE Helps Three New States Offer Annie's Project

by Madeline Schultz



Annie's Project Trainer Tim Eggers leading discussion for Mississippi training to use MTT curriculum.

Alabama, Arizona, and Louisiana are now offering Annie's Project thanks to the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education professional development program grant # ES12-113. Dr. Bobbi Shaffett, Extension Professor of Family Resource Management at Mississippi State University is the project director. Katrina McLin, Alcorn State University Extension, and Madeline Schultz, Iowa State University, partnered with Dr. Shaffett on the project, along with other collaborators.

Mississippi (the host of the Southern SARE professional development training) has had at least eight Annie's Project courses in various regions of the state. According to Dr. Shaffett, between 100 and 200 women have trained in Mississippi to date. One of many positive outcomes from the program in their state is "Farm women participants formed an independent 501 (c) 3 organization, Mississippi Women for Agriculture. The group holds an annual meeting and sponsors other training sessions to sustain the educational opportunities first begun with Annie's

Project," shares Dr. Shaffett. The current goal is to hold local courses in more areas of the state as educators trained are anxious to serve small groups of women in additional areas. More on Annie's Project can be found at their website, www.msucare.com/womenf or on their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mississippi.womenforagriculture.

During the two year grant, 50 different educators from nine southern states attended two Annie's Project Professional Development Programs held in Biloxi, MS (August 2012) and Jacksonville, MS (May 2013). An additional six educators attended a supplemental training requested by Dr. Siddhartha Dasgupta, Kentucky State University, in Frankfort, KY (December 2013). Along with strengthening Annie's Project programs in Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas and Kentucky, the professional development programs resulted in three states starting new programs you will read more about in this newsletter.

Project leaders were also very pleased to introduce Annie's Project to Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi and Louisiana. Watch for their success stories in future newsletters.

The expected outcomes of the Southern SARE PDP grant were to:

- Show awareness of sustainability issues and how they affect women farmers in discussions and written assessments.
- Demonstrate knowledge of how to plan and teach educational sessions on risk management with women farmers in small group activities by completing worksheets.

- Increase awareness of ANNIES best educational practices.
- Know where to find ANNIES resources on the Internet.
- Participate in national network conference calls for coordinators and educators and face-to-face national meetings when possible.
- Reach more women farmers with risk management courses.
- Involve new community partners in sustainable agriculture training for women farmers.
- Provide information on value-added, organic, or other business sectors identified by local women farmers and ranchers.
- Show evidence of addressing sustainability issues in the farm community (on follow-up reports after training.)

Something For Everyone in Alabama

by Lani McKinney

Always good to hear a hearty, enthusiastic, “Fantastic!” when you ask how someone’s first Annie’s Project classes went. Eleven women participated in Alabama’s first six-session Annie’s Project program held in Oneonta in Blount County. “It is great exposure for Extension; the friendships and networking has been great; and the participants want to have more sessions,” shares Ruth Brock, Regional Extension Field Agent in Family and Consumer Sciences with Alabama Cooperative Extension Service. She has since scheduled three more courses for 2014 and is optimistic Alabama will experience continued success with the program. “I want to see it grow and be offered in every county,” Ruth says. Ruth’s first exposure to Annie’s Project was at a national conference for National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (NEAFCS) in 2006 when she first began working in extension. It wasn’t until August of 2012 she became aware of the Southern SARE Annie’s Project training available and attended with high enthusiasm for bringing the program to Alabama.



Ruth Brock, Alabama’s Annie’s Project State Coordinator

One of the greatest values of Annie’s Project for Alabama is that it is not duplication of programming already done in the state. Ruth sees Annie’s Project as an opportunity to have an interdisciplinary program among program teams in her organization. For example, a farm economist presents on specific risks and how to reduce them, a family and child development agent presented on how to deal with stress, and a food safety agent presented information on a food innovation center new in the state of Alabama. “Our director, Dr. Gary Lemme, is very supportive of the program,” says Ruth, a tremendous boost to her efforts in reaching farm and ranch women in Alabama.

