



# VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PULLMAN WASHINGTON

[www.lwvpullman.org](http://www.lwvpullman.org)

February 2014

The League of Women Voters of Pullman is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

## Officers

**President:** Shared by the Board; **Vice President:** Karen Kiessling, 332-4755; **Secretary:** Paul Spencer, 332-6699, Backup: Anne Lewis, 334-1075; **Treasurer:** Joan Folwell, 332-3946; **Voter Service Chair:** Deb Olson, 332-2114; **Voter Editor:** Susan Daniels, 332-6699; **Budget Chair:** Shelley Jones, 509-432-3428; **Finance Drive Chair:** Lenna Harding, 332-7749; **Membership Chair:** Janet Kendall, 432-3368; **Scheduling Chair:** Barbara Hammond, 332-4104; **Observer Corps Chair:** Deb Olson, 332-2114; **TRY Editor:** Lucy Linden, 332-2755; **Webmaster:** Paul Spencer: 332-6699.

## Meetings and Events

Please check the date and place when you get the meeting notice a week before the meeting.

### Citizens United Panel

Date: Monday February 3, 6:30-9:00 p.m.  
 Program: Snacks followed at 7:00 by a panel discussion of Citizens United ruling  
 Place: Neill Public Library, Hecht Room  
 Contact: Paul Spencer, 332-6699

### Farm Bill Panel

Date: Monday March 3, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.  
 Program: Snacks followed at 7:00 p.m. By a panel of local farmers and academics discussing the Farm Bill  
 Place: Neill Public Library, Hecht Room  
 Contact: Joan Folwell, 332-3946

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## **Ag Study Consensus Meeting**

Date: Monday March 24, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Program: Answering the Ag Study consensus questions

Place: Joan Folwell's home, 1301 Kitzmiller Rd., [directions](#) on page 4

Contact: Joan Folwell, 332-3946

## **Brown Bag Meetings**

Date: Third Thursdays, Noon – 1:00 p.m.

Program: February 20th – History and Status of the Farm Bill; March 20<sup>th</sup> – Animal Feeding and Waste Management

Place: Congregational Church, Opal and Campus, Pullman

Contact: Joan Folwell, 332-3946

## **Board Meetings**

Date: Wednesday February 26; Wednesday March 26th

Time: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Place: Daily Grind, back room

Chairs: February, Joan Folwell; March, Paul Spencer

## **Other Meetings of Interest**

### **February Game Day**

Date: Wednesday February 19, 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Program: Games and Conversation

Place: Susan Daniels' House, 1745 SW Baldwin Dr.. [directions](#) on page 6

Contact: [Susan Daniels, 332-6699](#) [susanhdaniels@gmail.com](mailto:susanhdaniels@gmail.com)

### **March Social Event**

Date: Friday March 14, 11:00 a.m.

Program: Celebrating Pi Day, 3.14

Place: Anne Lewis' House, 915 SE Skylark St.

Contact: Anne Lewis, 509-334-1075, [anneglewis2@yahoo.com](mailto:anneglewis2@yahoo.com)

### **LWVUS Convention 2014**

Date: June 6-10, 2014

Program: See [article](#) on page 5

Place: Dallas, TX

Contact: Shelley Jones, 509-432-3428, [shelley.jones@gmail.com](mailto:shelley.jones@gmail.com).

## **Schedule Changes**

Please check the calendar as there have been several changes. The February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be on Citizens United. Monday March 3<sup>rd</sup> will be a panel of local farmers and academics discussing the Farm Bill. The Agricultural consensus meeting will be Monday March 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **Citizens United Panel Discussion, February 3<sup>rd</sup>** **Paul Spencer**

Four years ago the Supreme Court issued the Citizens United ruling which has affected election financing. Do you wonder how the Court arrived at its decision and how it has affected political campaigns? Come to our February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting in the the Neill Public Library Hecht room. There will be a 30 minute social time followed by a panel discussion of the Citizens United ruling and its current and future effects.

