

Women's ag conference in Manhattan

The 2013 Women Managing the Farm Conference will be Thursday and Friday, Feb. 7 and 8, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Manhattan.

Eighth in a series, the conference began as a regional offering before becoming a multi-day conference held in Hutchinson and, in recent years, in Wichita.

Moving the conference to Manhattan allows greater access to resources at Kansas State University and K-State Research and Extension, said Janet Barrows, conference chair. It also provides an opportunity for adding a pre-conference session, dubbed "Blue Jean Basics" on Wednesday, Feb. 6. The session is a less

formal introductory and interactive opportunity for participants to learn from K-State crops and livestock specialists.

The conference is recommended for women who are land owners, farm or ranch managers, partners or employees, absentee landlords or women in agricultural careers.

Women new to production agriculture by inheritance or marriage find the conference to be informative and reassuring, Barrows said. And, while geared to women, spouses and others appreciate conference topics and time to network with women moving into leadership roles in agriculture.

The 2013 conference agenda includes featured speakers and breakout sessions considering financial risks; human risks; estate planning and legal issues; insurance; production; drought management; social advocacy; and retail agriculture.

Jolene Brown, a champion for agriculture and consultant for family-owned businesses will blend humor with tips into two conference presentations.

Her topics, "If We Huff and We Puff Will We Blow Your House Down?" and "The Balancing Act: 10 Ideas to Relieve Stress and Bring Renewal to Our Farm and Family Life" promise a realistic look at agriculture and family life in today's world and offer

ideas for moving forward successfully and keeping peace in the family.

Cost is \$145 for registrations received by next Wednesday, \$170 after that. Registration includes conference sessions, materials and packet, two lunches, a breakfast buffet and refreshment breaks.

Information about the conference and online registration is available at www.womenmanagingthefarm.info.

Early registration and reservations are recommended, Barrows said.

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