With every new program you have challenges and successes. Limited access to the room before class began and having to set up things on her own presented some challenges. “I plan to have an understanding with future courses that a coworker assists me with each session,” she concedes. And then there are the unforeseen, unavoidable challenges like having to find alternate speakers when the USDA speakers were on furlough due to US government shutdown. Not all was a challenge, however. Ruth found the national Annie’s Project website to be an extremely valuable marketing tool when asking for funding for delivery of the program. Also, the adaptability of the program was a huge benefit. “It was very easy to adapt for any size of farm,” shared Ruth. The following are some experiences participants shared with her:

Stephanie Miller – Estate Planning

Stephanie Miller, who runs a 1,200-acre farm with her husband, grows corn, cotton and soybeans. She enjoyed the course, teachers, learning atmosphere, place and take-home resources. “I enjoyed it and learned a good bit – mostly things I could use to give me more income on the farm,” Stephanie said. Her favorite session was Estate Planning. “The Estate Planning taught me a lot I didn’t know. Now, I plan to use the information.” Stephanie makes sure to recommend the course to other women. “This course is a good way for women to learn about different ways to manage your farm, and it provides a good network with other women farmers.”

Intha Rafadin – True Colors

Intha Rafadin has a small goat farm in Walker County where she sells goat meat and milk. She learned about the course through a friend that was attending. “I thought the course was wonderful and I highly recommend it to other women. The teachers were knowledgeable in their fields of discussion, the timeframe was good, the take-home resources bountiful and the location was central to those in attendance,” commented Intha. She said she learned a lot relevant to her farm

operation. "The business plan is still being worked on; the budget information is helpful in confirming what I already knew, but put it on paper; and the information on wills and trusts is something I will think about more," she said. Her favorite session was the True Colors session which identified four personality types. "It was very eye opening for me and explained how I deal with others," said Intha.

Sherry Brewer - Networking

Sherry Brewer is a school teacher in Blount County. "I do not currently have a farm or business but what caught my eye and caused me to sign up was the connection with other like-minded women," she said. "I learned so much by hearing about their struggles and hard work in their respective businesses in my community. It was so interesting to network with other women like me, trying to better themselves, their financial status and their communities." Sherry said the course is definitely worth the time and effort and concludes, "I got so much information, met new friends and built new network and reference lists for future use. It may be years before I enter into my own business, but I intend to one day. I feel so much more prepared after attending this course and I now know what to look for, what to prepare for and where to find help when I'm ready."

Overall, Ruth Brock, Annie's Project State Coordinator in Alabama concludes, "Annie's Project gives women information and confidence they desperately need in order to be successful in the business."



Alabama held its first Annie's Project class in 2013.

More information about Annie's Project can be found on their website at www.aces.edu and search "Annie's Project".

Adaptability Key to Annie's Project in Arizona

by Lani McKinney

While attending the National Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Conference in Baltimore, Maryland in 2010, Ruth Hambleton introduced Sonia Gasho to Annie's Project. After talking with several conference attendees, Sonia realized the program covered a lot of helpful material all at once and set out to find a way to bring it to Arizona.

The Arizona Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee (WLC) took up the challenge with Sonia leading the way. By partnering with the Cochise County Committee, the University of Arizona Extension Service, Farm Credit Services Southwest and Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Coop, the WLC was able to hold Arizona's first Annie's Project in fall of 2013. The Arizona Cowbells and the Arizona Cattle Growers Association also assisted in publicity efforts for the program. Sonia traveled to Mississippi for the Southern SARE training to become an Annie's Project facilitator and in October Arizona then held three monthly sessions with the last held on December 10, 2013. This was an adaptation from the traditional six weekly sessions typical to an Annie's Project experience made necessary because of distance. There were fifteen women who participated in her Benson, Arizona course. According to Sonia, it "went smashingly". Sonia loved the discussion times. "Women learn from each other that way so well," she confirms, "I think we learn a lot sharing in a class like Annie's Project," she reveals. Participants seemed excited to take the information they learned back to their families and neighbors. Sonia scheduled a follow up with her first class in January 2014 to review production spreadsheets, business plans and crop/livestock futures.

The adaptability unique to Annie's Project was helpful when trying to accommodate delivery of a program to an agriculture community as diverse and large as Arizona's. Being able to be flexible with the time and location was imperative to the program's success. Sonia found it tricky to articulate to potential partners what Annie's Project is and how it works. Once she was able to make it clear, however, says Sonia, "it was easy to find sponsors. The sponsors that attended/helped present were enthusiastic."



Arizona's first Annie's Project class in 2013 included a young attendee who attended classes with her mother. Arizona State Coordinator, Sonia Gasho, felt it was important mother's had the option of bringing their children.