Professors Michael Salamone and Travis Ridout of the WSU School of Politics, Philosophy and Public Affairs, and Professor Shaakirrah Sanders of the Univ. of Idaho Law School will be on the panel.

Topics to be discussed include the development of the constitutional arguments surrounding campaign finance, what the justices' decisions in Citizens United may tell us about future rulings (especially *McCutcheon v. FEC*, which is currently pending before the Court), and the impact of the ruling on the proliferation of political advertising in the past election cycle.

We will need question card collectors and sorters for this meeting.

## **March is Agricultural Update Study Month** **Joan Folwell and Libby Walker, Ag Update Study Committee**

### **Our scope of study:**

Local Leagues across the state and the nation are wrestling with the problem of digesting a lengthy list of study materials (23) and answering a long and broad set of consensus questions by April 18 (the LWVUS Ag Committee just finished posting these items in January). For example, to cope with this the King County League is dividing the consensus questions among its fifteen units and expects to answer all the questions. We do not have the resources for that approach. The Pullman Ag Update committee has decided to concentrate on the largest set of consensus questions entitled *Economic Health of the Agricultural Sector* which pertains to the Farm Bill. We will also try to answer consensus questions in *Animal Management*, *Food Safety*, and *Food Labeling* sections predicated on future and past presentations and personal education on the state labeling initiative last fall.

### **Ag Update Meetings:**

We will have a series of meetings to help educate us and help us answer the consensus questions:

- Brown Bag Discussion, Thursday, Feb. 20, noon to 1 PM, Congregational Church, 525 Campus featuring Dr. Peter Tozer presenting *History, Overview, and Current Status of the Farm Bill*.
- Public Meeting, Monday, March 3, 7 to 9 p.m., Neill Public Library featuring a panel of local farmers and academics to discuss the effects of the Farm Bill policies on producers.
- Brown Bag Discussion, Thursday, March 20, noon to 1 p.m., Congregational Church, 525 Campus, featuring Dr. Bill Sischo speaking about animal feeding operations and animal waste management.
- Consensus Questions Answering Session, Monday, March 24, 7 to 9 p.m., home of Joan Folwell, 1301 Kitzmiller Road. Directions below.

Please plan on attending as many of these meetings as possible. This committee feels that this information has definite value to you becoming a better educated consumer as well as a means to answer any consensus questions. Remember how much we learned from Dr. Call's presentation on antibiotic resistance at the January Brown Bag meeting (see the [summary](#) in this VOTER.)

For a list of study materials and the consensus questions see the Ag Study Materials and Consensus Questions later in this VOTER.

### **Directions to Joan Folwell's Home**

1. Drive north out of Pullman on the Palouse highway (Route 27)
2. At the first intersection (Albion Road/Wheelan Road) turn right onto Whelan Road
3. Drive approximately 200 feet and immediately turn right on Kitzmiller Road (do not go past the McGregor Plant!).
4. The house is located 1.3 miles from the beginning of Kitzmiller on the right side of the road (look for the blue address on mailbox). Drive up the lane: the upper driveway leads to the front door and has three parking spaces and requires no stairs into the house; additional parking space is located on the lower drive and in front of the shed. Wear sturdy shoes for walking on the gravel driveway.

