

**2024/2025  
Planning &  
Advisory  
Committee**

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Barb Miller

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Alecia Storms

**Advisory**

Jennifer Berkey

Rebecca Potter

Sally Sahr

Rachel Young

Online Registration



December Greetings!

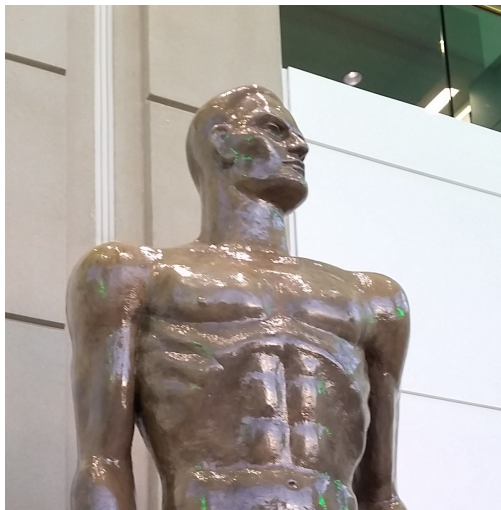
December is such a busy month between festivities, family and friends. As you spend time with your loved ones, it is important to take time for yourself. Sometimes it may just be an hour away from the hustle and bustle of the season to help keep one's nerves a bit more calmer. A nice walk on the farm or woods can do so much to soothe the soul.

Our committee heard very positive feedback with the new format. I personally enjoyed the first evening where the atmosphere was more relaxed and I was able to go around and visit with so many farm chicks. The welcome reception room was amazing and I so loved the ambiance! I also enjoyed the heated outdoor pool and being able to visit with a few new faces as well.

Inside you will find the registration brochure for the 2025 Symposium being held in Lansing. As always, you can join us just for a day, or for all three days of Symposium. We are thrilled to announce that we have an online registration option using the Eventbrite platform. Please see the registration brochure for more details.

"Mardi Gras" is our FWS Banquet theme this year. We are asking everyone to dress up for this evening. Keri Bancroft, her family and staff will once again be hosting a live auction for the banquet entertainment, which was a huge success in March.

We are going back to our roots in Lansing in 2025, by holding the symposium at the AC Hotel/ Hyatt House. As the group started with MSU Extension, the committee has been attempting to return to Lansing as a host city for many years. This new "joint" hotel was built in summer 2023 and you are going to be thrilled to see the amenities offered. Even better- breakfast and parking are free to those staying at the Hyatt House.



Our web site is being updated regularly for the 2025 event- please visit [www.farmwomenssymposium.org](http://www.farmwomenssymposium.org)

We are looking forward to seeing everyone very much in 2025!

Blessings,

*Emelee Rajzer*

2024/2025 FWS Chairperson

# 33rd Symposium- Overview

## Keynote Speakers Announced

The FWS Program committee is excited to share that we have some amazing speakers coming to our 2025 Symposium.

Our first evening speaker, Jeannine Schwehofer, Associate Director of the MSU Extension Agriculture and AgriBusiness Institute, will welcome us to Lansing.

Keynote Speaker Karen Eddington will share: “Strong Under Pressure” and “Stress Surfing: Get Skills to Ride the Waves.”

Karen is a 20-year identity researcher and author of *Understanding Self-Worth*.

Originally from rural Utah, Karen shares in her presentations stress management skills with a focus on how to be strong under pressure.

FWS participants have requested a presentation on technology updates the past few years. We are excited to share that we will have an in-depth drone presentation by Kaitlynn and Bryan Hammis.

Wade Syers from MSU Extension will be presenting “In Home Food Preservation.” Food preservation is a very popular topic, as folks work to not only provide home-grown or local produce to their families, but also to help save money on groceries.

A representative from Michigan AgrAbility will be joining us to share information on the program and applications for assistive technology.

Our very own Christina Gelder, professional photographer will be sharing “Capturing Everyday Moments,” giving tips on how to use natural lighting, framing and other photography techniques.



## 2025 Bus Tour

The FWS Bus Tour committee is very excited to be visiting local attractions in and around Lansing and the East Lansing area. As a committee, we strive for a mix of different agricultural locations as well as local attractions.

Stops on the tour include:

### Horrocks Farm Market

For over 60 years, Horrocks Farm Market has been serving the Lansing area with a wide array of fresh produce and various food goods.



Horrocks is known for their oil & vinegar bar, specialty coffees and gourmet popcorn.

Horrocks also has an on-site pizzeria.

### MSU Spartan Stadium

A dream come true, for many Spartan fans—a tour of both Spartan Stadium, as well as an opportunity to step onto the football field.



We will be touring the press box and hear from the turf management staff on how they keep the field in tip-top shape!

### MSU Dairy Store

If you have ever visited MSU’s campus, you may have enjoyed the MSU Dairy Store ice cream or various cheese products offered.

We will be able to observe production areas, from an observation deck and take a self-guided tour. We will end our visit with a sweet treat, from the MSU Dairy Store.



## Live Auction

What: Mardis Gras Banquet and Auction with Wayne Bancroft Auction Service

When: Wednesday, March 5th 5:30 p.m.

Where: AC Hotel—Lansing

Why: Food, Fun & Flashing Bidding Cards!

Want: Donations— we are asking everyone to help bring in donations. We have set a minimum value of \$50, new items only. Some suggestions: gift cards, tickets for games, etc.



## Banquet Theme Announced

The FWS Banquet & Live Auction Committee are thrilled to announce that Mardi Gras will be the theme for FWS 2025. Please come dressed in your Mardi Gras Best!

## Sponsorship Opportunities for FWS

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

We have the following sponsorship levels available:

Diamond—\$10,000

Platinum—\$5,000

Gold—\$1,000

Silver—\$500

Bronze—\$250



Created by: Beck Street

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)

## Scholarships Available!

We are happy to announce that there are scholarships to attend the Symposium in 2025.

**GreenStone Farm Credit Services** is dedicated to the support for rural communities and agriculture and will again offer \$150 scholarships to its members attending the Farm Women's Symposium. This is on a first come, first served basis and to those who register before February 15th. Just indicate on your registration (paper or online) the local branch office that you work with.

The **FWS Planning and Advisory Committees** will be once again offering a FWS Scholarship this year.

There are two types of scholarships opportunities: full scholarship of \$150 with a \$50 co-pay or partial scholarship of \$100 with a \$100 co-pay. All applications must submit their applications via email to [fwsschoarship@gmail.com](mailto:fwsschoarship@gmail.com) by January 15th.

Applications can be found online at [www.farmwomenssymposium.org/scholarships](http://www.farmwomenssymposium.org/scholarships)

You can also approach your local Farm Bureau office, seed salesperson, or others, asking for their support of your attendance at the 33rd annual FWS. Many women have had great success with support from these sources.

It never hurts to ask for financial support from the agriculture community. Just keep in mind that with the GreenStone or FWS Committee scholarship, that this does not include the cost of the hotel room.

REGISTER TODAY!



**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.**

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

**33rd Symposium—Lansing**  
**March 4-6th, 2025**

Online Registration via Eventbrite!



**LOOK INSIDE FOR:**

- ◆ **Letter from Chair**
- ◆ **2025 Event Details**
- ◆ **Sponsorship Opportunities**
- ◆ **Scholarship Information**
- ◆ **NEW— Online Registration!**

