

News Column

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## WOMEN IN AG SERIES

I like to think I am a great shopper and an OK husband. While I fear my wife might argue both points, nobody can argue that I didn't get it right the year I bought her a cow for her birthday. I mean, who wouldn't want a cow for their birthday?!!

In recent years – like the last 30 or so – Pam and I have settled into a pattern of her either purchasing something big that she says is for both of us, or buying her own present and telling me what I got her. That's for Christmas. For birthdays it's usually a card and M&M's.

Like I said, I like to THINK I am a great shopper. I never really said I actually AM a great shopper....

It has been a couple of years since I last recommended signing your spouse up for a Women in Ag class as a unique and special Christmas gift. I guess it is one of those promotional offers that keeps coming back, either because it was successful before, or because the marketing guys couldn't come up with any new ideas. Whatever the reason for the recycled marketing pitch, you don't want to miss this opportunity.

On January 12, 2022 we will start another statewide Women in Ag series. This one is titled, "Farm Financial Skills for Women in Ag". When we offered a similar program two years ago we had something like 29 participants at our local site, and around 700 across the entire state.

Dates for this year's program are January 12, 19, and 26, and February 2. A bonus session

will be held on February 23 for those especially interested in cattle marketing. The main topics for the first four sessions are Enterprise Budgeting, Crop Insurance, Crop Marketing, and Farm Bill Programs. Important stuff!

I don't like to sugarcoat things – bait and switch isn't my game – so I'll give it to you straight. You might have to focus to keep up with all you will learn at these sessions. This is stuff you need to know to run a business, but it might not be fun for everyone.

Now that I've thrown out that disclaimer, let me focus on a few selling points. First, supper is provided each evening as a part of the \$50 registration fee. We'll try to make it good, but the best part is you don't have to cook. Either I will cook, or I will make the phone call to get us a meal.

The second selling point is the other people in the class. One of the reasons for attending a series like this is to get to know other people with similar interests. Some might be your neighbors, and others will be new faces, probably from other counties. The friendships and connections will be worth the effort,....even for those of us who are introverts.

A third selling point for those who attended two years ago is that we were able to book the Riley County Public Works Facility for the 2022 series. It is a comfortable facility with great chairs, and you probably won't need a sweater,...unlike our Pottorf Hall facility where you are hot if you are standing and cold if you are sitting.

Details have kind of been scattered throughout this column, so let me pull them together. The Farm Financial Skills for Women in Ag series will be held on Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., starting January 12 and continuing through February 2, 2022. A bonus meeting on cattle marketing will be held February 23.

The local site for all sessions is the Riley County Public Works Facility, 6215 Tuttle Creek

Boulevard, Manhattan. The cost is \$50 for the first four sessions and another \$10 if you choose to also attend the February 23 session. We advertise this as Women in Ag, but men are welcome too.

Registration is online at [www.AgManager.info](http://www.AgManager.info) and the registration deadline is December 31. Register yourself, or sign your spouse up for a special Christmas gift – four evenings out of the house. It will be \$50 well spent.

If you have questions, you can reach me at the Riley County Extension Office at 785/537-6350. Or, you can send e-mail to [gmcclore@ksu.edu](mailto:gmcclore@ksu.edu).

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