Sonia hopes to continue gaining exposure and interest in Annie's Project through her personal involvement not only as a cattle rancher, but also through her involvement as an officer with Farm Bureau and the Arizona Cattle Growers Association. One of the biggest benefits Sonia sees to bringing Annie's Project to the farm and ranch women of Arizona is "empowering women to be better operators and help mates to their husbands". As principal operator of her agriculture business, Sonia has more experience working with groups of men and how to deal with it. Other women also need to deal with these situations, but have less experience (making it intimidating). Once women are empowered by their Annie's Project experience, "They in turn will empower other women in their personal networks to do the same; families and businesses will benefit in both the short and long term," feels Sonia.

"Overall, I think it was very successful and I'm looking forward to the next course," shares Sonia. Sonia would love to bring the new Annie's Project succession planning program, Managing for Today and Tomorrow, and/or a Women Managing for Cattle class to the Arizona women someday, too. The immediate plan is to bring one of these or another basic Annie's Project class to central Arizona this spring. Sonia's planning doesn't stop there, though. "I would like to see Annie's Project statewide with classes scheduled twice a year, with a waiting list."

Sonia Gasho's (Arizona State Coordinator) Top Ten Teaching Tips:

1. Leave plenty of time for visiting and at least one hour for lunch/dinner.
2. Don't try to cover it all.
3. Send e-mails and reminders in between sessions.
4. Give participants time to process what they are being taught.
5. Know it's ok to have one hour of mixed discussion and presentation rather than having it strictly divided into half hour segments for each.
6. Ask everyone you can think of that's related to agriculture for funding. (Arizona's budget was \$3000 in total, including meals.)
7. Use local restaurants for food. (This allowed for different yummy meals each session at only \$10/person.)
8. Leave enough time for people to get their work done and questions answered or formulated between sessions.
9. Connect participants with local or other resources (i.e. Farm Bureau Financial has a team of lawyers that review and recommend documents, teach on estate planning, etc. This service is free to farm Bureau members and they will present without selling which makes them a great resource.)
10. Make allowance for children to attend. (Arizona charged for meals and required an RSVP, but felt it was important to provide this option.)

You can find Annie's Project on the Arizona Farm Bureau website at azfb.org or follow them on their Facebook page, Arizona Annie's Project.

Against All Odds

by Lani McKinney

Money is tight. For three years, Deborah Cross, recently retired community Economic Development Extension Agent for the Louisiana State University (LSU) AgCenter, has been trying to get Annie's Project off the ground and running in her state. The main obstacle was budget cuts at the LSU AgCenter. "That is when I started looking for a non-profit organization to partner with," says Deborah. She found the Capital and Acadiana Resource Conservation and Development (RC & D) Councils who enthusiastically agreed to a partnership. Since then they also worked with State NRCS, LSU AgCenter, Mississippi Annie's Project, Farm Bureau, FSA, Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry, and Louisiana Land Bank to hold the first ever Annie's Project classes in Port Allen beginning October 19, 2013. The first six women graduated on November 21st. Deborah plans to hold her second course on January 18th. While the Annie's Project educator team works off a "shoestring budget" and volunteers their time to teach the program, all three feel this is their calling. "We each are so excited about this program that when we talk about it, people stop and ask us many questions and ask how they can help, too," she adds.

Deborah hopes to bring a unified Annie's Project experience to the state in spite of the agriculture diversity in Louisiana. Their first group of participants proved to be just that – diverse. The women's agriculture experience ranged from sugar cane to soybeans to pecans and from cattle to bison. "One of the most unusual endeavors from our first group was a husband and wife who recently started a bison ranch," shares Deborah, "This participant wanted to have a bison ranch for some time and she and her husband just retired and this is their dream. They researched this for over three years, have their business plan, found their land, the bison to start their herd, and have been working for free on other bison ranches to learn the trade." Annie's Project was suggested to her as something she also would need to pursue her dream. Now that she has participated, she plans to have her fellow Annie's Project participants visit in the near future to see the ranch and have barbecue bison.



Louisiana's first Annie's Project class in 2013.

Another class participant was a woman who bought a family farm with her husband and took the class to understand finances. She came away with not only that, but a network of women she can call on when she needs help. There is also the young woman who wanted a career change and talked to her dad about learning more about the family farm and farming. At his encouragement, she took Annie's Project to better prepare her for a farming career and will begin farming this year with 50 acres. She will grow soybeans and keep farm records of what she farms as well as for the family farm. Despite their diverse background and intentions for taking the class, they found they had things in common, as well. As one participant shared, "Class provided an excellent opportunity to meet and develop a network of like-minded and entrepreneurial women and increase our knowledge of the financial areas that will enable our agricultural related enterprises to be successful."