## **December Meeting Report Alternative Justice Programs in Whitman County Alice Schroeder**

On Monday Dec. 2 after enjoying a lot of wonderful Christmas cookies—Thank you June Crawford for organizing this—about 25 League members and others from the public participated in an excellent program on Alternative Justice programs. Dr. Faith Lutze, Associate Professor, WSU Dept. of Criminal Justice and Criminology, gave us an overview of the effectiveness of such programs. Research has documented that about 15-20% of people arrested are so affected by being arrested they never get in trouble with law again, while another 15-20% do not seem to alter their criminal behavior no matter what the punishment. It is the middle 60-70% of those arrested where the way they are treated will greatly influence whether they go on to become productive citizens or repeat offenders. Many alternative programs have been tried. Among the more successful are drug courts, mental health courts and pre-charge diversion programs for minor, non-violent offenses. Dr. Lutze emphasized that working to solve the problems that led to the offense is the basis of the effectiveness of these programs in preventing re-offense. More information on alternative justice programs and their likelihood of success as well as their cost benefit analysis can be found at the Washington State Institute for Public Policy web site: [www.wsipp.wa.gov](http://www.wsipp.wa.gov).

Bill Druffel, Whitman County Chief Deputy Prosecutor, discussed the two alternative justice programs now available in Whitman county, Drug Court and minor in possession pre-charge diversion. He emphasized that not having to pay a fine, do jail time, or end up with an arrest or conviction record does not mean offenders are “getting away with something.” In fact, the alternative programs are often more demanding. They usually last six months or more and include fees to cover the costs of the

program, extensive counseling, community service and, in the case of drugs, random drug tests. Both programs are too new to have statistics on success. However, only 3 of eleven people in the drug court have failed or dropped out. Sgt. Dan Hargraves of the Pullman Police Dept. said that at first police were skeptical, but as they see what is required of offenders they are supportive and hopeful that these programs will keep them from seeing the same people over and over.

Discussion brought up a troubling problem. Many offenders have few skills and can only obtain low paying jobs. This means they cannot pay the fines imposed by courts. The courts then arrange easy payments, but the interest is 12% – often making the amount owed actually grow with time. Often it is failure to pay that brings people back into the system. This needs to change and is a place where League action could have an effect.

## **January Meeting Report**

### **Shelley Ann Jones**

Thank you to all of you that attended our January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. We had a lot of important topics to discuss! We started with a presentation by League member, Anne Lewis, who shared with us the state of Pullman School District construction projects. Following Anne, was a discussion led by Mary Collins regarding LWV-Pullman's upcoming Poverty Study. (Look for more information on this in the coming months as we will be voting to undertake this study at our Annual Meeting in May.) We had a nice turnout of community members and League members to discuss the organization and scope of this important study. Finally, League members decided on what we would like LWVUS to concentrate on as a Program. The consensus among those that attended was we would like more focus on Action, specifically in the areas of: Voting Rights, Corporate Personhood, Alternatives to Partisan Primaries, and Income Inequality. Again, thank you to all that attended!

## **Consider attending LWVUS Convention 2014 in Dallas!**

### **Shelley Jones**

LWVUS Convention is in Dallas, Texas on June 6 – 10, 2014. Consider joining other national, state, and local League leaders from around the country! This is a great opportunity to hear from great speakers – past speakers have included Attorney General Eric Holder and Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius. You will also have an opportunity to learn about issues important to League, participate in training sessions and network with other Leagues. The Pullman League budgets to send one individual to LWVUS Convention – HOWEVER, this year we are hoping to send two delegates! We are going to be holding a fundraising drive among our members to be able to send two delegates – we hope you will consider donating to this important cause which helps us train future local League leaders. The amount the Pullman League budgets usually pays for a majority of expenses - generally airfare, hotel and convention fees. We are hoping to raise enough funds to cover the expenses for an additional delegate. If you have interest in going, contact Shelley Jones at [shelley.jones@gmail.com](mailto:shelley.jones@gmail.com) or 509-432-3428.

## **January's League Game Day**

### **Anne Lewis**

7! League members attended the second game day. Returnees Anne, Deb, Shelley, Paul and Susan (you were missed, June!) were joined by Karen and Alice. After a silly, feisty, irreverent, and shocking game of Apples to Apples (really, Paul, Abe Lincoln doesn't win for "patriotic"?), Susan emerged victorious.

