

December 7, 2020

TO: CALS Faculty and Staff

FROM: Bill Barker, Associate Dean for Research  
On behalf of the Agricultural Research Station Committee

RE: Nominations for 2021 Louise Hemstead Leadership Award

Background: Louise Hemstead put her animal and food science expertise to good use building her successful 30-year career in the dairy industry. As the Chief Operating Officer, Louise oversaw all operational aspects of CROPP Cooperative/Organic Valley of LaFarge, WI. She also served as president of the Cooperative's wholly owned subsidiary, Organic Logistics, the Cooperative's distribution arm.

Hemstead began her career at CROPP in 1993 as dairy program manager. Her curiosity and innovative drive led her to develop a sustainable supply chain for the Cooperative that utilizes existing dairy infrastructure instead of the conventional thinking that would have led to building new infrastructure at great cost. Hemstead was a strong advocate for advancing women in leadership and was often the only woman at the table as a leader in the dairy industry and as a CEO. In honor of her commitment, the award is open to all and women are encouraged to apply.

A 1988 graduate from the Meat and Animal Science program, Louise also served on the college's Board of Visitors until her death in 2018.

Eligibility Criteria and Nomination: The recipient will be a faculty or academic staff member with an active appointment in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences who fulfills the criteria and honors the legacy of the award's namesake, Louise Hemstead.

**The recipient will demonstrate a proven track record of accomplishment in the following areas:**

- A passion for advancing agriculture through innovation and cooperation.
- A record of stewardship for natural resources and communities.
- A history of getting things done through service leadership.
- The tenacity to overcome odds (for example, coming to agriculture through a non-traditional background or championing new solutions to long-standing problems).

**Nomination materials should include:**

- A letter of nomination from someone familiar with the nominee's work that emphasizes the nominee's leadership accomplishments and strengths related to the specific award criteria
- CV for the nominee
- No more than three letters of support, including at least one from a cooperator outside of UW-Madison

Nominations should be emailed in a single PDF submission to Erica Flyte at [erica.flyte@wisc.edu](mailto:erica.flyte@wisc.edu) by Friday, February 12, 2021 to be considered.

Award Administration: The selection of the award will be made by the Agricultural Research Station committee (or subcommittee). This committee includes faculty and staff in the college active in agricultural research, extension, outreach and education. One award will be given each year.

We anticipate holding a virtual event to present CALS Awards on Wednesday May 5, 2021 at 3 p.m. Details will be forthcoming.

Nominations from previous years do not carry over automatically.