

Annie's Project

Annie's Project is an educational program designed to deliver technical training to farm & ranch women, enhancing their business skills and developing a support network.

Twenty-one women participated in this six week program that was held from September 5, 2012 – October 10, 2012 in White River, SD. Every Wednesday evening these ladies traveled from six surrounding communities to gather at the Mellette County Museum/Library to gain knowledge and share experiences about the farm and ranch operations they are involved with. This class was very unique because of the difference in age of the attendees, three different generations of individuals each one bringing different ideas and experiences to the group.

The main presenters were Adele Hardy and Robin Salverson, educators with South Dakota State University (SDSU) Extension. Several guest speakers were invited that specialized in the topic being discussed that evening.

Topics covered throughout the sessions included:

- Importance of family communication, setting goals and working with different generations of family members.
- Marketing crops and livestock. Each participant had to pick a commodity and follow its current market prices and on the futures.
- Retirement and estate planning along with long-term care options.
- Crop and pasture insurance, and the different government programs offered through the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies such as: Farm Service Center (FSA) and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Learned how to develop and understand financial statements, and
- Received pointers on how to make healthy choices for ourselves and our families while juggling busy schedules.

At the end of the six week session each participant received a deluxe edition of the Quicken Software to use in their operations.

The group had such a great time they decided to meet again on December 5th to network, answer questions about Quicken and learn about Expected Progeny Differences (EPD's) with bull sales coming up very soon.

Annie's Project is a national program that began in 2009, the vision of Ruth Hambleton, whose mother Annie provided Hambleton with the inspiration to start this project dedicated to helping farm and ranch women. Through the many challenges of being a farm

wife Annie persevered, raising four children and helping with the farm. Because of her involvement on the farm, she not only helped with small decision, but also some of the big decisions. When Hambleton's mother (Annie) died, Hambleton herself an Extension Educator, recognized the similarities between her mother and the many farm and ranch women she was in contact with. To help fulfill the educational, informational, and networking needs of farm and ranch women, Annie's Project was born. The program has expanded greatly since its beginning and classes are now offered in close to thirty states.

The category that best describes Annie's Project is a mixture of: Assisting with Job Retention in the Community and Increasing Business Growth in the Community, because the farm and rancher industry is a big part of a lot of communities across the country.

The cost to host this workshop was about \$4,800. These costs were covered by registration fees, private donations, and Rural Development grant funds.

Partners included:

- Mellette County Library/ Women's Club
- K & P Insurance
- SDSU Extension
- Badlands/South Central Enterprise Facilitation
- South Central RC&D

If you have any questions about Annie's Project please contact:

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Working on financial statements as a group.



What color of personality are you?