



Good afternoon Farm Bureau Friends! I am so glad to be able to address you today even though my plan was to have this talk with you in San Diego. But as you know so many of our plans took a detour this year, and I'm bringing you greetings from R&S Farms in Buckeye, AZ.!! Not exactly San Diego, but nothing more beautiful than a green field of alfalfa to a farmer! I heard Senator Pat Roberts speak last year as he contemplated his last year in the Senate, and he said " Don't worry--I'm going to sprint to the finish!"



I decided that I would have the same approach to my 6th and final year as chair-- Instead of sprinting I guess you could say I ZOOMED to the end.



I also acquired an entirely new vocabulary of words that I've rarely used before.

My ducks are absolutely not in a row.
At this point I have no idea where my
ducks even are



I think we can all relate to this picture---I
spent most of my year trying to get my
ducks in a row, but I couldn't find my ducks,



"Strive for progress, not perfection."

But we all had to learn to monitor and adjust--- My principal at the school where I am the counselor gave me sage advice(**slide with saying**) **Strive for Progress--not perfection.** In other words don't let perfection become the enemy of progress! I think we've all done our best in that area!

I want to first say how thankful I am for all of you and your perseverance during 2020. I also appreciate how you have poured into my life throughout my entire farm bureau career!



I especially want to thank the national committee who embraced any and every opportunity to further the Womens Leadership Program. None of us knew in Austin that this picture would be our one and only group picture.



In fact it would be the last time we would all be together in person in 2020. But **STRONGER TOGETHER** became our mantra and we lived that the best we could.



Another group of amazing individuals I want to thank is the staff of the AFB---this picture arrived in my inbox right when I was feeling a little down and when I looked into those faces of individuals who have trained all of us, loved us , and become our friends I was filled with gratitude---



especially want to shout out our program director Maggie Good.

[Pause for comments]



I think it was March when I realized this year was going to be truly different. My family was in Disneyland on Tues, Wed, and Thurs and 2 days later it closed never to open again.

I think you can see from the picture that Amy had a premonition that things were not going well! But i do want to thank my family for their support on every level for my involvement with the farm bureau--especially during the last years as chair when I was traveling 50-60 days a year.



I couldn't have managed my life without them--Farmer Rick has truly been my rock and support while #still farming.



PIVOT

Another word that became popular this year was PIVOT. In March we had to cancel FLY In and Maggie and I thought Sept was a safe month to pivot to---But you know the end of that story!. Cancellation of all in person meetings--zoom only. That meant no boot camps, National Ag in the Classroom, state meetings, committee meetings, board meetings---all virtual.



BUT the silver lining for Fly In was that we had 600+ women participate--we heard from great speakers, leadership training occurred, --even a virtual happy hour. I'll never forget how one participant commented how thankful she was we had planned this since she could never have gotten to DC due to distance and money. Again we proved that we were **STRONGER TOGETHER!**



