



THE CULTIVATOR

JUNE 2025



2025/2026

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Letter from the Chair:

Spring is the time for planting and as a gardener, spring is a season of optimism and hope for a good season, after the long, sunless months of winter.

Our 2025 Symposium was certainly a great event. Even the MSU mascot, Sparty, joined our welcome reception with plenty of opportunities for photos. A special thank you goes out to Jennifer Berkey, for all her help with securing Sparty.

After a great welcome reception, we enjoyed the Lansing bus tour. I will be visiting Horrocks again this summer. I was amazed at the size of the Lansing location and sheer number of offerings of produce, flowers, garden décor and groceries. It was overwhelming!

A dream of mine came true when we were able to not only walk onto the field at Spartan Stadium but also toured the tunnel and MSU locker room. I don't believe there is one photo of me not smiling. We rounded out our bus tour with a visit to the MSU Dairy Store, with an ice cream treat.

The banquet and live auction had the theme of Mardis Gras this year and the live auction was a huge success. Thank you to Keri and her family for staffing and providing the professional live auction.

We are very excited to announce that we will be traveling to Frankenmuth for our 2026 Symposium. Get your bathing suits ready ladies, as the brand-new water park is included in the cost of the rooms at the Bavarian Inn Lodge. FWS subcommittees will be very busy over the next few months with getting our speakers, bus tour and activities planned for what will be an amazing Symposium.

Have a great summer and look for more information on the 2026 event on our website at www.farmwomenssymposium.org



33rd Symposium

BY: DIANE LOEW

PHOTOS: CHRISTINA GELDER

Farm Women's Symposium
2025 is past but not forgotten



What a wonderful time we had starting with our first encounter of the East Lansing culture. Sparty from Michigan State University joined us for hors d'oeuvres and drinks.

Jeannine Schweihoffer, Associate Director, Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute, MSU Extension kicked off the evening sharing with us that while we all are a part of agriculture we all play a different yet important role.

The rest of the evening was time to connect, reconnect and catch up with each other.

Wednesday morning, we were off to Horrocks – a glorified grocery store that has unique items and some you never knew existed.



Then we traveled over to Michigan State University Stadium where we wandered around in the locker room. Not too many get to see all the lockers, and the area the players spend time in before and after the games. We then went behind the scenes and walked through the tunnel the players pass through and out onto the playing field. Did you know it takes 60 – 70 gallons of white paint to paint the entire field?

Off to the MSU Dairy Store and enjoyed ice cream.



Wednesday evening, we had our "Mardis Gras" theme banquet and live auction with good food and great items auctioned. Wayne Bancroft Auction Services provided us with the auctioning and the evening's entertainment. A wonderful night of fun and money for future Farm Women's Symposiums.



33rd Farm Women's Symposium Recap Continued

Thursday started off with a very interesting Drone Presentation from Kaitlynn and Bryan Hammis. New techniques and how the drones are a great addition.

Karen Eddington spoke to us about "Strong Under Pressure" and encouraged us along our journey. And then she shared "Stress Surfing: Get Skills to Ride the Waves". All good information to lessen the load of stress and to be more successful in enjoying life.

We learned the correct and safe way of preserving our foods with Wade Syers from MSU Extension. We are excited to harvest & process our summer bounties.



Samantha Wolfe from Michigan AGriAbility shared with us different avenues and assistances for helping with disabilities or physical challenges associated with farming. A lot of great suggestions. This is a great resource you should check out: <https://www.michiganagrability.org>.

Our own Christina Gelder gave us a wonderful mini photo lesson. It was definitely a great hands-on lesson that was also full of life learning and enjoying what we have as reminders.

We had such a wonderful time this year. We had nine first timers, some who came back after a few years gone and those of us who attend each year.

Every year we walk away filled with more. More friendships, more information, more laughter. It is so good for our mind, body and soul.

The only thing that could have made it better is to have more women join us. Each one of us brings a unique, special element that enhances who we are.

Next year will be even better. Every year is. Mainly because of those who come and bring life experiences, encouragements, and care.

FWS 2026 – Frankenmuth, MI –
Read on for details!





Exciting News: Your Home Away from Home

BY: WANDA SKINNER

The Facility Committee is thrilled to announce our official lodging partner for the 34th Farm Women's Symposium, taking place **March 3rd - 5th, 2026**, in beautiful Frankenmuth, Michigan: The Bavarian Inn Lodge and Conference Center!

We've secured fantastic rates for our attendees, ensuring a comfortable and memorable stay.

- Standard rooms: \$139 (Total with taxes and fees; \$194.12)
- Premium Rooms: \$149 (total with taxes and fees: \$205.42)
- Suites: \$229 (Total with taxes and fees: \$295.82)

But that's not all! Your stay at the Bavarian Inn Lodge includes complementary access to their renowned indoor water park, perfect for relaxing after a day of enriching sessions.



To make reservations, please use our special hotel reservation:



Don't miss out on this opportunity to stay at the heart of the symposium. Call a friend and sign up today!

We look forward to seeing you in Frankenmuth!

~ Your 2026 Facility committee:
Christina Gelder, Emelee Rajzer and Wanda Skinner



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United Title Agency

Weiss Equipment

Sponsorship Levels

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

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

SAVE THE DATE!
34th Symposium: Frankenmuth
March 3-5th, 2026

LOOK INSIDE FOR:

- ***Letter from Chair***
- ***Re-cap of 2025 Event***
- ***2026 Location Announced!***
- ***2025 Sponsors***