Please consider joining us for the next game day. That is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19 at Susan's House, 1745 SW Baldwin Dr. (**Directions:** Go south on Grand Ave.; Baldwin Dr. is about ½ mile past Bishop Blvd. Turn right on Baldwin Dr. and we're the second house on the left.) Contact Susan at 332-6699 or [susanhdaniels@gmail.com](mailto:susanhdaniels@gmail.com).

## **March Social Event**

**What: PIE Day**

**When: Friday, March 14 (borrowing Pi's day) at 11 am**

**Where: Home of Anne Lewis-- 915 SE Skylark Street**

**What to Bring: A pie to share—dessert, savory, or other**

As it is too late to throw together a celebration for PIE Day (January 23), I suggest we borrow the celebration date of "that other Pi" (3.14159...). However, although we can certainly lay down our forks for a brief moment to acknowledge, celebrate and ponder that mathematical wonder, the focus will be on this wondrous food.

For questions, comments, or suggestions re: this or other social activity, please contact Anne Lewis at [anneglewis2@yahoo.com](mailto:anneglewis2@yahoo.com)

## **Pullman-Moscow Airport Runway Realignment Environmental Assessment**

### **Susan Daniels**

Last November Deb Olson and I went to the open house on the Environmental Assessment of the Pullman-Moscow Airport Runway Realignment and thought you might be interested in the information also. Several alternatives were considered for the runway. The preferred design was for the least expensive and least disruptive choice. Information about the three designs, their advantages and disadvantages, environmental impacts, funding, etc. can be found at [www.puw-ea.com](http://www.puw-ea.com). Some of the pages are slow to load, but there is a wealth of information here.

## **Nominations for the LWV Pullman Board**

### **Shelley Jones**

It is that time of year again, time to start thinking of our Leadership Team for next year. We have an

excellent Board and most have chosen to remain in a Board position. However, we need your help in filling some vital positions for our League! It is important for our Board to have new faces and new ideas. But, know that if you are interested in joining the Team you will have excellent resources in members, both on and off the Board, to guide and mentor you in your position. We need you!

**Positions that need to be filled:**

President/Co-Presidents

Vice-President

Secretary

Back-up Secretary

Budget Chair

Nominating Committee (Need 1-2 more members willing work with Deb Olson on this next year)

**If you are interested in joining our Leadership Team in one of these vital roles, please contact Shelley Jones at [shelley.jones@gmail.com](mailto:shelley.jones@gmail.com) or 509-432-3428.**

## **In Memoriam – Betty Nyman Karen Kiessling**

Life member Betty Nyman of Spokane died on September 29th in Spokane. She was a member of the Pullman League for 56 years and was one of four honorees at a 50 year luncheon held in Pullman in October of 2007. Betty held many offices in League over the years and was a staunch and vigorous supporter of the work of the League. She was one of my mentors when I joined the League in 1967. I got to visit with her briefly at Priest Lake in the summer and I will miss her.

## **Brown Bag Meetings Report Joan Folwell**

### **December Brown Bag Report– WSU Organic Farm**

WSU's Organic Farm Manager Brad Jaeckel talked about the organic certification process and the use of GMOs in relation to the organic farm. Since the current site of the Organic Farm is being impacted by realignment of the airport runway, he outlined the plans for the farm's new 30-acre location on Animal Sciences Road, just north of the WSU Bear Center. Almost seven times larger than the farm's current space, the new area will provide the Organic Farm with plenty of room for new orchards, vegetable and grain plots and livestock like turkeys and ducks. Jaeckel said that the farm is in the midst of a transition from the old location to the new one and employees and volunteers have already planted 130 fruit trees in a low-density orchard at the new farm. He also described the interaction of the Organic Farm with WSU Sustainable Agriculture Program by providing students with coursework and project opportunities.