Berta White
AFBWLC Chair
1981-1993



Linda Reinhardt
AFBWLC Chair
1993-2000



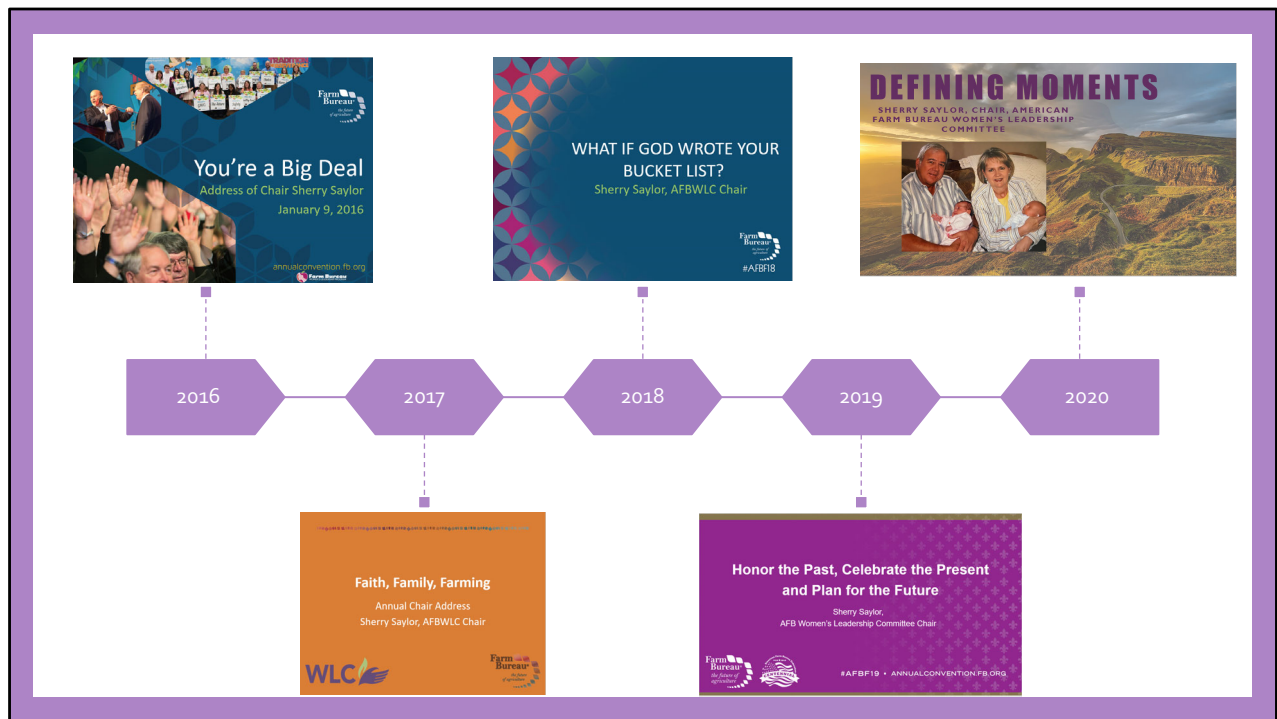
Terry Gilbert
AFBWLC Chair
1994-2015

I've spent some time reflecting on my years in the farm bureau --especially the last 6 years. I know I stand on the shoulders of some amazing previous chairs---**Bert White. Linda Rinehart, Terry Gilbert.**

The amazing Helen Keller said “ Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much” These 3 leaders modeled that in their shared approach to leadership—and taught us what we could accomplish as a unified force.



I've often told you how the farm bureau literally saved this city girl when I married my farmer husband by giving me an amazing community of friends and an opportunity to share the wonderful story of American Agriculture. I remember attending my first American Convention in 1980 in San Diego interestingly enough. I remember seeing the American committee on the stage and thinking---I would love to one day be a leader like those women are-- never believing I could actually have that opportunity--truly it has been a dream come true for me. I will never be able to adequately thank the farm bureau for the investment of leadership development that has been given to me through the years and then to have the opportunity to utilize that training at the highest level of women's leadership has truly been humbling.



I recently looked back at the speeches I've delivered to you on this occasion the last 5 years. In 2016 my speech title was " **You're a Big Deal**" --based on a social media post about the fact that 1 out of 7 farmers were women---today its 37%!

