

## Women of Excellence in Agriculture Award Royal Agricultural Winter Fair 2005

Since 1996 FWIO have recognized the significant contribution made by women in agriculture by presenting them with the prestigious Women of Excellence in Agriculture Award.

Monica Veit is a Woman of Excellence. A hard working supporter of horticulture, agriculture, llamas and alpacas, Monica is also a dynamic 4-H Leader and supporter of youth.

It was 1997 when Monica introduced llamas to the Royal Winter Fair. She conducted two demonstrations a day with three llamas and three leaders. The shows included Grooming, Packing and Performance.

Three years later in 2000 Monica had arranged and sponsored the first Llama Show at the Royal Winter Fair. Breeders and 4-H Members from Norfolk County, Perth County, Elgin County and Grenville County competed in classes of Halter, Conformation, Obstacle, Packing and Showmanship. Monica had coordinated professional llama judges and transportation for the 4-H Members, friends and families. She had also organized the Llama Display in the Cattle Palace.

The Llama Show continued for four years. The Costume Class, where the llama and exhibitor were both dressed up was introduced in 2001. Monica provided a hospitality suite for 4-H Members competing in the show. Tirelessly, she transported llamas back and forth to the show each day, and sometimes she stayed overnight with the 4-H llamas so they would be ready for the Members when they arrived the morning of the show.

Monica works hard to promote llamas as an alternative livestock option. She is raising awareness of the many uses that llamas provide and continues to reiterate time and time again "Llama's are fun!" Her greatest satisfaction is the joy that the shows gave her 4-H Members.

Monica is currently involved as the President of the Norfolk 4-H Association, a position she has held for many years. Through fundraising support and providing meeting space, Monica has given freely of her farm resources to support the clubs in Norfolk County. Out of the 12 4-H Clubs in Norfolk County, Monica is actively involved in five of them working determinedly to make the agricultural experience for the 4-H Members a rewarding and memorable one. She has been an inspiration to leaders and supporters to continue the 4-H program in Norfolk.

Monica's enthusiasm and love of agriculture make her a worthy recipient of the Women of Excellence in Agriculture Award. Her positive outlook and drive to promote agriculture is unparalleled.

**Congratulations Monica and thank you for all your hard work.**



Elsie Stephenson presents Monica with her award at the Royal Winter Fair in November.

### Good Idea!

Our Tweedsmuir History Convenor, Ruth Anne Robinson, did a lot of research to organize this meeting, which was a re-enactment of an Institute meeting held in 1920. The members and guests were all suitably attired in outfits of that era, some wearing outfits that had belonged to their grandmothers, even great-grandmothers, complete with hats and gloves. The meeting was held as it would have been in that day, with both the members and guests playing the roles of women who were named in the history books as having been members in that time. Even the tea and lunch were what would have been served then, plain bread and jam. The roll call was answered by the "Greatest Difficulty in a Week's Work", with hauling in the wood, heating water for dishes and laundry, churning butter, and using the scrub board, for just a few. All in all, it was a lovely afternoon.

*Submitted by Reid's Corner WI*