### **January Brown Bag Report– Antibiotic Resistance in US Animal Food Systems**

Dr. Douglas Call, professor of molecular epidemiology in the Paul Allen School for Global Animal Health, declared that if an antibiotic is used, bacterial resistance to it is bound to occur. He outlined the steps involved in creating that resistance from a sensitive population as it progresses to emergence and selection and then amplification and persistence. He indicated where intervention (such as prudent use, etc.) can occur in that process.

The FDA is calling for voluntary industry compliance for producers to use antibiotics only for therapeutic and prevention purposes (and not for growth promotion and nutrition) and to supplant OTC sales with veterinarian prescriptions. Dr. Call believes that the problem of resistance is much more complicated than employing those rather simple remedies which no one actually knows will have a health benefit. As an example, he showed that only 2 of the 18 most harmful bacteria to animals are transmitted to humans; therefore, a restriction of all antibiotics for animals will not have an equal benefit for humans. He believes that these recommendations will increase food costs, will cause marginal producers to go under, will cause rural producers to suffer for lack of nearby vet services, makes no sense for some systems like aquaculture, and will cause consumers to depend more on imports where there is less or unknown oversight. To make it more complicated, there may be some synergism in the use of antibiotics as a growth promoter that creates a healthier animal which is a good thing. On the other hand, there are documented instances of curtailing the use of some antibiotics which eliminated the creation of more super bugs that affect the human population. Dr. Call's recommendation is to reduce the demand of antibiotics by these means: development of vaccines, use of probiotics, improvements in animal husbandry, improvement in waste management, attention to biosecurity, and development of bacteriocins. In his last comment, Dr. Call reminded us that it is a global environment and we have no control over other countries, their practices regarding antibiotics, and the resulting effects on us.

### **Upcoming Brown Bags**

Thursday, Feb. 20, noon to 1 PM, Congregational Church, 525 Campus featuring Dr. Peter Tozer presenting "History, Overview, and Current Status of the Farm Bill."

Thursday, March 20, noon to 1 PM, Congregational Church, 525 Campus, featuring Dr. Bill Sischo speaking about animal feeding operations and animal waste management.

### **Meet our New Members**

Welcome to two new members. Janet sent them some questions which they have graciously answered so we can get to know them a little better.

#### **Dawn Baerlocher**

My family and I moved to Pullman in August of 2012. We had lived in Portland, Oregon for about 15 years and decided to take the mid-life leap! We wanted to raise our kids in a smaller town that had better weather and good access to outdoor activities. My husband Jason is originally from Clarkston, so in some respects we are coming home after being away for 20 years. Jason works in Capital Planning and Development at WSU.

I am mom of Lola who is 9 and Tanner who is 6. I homeschool my children and am an avid gardener. I have always found myself frustrated at election time. Who can filter through commercials and the voters' pamphlet? I attended two of the League sponsored candidate debates this past fall and loved them. I learned so much about the candidates and felt I could really make an educated decision when I cast my vote. My dear friend Anne Lewis has passed along some great information on the League and inspired me to join. I am excited to learn more about our political system – from our local government to national policy.

I am very passionate about food and water. More specifically, I value quality food and am concerned

about the quality of our food supply. Water conservation is another hot topic with me. I'm not sure exactly where I will fit in as being a productive League member...but hopefully I will find my spot.

## **Lydia Gerber**

### ***Tell us about your background -- how did you come to live in Pullman?***

I was born and raised in Germany and received a university education in Chinese Studies and Religious Science at Hamburg University. From 1991 to 1992 I spent a year at Nankai University in Tianjin, China, teaching German to graduate students and doing research for my dissertation on Sino-German relations. This is where I met my husband, Bill Hallagan, who was a Fulbright professor in Economics at Nankai that year, but otherwise taught here at Washington State University. In 1994 we got married, and I arrived in Pullman that September with an interminable dissertation project in boxes of xeroxed archival material from Germany and China.