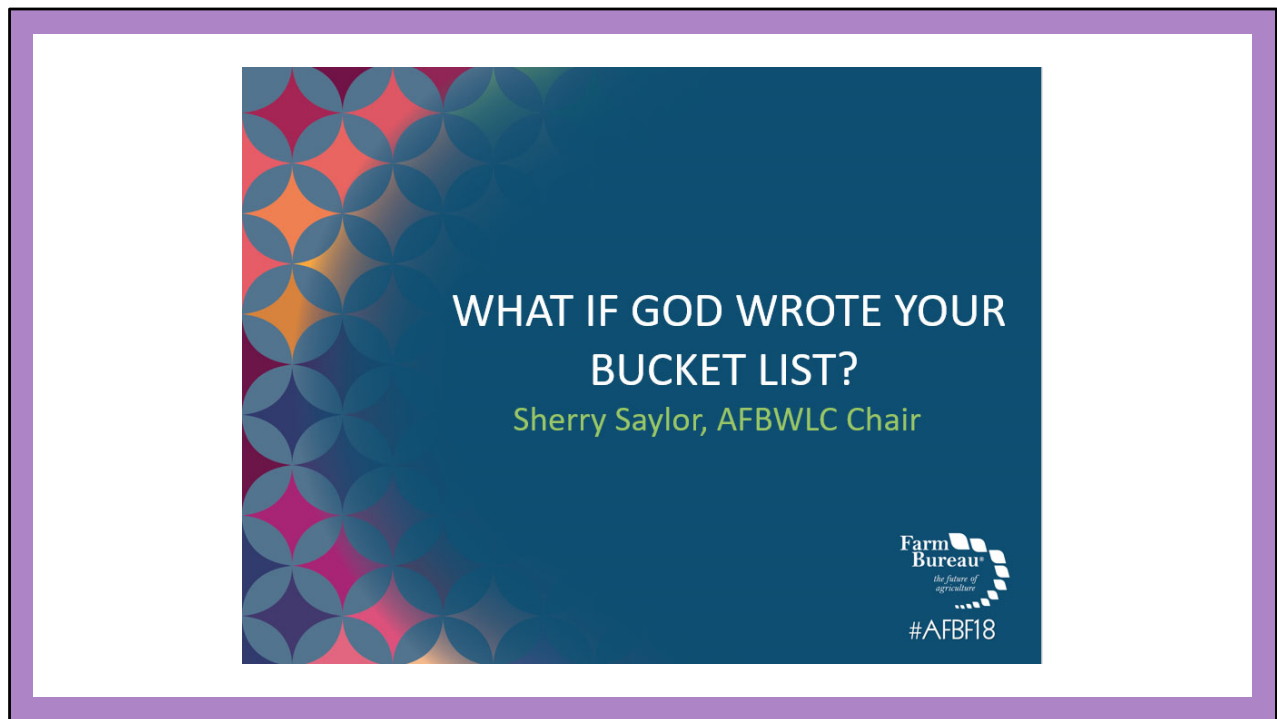


PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE FORUM

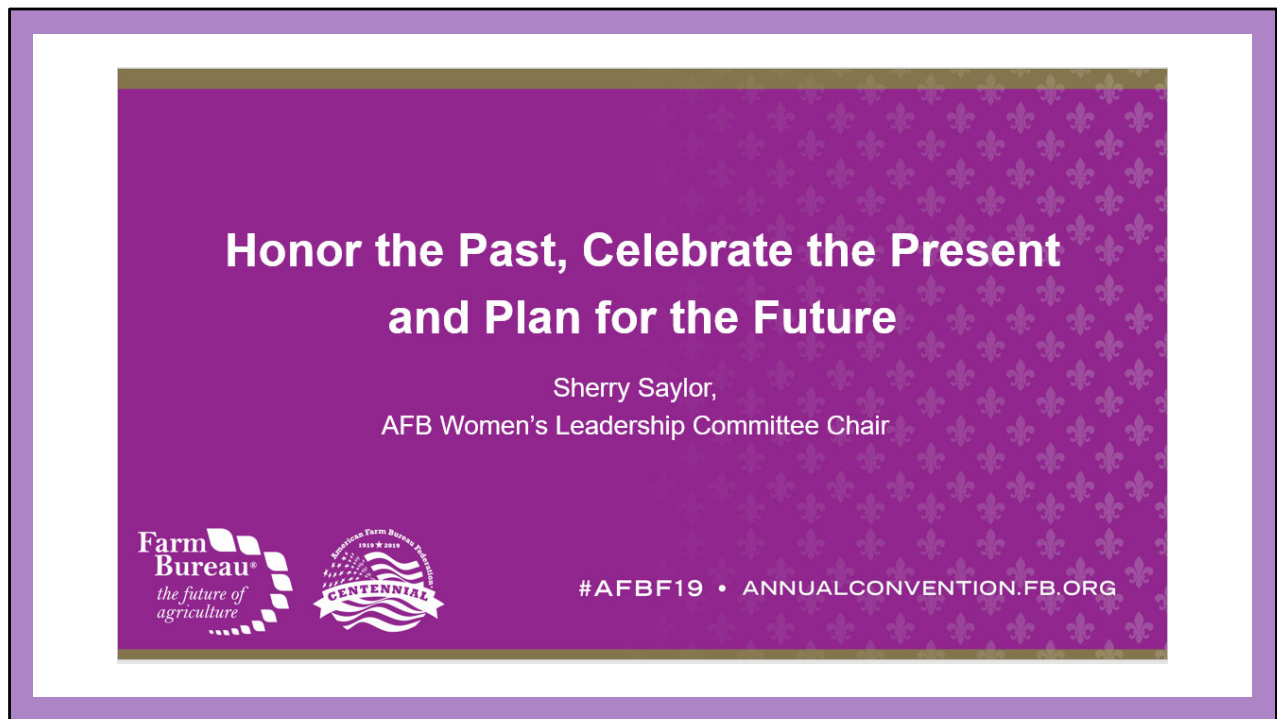
2016 was the year we sponsored the Presidential Forum on the cultivation stage- it was highly attended with 4 great Farm Bureau leaders running. Something I noticed that evening was before the forum tension was high and out of the corner of my eye, I saw Zippy Duvall and Kevin Rogers praying together. I've never been more proud of our organization and the calibre of individuals leading it.



