



Annie's Project — Education for Farm Women

What's New at RISE

The Research Institute for Studies in Education (RISE), is a unit of the Iowa State University School of Education. RISE describes itself as “unique in promoting the fusion of evaluation, research, and policy to schools, colleges, public and private agencies, testing organizations, private foundations, state education agencies, and corporations.”

As such, they have been the source for some states' third-party Annie's Project and Managing for Today and Tomorrow evaluations. In July a new report format for the Annie's Pre and Post surveys was finalized.

Around the same time, a final transition to the new Qualtrics platform took place. The old format that was used will no longer be available. Most notably it will look different. Also, there was one function that could no longer be included: bar charts for knowledge and action sections.

Note that the links to the surveys have not changed. The changes will effect how you do the survey, just how the results look.

Following Mandi Anderson's retirement on July 8, Beth Callen assumed the duties of RISE Program Coordinator. The new contact information has been updated on the website. For your convenience, it is also included below. We anticipate an updated address, which will be e-mailed to you when it is assigned.

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August Quarterly Teleconference

Our last teleconference was on Friday, August 26. Board members Karisha Devlin and Willie Huot joined Ruth Hambleton in the call.

Among topics discussed were new training opportunities and connecting with your local Annie's Project alumnae.

If you have a method that works well to keep past participants involved and connected, please let us know and we'll share it in the next newsletter.

If you couldn't clear your schedule to attend, the conference was recorded and is posted for review at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/nsYPRjfi8RI>

Please e-mail discussion items for the next teleconference to administrator@anniesproject.org



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Claudette's Corner

Claudette Roper, Director of Administration, has worked for Annie's Project—Education for Farm Women since 2013.

Several weeks ago I had an interesting conversation with an Annie's Project facilitator. She was frustrated that some people did not want to fill out their contact information when they attended a class.

It brought back memories of when I was in some of your shoes at University of Missouri Extension. We had a roster requesting the traditional information: name, address, e-mail address and phone number as well as a demographic information survey.

*Heading them
off saved
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One of the reasons for a phone number and e-mail address is to notify participants if a class has to be cancelled unexpectedly. Like some of you, many of my participants traveled over an hour to attend. Heading them off saved them time and money.

This isn't just an issue in the winter, when a snowstorm may cause cancellations. When there is a sudden and determined-to-be extended power outage, classes are also cancelled. I explained these possible scenarios at the

beginning and also made it clear that their information remained with us.

In the case of an Annie's Project, "us" was APEFW and Extension — a group effort. You are not sharing information when you provide this data to the organization whose program you are presenting.

If you also have to have people fill out a sheet of demographic information you know they're tired of filling things out by then. The best way I found to encourage people to participate in all this sharing of information is to explain the benefits.

One of those, we have already touched on. It was very practical and clear. The other reason can be presented equally clearly. Consider that most of us depend on some kind of funding to provide this vital program. My explanation went something like this:

"The cost of the program per individual runs approximately \$300. By collecting these records we meet one of the standards that help us receive funding. We must be able to tell funders how many people we serve and from what area they come, etc. Your cooperation brings the cost of this class down to \$75.00 and that's a few minutes well spent, isn't it?" Insert the amount you charge for the class.

This method has rarely failed me. Honesty and kindness go a long way. Do you have a technique that works for you? Please share it by e-mailing me at administrator@anniesprojec.org and I'll share it with the rest of the group in the next newsletter.

Looking forward to fall, pumpkins, and cooler weather!

Mandi Anderson Retires

The APEFW Board would like to thank Mandi Anderson for the tireless efforts she made to provide excellent service at RISE.

This summer Mandi kicked off her retirement with a family trip to Oahu and the Big Island of Hawaii.

Regarding her work at RISE, she commented that "based on evaluation results, Annie's Project makes valuable contributions to women in agriculture."

While she really enjoyed her work, she is looking forward to having more time for gardening, golf, travel, quilting and other fiber arts.