I was actually rather badly prepared for life in the US when I arrived – I did not even have a driver's license. My knowledge of American idioms was sorely lacking: As I walked all over Pullman that fall, I noticed all those "Slade Gorton works for me" signs on well-manicured lawns and assumed that he had a lawn care service. Even though I have been here for now close to twenty years (Bill and I spent another year in China 1998/99), I continue to learn about American culture as our son moves through our local public school system and I try my best to be a worthy, inconspicuous soccer mom.

### ***What is your job or career on the Palouse? Family?***

I am currently a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of History, teaching China-related courses for the History Department, the Honors College and the Asia Program.

Bill and I have a son, Martin, who just turned ten. Martin is a fourth-grader at Sunnyside Elementary and devoted to soccer. Bill is now retired from the Economics Department and spends some of his time taking care of our farmland in Idaho. I also have two adult stepdaughters, Sheilagh is an artist who lives in nearby Palouse, and Sarah is now a science teacher and lives in Seattle with her family.

### ***What caused you to join the League of Women Voters of Pullman and what interests you about the League?***

Many years ago I received an invitation to join the league and declined, since I was not an American citizen. But I had promised myself I would join as soon as I became naturalized, which I did last year. In a public discourse that I perceive to be intentionally divisive in the manner of American sports, rather than inquiry-based, the LWV has, in my experience, been the voice of inquiry, reason, and a genuine desire to establish facts and make them available. It seems easy to turn away from politics as dominated by extreme views and popularity contests, rather than by a genuine desire to establish what seems to be best for this constituency. I love that the LWV does the opposite: creating an environment

that fosters a different, more productive discourse. Even as someone who has, in her first year, mostly been reading emails, I have already learned so much about getting things done here in Pullman. I find this exciting!

***What topics would you like the League to pursue in the area of public policy? And where are you willing to be involved in League programs or issues?***

As an immigrant from Western Europe, an area with high taxes and health care for all, I am still sometimes baffled by politics in the United States, including local politics. I am looking forward to learning more and getting a better sense of what changes are actually useful, or even possible, here in the United States. I grew up with the sense that we needed government resources to take care of everyone in the community, at least in part, because it was more cost-effective in the long run and improved quality of life for all. But I am learning that an immigration country with a highly mobile and diverse population may have to approach topics differently than a less diverse and less mobile population would. So I am right now hesitant to propose topics, but will be happy to join what others are initiating, which includes the recently proposed task force on youth and legal issues. My greatest challenge right now is to make enough time for everything I care about in my life, so I may, for the next couple of years, be an enthusiastic and proud, but not very productive LWV member!

## **What Does the President of LWV of Pullman Do?**

(It was suggested that if the VOTER ran a series of articles describing the various offices in League, it might encourage more members to be interested and willing to take an office. We're continuing in this issue with a description of the office of President.)

This year the LWV of Pullman has been sharing the job of president among the Board members with each Board member taking on the duties of the president for a month. The Policies and Procedures of the LWV of Pullman lists the duties of the President as follows:

- Organize and lead board meetings.
- Act as the primary contact for the League of Pullman
- Coordinate with other members to see that program is carried out as planned or modified if needed.
- Speak for the League or delegate others to do this.
- Write or screen all action letters before they are sent or read at hearings, etc.
- Screen the League e-mail box and PO Box. Answer or act on mail as needed and direct other mail to the appropriate people for action or answering. This job may be delegated.
- Check Finance Drive letters before printing and sign them.
- Check minutes before they are sent for approval.
- Initiate an audit of the Treasurer's books at least every two years.
- Maintain records as stated in the section "Record Keeping".
- Co-presidents may divide these duties by time periods or job but only one person should be seen as "speaking for the League" during any time period.