The next year in 2017 it was **Faith, Family and Farming** ---the real backbone of our core beliefs--never take for granted the fact that we belong to an organization that celebrates the importance of family. where saying the pledge and having prayer is considered acceptable and normal!



In 2018 I titled my speech " What if God wrote your Bucket List" after a book I saw in the airport on one of my trips. It made me think about the things we do as a committee and individually ---making sure that what we do has significance and meaning.



In 2019 my speech centered on our Centennial year: Honor the Past, Celebrate the Present, and Plan for the Future---I'm so thankful 100+ years ago there was a group of men and women who knew the importance of organizing themselves to promote the most important industry in the world--we are the recipients of their forward thinking and have the responsibility to continue to be the voice of agriculture.




And last year it was Defining Moments

Maybe I should have saved that speech for this year and added the Pandemic! Not all defining moments are pleasant, but we've had a lot of great ones in Women's leadership and I have no doubt there will be many more in the future.



The AFB Women's Leadership Committee engages women by offering opportunities to develop communication and leadership skills, empowering them as strong, effective leaders in agriculture.

I have tried to tailor all of my speeches and state talks around our mission statement and it drives everything that we do.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
ENGAGEMENT WITH THE CONSUMER
ADVOCACY
DO IT DAILY

I have referred to the acronym **LEAD** when i refer to our program of work

Leadership development, Engagement with the consumer, Advocacy at the local, state, and national level; Do it daily. **We have been able to add to our program the last 6 years an additional Womens' Communication Boot Camp, DC Fly-In, Cultivator Newsletter. Quarterly webinars, Women's Agricultural roundtable, and Fusion and continue our involvement with National Ag Day, Ag in the classroom, the foundation. RmHC**

Things happen by choice, not chance.

I want to encourage you to keep on keeping on as you spread the good news about agriculture. I want you to know I will be your biggest cheerleader!! Things happen by choice not chance and we need to choose well in these challenging times.

“An industry that feeds you is an industry
worth fighting for!”

As someone wise once said : an industry that feeds you is an industry worth fighting for! So continue to lead with composure, conviction, connection and courage.

“It's not what you have in your life –
it's who you have that counts.”

This year we have been reminded again that we are built for relationship--we will never take for granted being in each others presence, a hug, a shared meal. It's not what you have in your life --it's who you have that counts. I'm so thankful I have all of you. **Thank you again for loving me inspite of my flaws---for your patience through the years--and your encouragement always.**

Delight yourself in the Lord and he will
give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:4

**My life verse is Psalm 37:4 " Delight
yourself in the Lord and he will give
you the desires of your heart." God
has indeed blessed me above and
beyond with family, friends, and
Farm Bureau-- my heart is full of
gratitude as I close today---
Remember I love you all---**



FOREVER FRIENDS

we are Forever friends

If you are ever in Phoenix. You are always welcome to our home.

Isabella will take it now.