Most of all she's glad to have more time to spend with friends and family...



especially her three granddaughters who are 14, 11, and almost four.

Managing for Today and Tomorrow Updates

MEET BETH CALLEN



Beth has been working at RISE for almost three years.

She has two Bachelor's degrees - one in Astronomy and one in Mathematics.

Her Master's degree is in Atmospheric Science. She is currently a Pre-Doctoral Research Associate at RISE (which will become a postdoc once she defends).

Her Ph.D. will be in Meteorology with a minor in Statistics. She plans to graduate in December.

Despite all her rigorous endeavors, she still manages to find what she calls her downtime. Her favorite activity during that time is crocheting.

It's hard to believe that it has been four years since the Managing for Today and Tomorrow (MTT) program was launched. Since that time 23 facilitator training courses have been delivered. Forty-three MTT courses have been reported, serving 477 women.

Since this time there have been many changes, including Annie's Project – Education for Farm Women achieving 501(c)3 non-profit status and a new logo for the organization.

The rest of the world did not stand still either — there have been updates on government sites regarding crucial information in estate and other planning. Insurance has changed, lending has changed and previously-relied upon websites no longer exist.

In order to provide you with current information, the PowerPoint presentations were updated and posted to the website. A team is performing a final review of the updated MTT manual as well.

To make downloads shorter for you, the document has been divided into its individual sections.

When it is released, it be download from a link in the Managing for Today and Tomorrow Resources section located on the facilitator pages of the website.

A notice will be sent to you from our Administrator of Education when the new manual becomes available.

Facilitator Training Events

In the last four months three states provided official APEFW facilitator training for staff interested in facilitating Annie's Project. They were Nebraska, Illinois and North Dakota. Nebraska also trained MTT facilitators.



North Dakota trained facilitators. Congratulations on a great turnout!

Contact Us

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Both Hands on the Wheel

Jessica Groskopf is an Extension Educator in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. She is also an APEFW certified Annie's Project facilitator.

Keeping the financial books for a farm or ranch is a little like driving a pickup. As long as the going is smooth, one hand on the wheel might be enough. But both hands are needed when the going gets tough. And for agriculture, financially, the going is getting tougher as prices remain suppressed for the third year in a row. With farm and ranch income declining, it's time to have both hands on the wheel.

In this analogy the first hand on the wheel is good financial record keeping. The second is being able to analyze and use this information for effective decision making.

Nebraska Extension, along with Ruth Hambleton, President and Founder of Annie's Project – Education for Farm Women, is developing a curriculum to provide women in agriculture with the knowledge and tools they need to understand their operation's financial condition, as well as make informed, proactive decisions to help carry them through the current economic downturn by getting both hands on the wheel of their operation.

We're trying to help farmers and ranchers through this downturn."

The curriculum has two key parts: The first part is training producers in Quicken, a software for bookkeeping. The second key

part is helping farm and ranch operators to analyze the information from their balance sheet, cash flow and income statement, so they not only understand their current status, but can also effectively plan for the future.

Bethany Johnston, Extension Educator in north central Nebraska, has seen the need for this type of education for years. "We're trying to help farmers and ranchers through this downturn," Johnston said.

Today farmers and ranchers have access to a lot of technology for keeping financial records, which they didn't have during the 1980s farm slump, according to the Illinois-based Hambleton. "What we're doing is trying to get people to use more software for record-keeping, then making sure they put good information in," she said. "Garbage in, garbage out."

"We have developed the curriculum and learning environment for farm women who are keeping the books," Johnston said. "The curriculum is designed to provide small group activities, the opportunity to ask a lot of questions, a safe place to ask questions."

Having a good understanding of your operation's financial condition is vital to surviving financial downturns, Hambleton said. "You need that information to make decisions. Is this a good time to expand, or a good time to cut back on something? You can't drive without your eyesight and two hands on the wheel, or make financial decisions if you don't have control of where your money's coming from or where it's going."