# Ag Study Materials

## Joan Folwell and Libby Walker, Ag Update Study Committee

All the LWVUS study materials that have been prepared are on the Pullman LWV website. In your browser type in [www.lwvpullman.org](http://www.lwvpullman.org). When our home page appears, look toward the bottom half for a box labeled *Ag Study*. Click on it and a list of documents will appear. The first document is titled *Discussion Guide to Consensus Questions*. This Guide shows an outline of the consensus questions and the appropriate study papers to read for each. For instance under the *Economic Health of the Agricultural Sector* section (which is what we are particularly studying), for Question 1, Part A, the study resource to read is page 6 of F1: *Overview of Subsidies*. LWVUS has arbitrarily grouped the study papers by a letter prefix: F denotes “finance;” T denotes “technical;” A denotes “agency;” and G denotes “glossary and acronyms.” Therefore, to be prepared to answer questions about the farm bill, we should read all or parts of F1, F2, T1, T5 T6, T7, and A1 as indicated by the Guide. Members have two months to read this information which is augmented by the presentations at the meetings. All the study papers are well written, so members are encouraged to read as many as they desire.

## Agriculture Update Consensus Questions

### Economic Health of the Agricultural Sector

1. *Should government financial support for agriculture be directed to:*

- a) Subsidized agricultural credit (loans) (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- c) Disaster assistance (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- d) Crop insurance (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- e) Farms that supply local and regional markets (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- f) Subsidized implementation of best management practices (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- g) Commodity crop programs, e.g., corn, soybeans, sugar, cotton, wheat (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- h) Commodity livestock program (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- i) Commodity dairy program (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- j) Specialty crops, e.g. fruits, vegetables, nuts, etc. (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- k) Other production methods, e.g. organic, hydroponic, urban, etc. farms (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

2. *What changes should government make regarding direct payment programs to farm operators?*

Note: Farm operators can be anything between family farms to huge corporations.

- a) *Eliminate* direct payments to farm operators (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) *Update* the rules for direct payments to farm operators to support sustainability (Yes, No, No Consensus)

- c) *Broaden* the types of farms that are eligible (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- d) *Broaden* the types of crops that are eligible (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- e) Effectively *enforce* existing rules (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

3. *What changes to current crop insurance programs should government make?*

- a) Extend to more types of crops (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Link to the use of conservation practices (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- c) Limit insurance for the cultivation of marginal and environmentally sensitive land (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- d) Cap amount of premium subsidy to a single farm operator (see note in question 2) (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

4. *Should government act on any of the following?*

- a) Revise anti-trust legislation to ensure competitive agricultural markets (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Enforce anti-trust laws as they relate to agriculture (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- c) Promote alternative marketing systems, including regional hub markets, farmer cooperatives, farm markets, etc. (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

## **Animal Management**

5. *Which of the following approaches to animal management should government achieve?*

- a) Transparently collect and disclose data about regulated animal feeding operations (AFOs) or aquaculture operations and about the health of animals in such regulated operations (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Apply and enforce existing clean air and clean water regulations to animal or seafood management facilities (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

6. *Which of the following approaches to animal waste management should government require or bring about?*

- a) Treat animal waste with environmentally sound technologies for all regulated AFOs (Yes, No, No Consensus)
- b) Prioritize federal funds to mitigate existing environmental challenges (such as Environmental

Quality Incentives Program, cost share, loans, etc.) rather than construction of new facilities (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

## Research and Development

7. Which of the following approaches to research and development (R&D) should government fund or accomplish?

Note: For the purpose of these questions and some questions below, “**developed using any new technology**” or “**new technologies**” refer to any of many scientific processes for developing new crops or animals with genetic engineering, nanotechnology or other new techniques, which are not the traditional breeding or hybridization techniques.