Deborah and her fellow Annie's Project educators, Fran Bartee, Board President of Capital RC & D, and Angie Fogleman, Board President of Acadiana RC & D, received a small grant from NRCS to conduct six courses across the state in the next two years. "My vision for the state," she shares, "is to educate as many farm and ranch women on the risks of farming as we can and to start an Annie's Project Level II class within the next two years." Deborah also hopes to collaborate with the land grant universities in the state to establish a state advisory group to steer their efforts. Specifically, Deborah hopes to deliver an Annie's Project Level II distance education program, start a blog and keep up the Annie's Project Facebook page.

In the meantime, Deborah is working hard to get the word out about Annie's Project. "Every day brings new opportunities to get out what Annie's Project is and how it will help family farming in Louisiana," she says. Deborah is inspired to bring Annie's Project resources to her state and help women succeed through best management practices. The impacts from the first class motivate the educator team and they are working with the Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee to help advertise the program. They hope to have representation on the Annie's Project advisory board from this group when it starts this spring as well as have speakers for the classes from the group.

Louisiana Annie's Project participant Catherine LaCour enthusiastically states, "Annie's Project has been so helpful. Whether trying to start a farming business, expand, or just learn more about the world of agriculture, this class is a perfect stepping stone for that. The connections I have made through this class are invaluable." If this kind of feedback is any indication, it seems Deborah and the educator team in Louisiana have already made great strides towards their goals.

For more information on Annie's Project visit their website at <http://capitalrcd.weebly.com/annies-project.html> or visit their Facebook page, Annie's Project Louisiana.

On a Personal Note

Memorials for Sabrina

Sabrina Matteson passed away on December 21, 2013 after a heroic battle with metastatic breast cancer. Memories and memorial information for the Farmer Veteran Coalition and New Rye Church can be found in this post from Gary entitled "Memorials for Sabrina" - <http://posthope.org/sabrina/update/123575/memorials-for-sabrina>. Gary and Sabrina Matteson have influenced agriculture and rural communities in substantial ways, including their support of Annie's Project. Gary, (Farm Credit Council) serves as an advisor to the ANNIES team on the USDA NIFA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Grant and partners with us in many other ways. Recently, Sabrina worked to complete a partnership agreement with the American Farm Bureau Federation and the Farmer Veteran Coalition. Sabrina's colleagues at the AFBF encourage others to focus on the future, collaborate with unconventional allies, and be creative, energetic and dedicated—all qualities that Sabrina modeled so very well.

Michigan Retirement

Warren Schauer, past Michigan Annie's Project State Coordinator and Michigan State University (MSU) Extension Educator in Farm Business Management, retired on October 31, 2013. Warren wrote, "I have enjoyed my tenure with Michigan State University Extension these past 34 years and I appreciate having had the opportunity to work with everyone at the Annie's Project. You all have been great and I really appreciate all the support from everyone." We will certainly miss Warren's good humor and dedication to Annie's Project and wish him well in all his new endeavors. Roger Betz, MSU Extension Educator in Farm Business Management, will step in as the new Michigan Annie's Project State Coordinator.



2014 - Save the Date

- **January 12-14**, Clearwater, FL – National Farmers Union Women's Conference featuring Managing for Today and Tomorrow
- **January 17**, Teleconference - Annie's Monthly Educator Topic Call on "Partnering and Funding Opportunities with the Farm Credit National Contributions Program"
 - o Toll Free: 1-888-757-2790, Participant Passcode: 956927
- **January 30**, Joliet, IL – Managing for Today and Tomorrow Educator Training
- **March 31-April 1**, Indianapolis, IN – Pre RME conference: Women in Agriculture eXtension Learning Network Formation Meeting
- **April 1 -3**, Indianapolis, IN – Women in Agriculture Educators Risk Management Education Conference
- **April 3**, Indianapolis, IN – Post RME conference: Annie's Project National Meeting

Tim Eggers, teggers@iastate.edu, 712-542-5171
Ruth Hambleton, ruthhambleton@wildblue.net, 618-237-6441
Madeline Schultz, schultz@iastate.edu, 515-294-0588
Claudette Roper, roper@JWCC.EDU, 573-719-7303
Lani McKinney, lanim@iastate.edu, 515-294-2136

The team welcomes comments on the newsletter and article submissions.
You can find past newsletters and other information about Annie's on our website:
<http://www.extension.iastate.edu/annie/index.html>



@Annie's Project Education for Farm Women
