

**2023/2024  
Planning &  
Advisory  
Committee**

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Rebecca Potter

Summer Greetings!

As summer wraps up, I hope all the sunshine coupled with spending time outdoors finds you and your family well.

Summertime for many of us means making memories with our friends and family. Often this involves gathering around a fire, taking a dip in the pool or lake and of course summer just wouldn't seem like summer without enjoying delicious foods together like ice cream, watermelon, sweet corn, baked beans, potato salad and BBQ pulled pork. Fragrant flowers fill the air and around every corner in our neighborhoods something has changed just a little bit from yesterday in the garden or in the crops in the field. It's an exciting time and we anticipate change. The smell of the wheat harvest is in the air and soon the cool days of fall will be upon us. This has been a season of bounty and it always seems to go bye way too fast. I have heard it said that "August is like the Sunday of Summer" (author unknown). Bittersweet!

Well, we've heard you! Which means we have some exciting news. The 32nd Farm Women's Symposium will kick off on Tuesday evening, March 5th with a Welcome Reception and keynote guest at the Delamar in Traverse City, Michigan. On Wednesday, March 6th hop on board a bus to explore the rich agriculture surroundings then end the day with a professional live auction at The Great Gatsby Banquet. Add a roaring twenties outfit to your packing list. Thursday will wrap up with an informative day filled with speakers, activities, and networking. Be sure to look inside this edition of The Cultivator to find more details.

This is going to be an experience you'll not want to miss, so grab a friend, a colleague or a family member and plan to meet us in Traverse City, March 5th.

Wishing you a successful and safe harvest.

Blessings,

*Wanda Skinner*

Farm Women's Symposium Chairperson



**FWS Committee Meeting**

April 25, 2023, held at Delamar in Traverse City,

# 31st Symposium - Bay City



**Sharing.** Time was set aside to get to know one another and share experiences.



**DIY Project.** Friday morning found attendees working on a fun do it yourself project. It was a great time to network and create.



**Teamwork.** The Farm Women's Symposium board and committee works all year round to plan the best program possible. We are passionate about women and agriculture and the connection between the two.



**Speakers.** We were honored to have Amanda Radke return as our keynote speaker. She kept everyone entertained and inspired to reach for more.



**Friendships.** Every year we are happy to welcome first time attendees.



**History.** When visiting a town it is an honor to learn about pieces of its history. We had the honor of touring the U.S.S. Edson - Saginaw Valley Naval Ship Museum and it helped put into perspective the battle fought by many Americans for the freedom we enjoy.



**Bus Tour.** The staple of this year's bus tour was our visit to Michigan Sugar. Their hospitality was evident as we walked away with bags of sugar and a lot of knowledge.



**Having Fun.** The 2023 Banquet was off the charts! The 80's theme was a huge hit and a good time was had by all. It was totally tubular Dude!

*“Meeting all of these strong women who are going to guide their farms through whatever they come up against brought me a renewed hope for the future of family farms.” Colleen Russell*



**Connecting.** The ladies who attended this year's symposium took time to connect with each other throughout the week in many different settings.

# We Heard You!

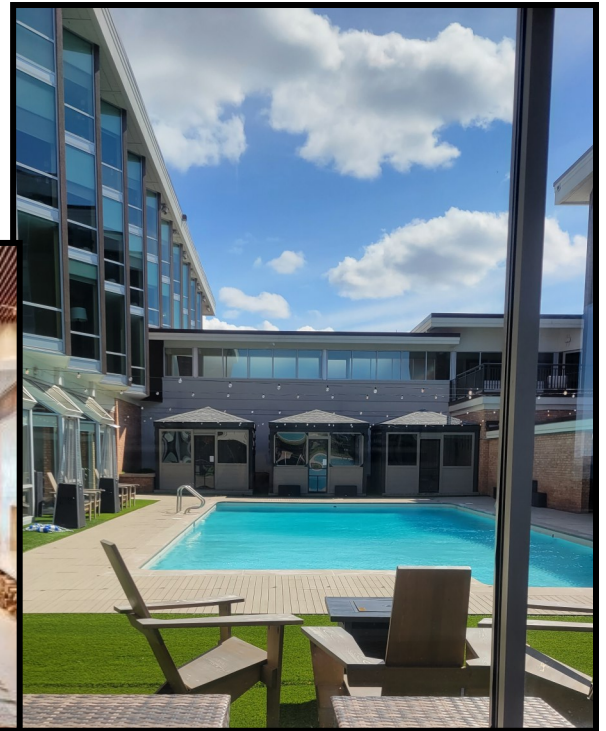
**You have made suggestions and we have listened!**

New in 2024, a new format with the Symposium starting **Tuesday** evening, March 5, 2024. (see below for overview)

We are very excited to be back in Traverse City in 2024 and with a new format.

*Hotel Reservation*

Delamar,  
Traverse City  
231-947-3700



## 2024 FARM WOMEN'S SYMPOSIUM

DELAMAR TRAVERSE CITY 615 EAST FRONT STREET  
TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN 49686

*Tuesday, March 5th*



WELCOME RECEPTION 5:00 PM  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER 7:00 PM



*Wednesday, March 6th*



BUS TOUR LEAVES 8:00 AM  
BUS TOUR RETURNS 1:00 PM



GREAT GATSBY BANQUET 5:30 PM



*Thursday, March 7th*



GENERAL MEETING 8:00 AM  
ADJURN 3:30 PM





# Thank You to Our Sponsors

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### Sponsorship Levels

Diamond—\$10,000 Platinum—\$5,000 Gold—\$1,000 Silver—\$500 Bronze—\$250

## [Sponsorship Opportunity for FWS](#)

Without the generous support of many organizations and businesses, FWS would not be possible!

This year, we will have the following sponsorship levels available:

**Diamond—\$10,000**

**Platinum—\$5,000**

**Gold—\$1,000**

**Silver—\$500**

**Bronze—\$250**

If you know of any individuals, organizations or businesses that FWS should partner with, please reach out to Wanda Skinner at 989-450-7467 or email at [farmwomenssymposium@gmail.com](mailto:farmwomenssymposium@gmail.com)



We are very grateful for all of the donations. Melissa Rogers of Greenstone Financial Services accepted a beautiful plaque for being a diamond level sponsor of the event.

*FWS Mission: The purpose of Farm Women's Symposium (FWS) is to strengthen agriculture, addressing the ever-changing needs of people involved in farming by focusing on women. It provides opportunities for leadership and professional development; strives to enhance communication and management skills, to build an effective family team, and to develop a network of supportive friendships. The Farm Women's Symposium encourages participation from everyone involved with agriculture.*

# 32nd Annual Farm Women's Symposium

*Traverse City,  
Michigan*

**March 5-7, 2024 \***



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

**\*New format, with event beginning Tuesday!**

Farm Women's Symposium  
c/o Wanda Skinner  
749 S. Van Dyke Rd.  
Bad Axe, MI 48413

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**32nd Symposium—Traverse City**

**March 5-7th, 2024 \***

**\*New Format -TUESDAY-THURSDAY!**

**LOOK INSIDE FOR:**

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- ◆ ***Re-cap of 2023 Event***
- ◆ ***We Have Heard You!***
- ◆ ***2024 Save the Date “Postcard”***
- ◆ ***Sponsorship Opportunities for 2024***