a) Basic research (Yes, No, No Consensus)

b) Independent third-party (such as an academic institution) risk assessment of products *developed using any new technology* (Yes, No, No Consensus)

c) Research to assess the impacts of *new technologies* on human health and the environment, prior to their widespread adoption (Yes, No, No Consensus)

d) Research that advances the continuation of diversified and sustainable agricultural systems (Yes, No, No Consensus)

e) Seed banking, research, and other means that promote and preserve genetic diversity (Yes, No, No Consensus)

f) Both transparency in the reporting of research studies related to approval of new products **and** respect for intellectual property rights of private enterprises engaged in research (Yes, No, No Consensus)

g) Research on long-term effects of new crops, products and processes (Yes, No, No Consensus)

h) Development of new practices and technologies to promote conservation for all types of farms (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

## Food Safety

8. Which of the following approaches to food safety should government perform or fund?

a) Clarify and enforce pre-market testing requirements for new foods and food additives *developed using any new technology* (see note below question 7) (Yes, No, No Consensus)

b) Require developers to monitor all food products *developed using any new technology* after releasing to the market (Yes, No, No Consensus)

c) Withdraw marketing approval if products are shown to be unsafe (Yes, No, No Consensus)

d) Require post-market monitoring of approved pharmaceutical applications in animal production for human health and environmental impacts (Yes, No, No Consensus)

e) Require developers of new products to provide data and other materials to independent third-parties (such as academic institutions) for pre- and post-market safety assessment as appropriate

(Yes, No, No Consensus)

f) Limit use of antibiotics in animal production to treat and control disease (Yes, No, No Consensus)

g) Fund independent third-party (such as academic institutions) risk assessment of long-term and multiple exposures from foods on human health and the environment (Yes, No, No Consensus)

h) Promote crop management practices that decrease dependency on added chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, and synthetic fertilizers) (Yes, No, No Consensus)

i) Fund, train and add personnel for assessment and compliance functions of regulatory agencies (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

## Food Labeling

9. *How sufficient are the following regarding current food labeling?*

a) Nutrition Facts on food labels (Insufficient, Sufficient, Too much, No Consensus)

b) Nutrition Facts on food labels as a means of consumer education (Insufficient, Sufficient, Too much, No Consensus)

c) Common allergen labeling (Insufficient, Sufficient, Too much, No Consensus)

d) Health and ingredient claims that consumers can understand (Insufficient, Sufficient, Too much, No Consensus)

Comments:

10. *Which of the following should government achieve regarding marketing and ingredient claims on food labels?*

a) Define (and approve for use) health and safety marketing terms (e.g. immunity support, humane, pasture-raised, natural, etc.) (Yes, No, No Consensus)

b) Regulate the use of images or other sensory advertising (Yes, No, No Consensus)

c) Require that ingredient marketing claims accurately represent what is in the required ingredient list (Yes, No, No Consensus)

Comments:

11. *Recognizing that each food developed using any new technology can be unique, and assuming that required food labeling should be useful to consumers, should the following generalized information relating to how products or components are developed be presented on food labels?*

See note below question 7. All these questions also assume some percentage threshold of new technology ingredients, such as the 0.9% used in the European Union.

a) Contains ingredients developed using any new technology stating which technologies are involved (Not Recommended, Voluntary, Mandatory, No consensus)

b) Does **not** contain ingredients developed using any new technology (Not Recommended, Voluntary, Mandatory, No consensus)

c) If meat, fish, eggs, or dairy products are from animals that have consumed feed developed using any new technology stating which technologies are involved (Not Recommended, Voluntary, Mandatory, No consensus)

Comments:

Answering all these questions is an impossible task in the short time allotted. Now you may understand why we have selected a focus. In any event, we surely will profit from new prospectives!

We as a League are very indebted to Paul Spencer for creating a website that allows very user-friendly access to the study material. Thank you, Paul!

## **Board Member in Charge**

This year the office of president of the LWV of Pullman is being shared among the board members with each board member taking one month to organize and run the board meeting for that month. The list of months and the board member responsible is:

February: Joan Folwell

March: Paul Spencer

April: Barbara Hammond

May: TBD

**Read your VOTER with your calendar next to you so you write in the meetings immediately. You are what makes the League a success.**