New Jersey News

Midge Keelin Hauser was awarded the NJ Farm Bureau's Woman of the Year Award at the 105th Annual Convention November 13, 2023 at the Westin Princeton Forrestal Center, Princeton, NJ.

Midge Hauser, with John Hauser, Owners of Hauser Hill Farms. John has been a long term Board of Director with the NJ State Horticultural Society

Carolyn "Midge" Hauser of Hauser Hill Farm in Middlesex County is our 2023 New Jersey Farm Bureau Woman of the Year. Midge graduated from Susquehanna University in 1990 with a BA in Spanish and lived and studied in Segovia, Spain. After graduation, she worked for the Manhattan DA's office in the Witness Aid Services Unit and the Special Projects Bureau, where she used her knowledge of Spanish to translate for victims of crimes. When she left the DA's office, she decided to teach. She finished her degree in education and later earned a Master's degree from Marygrove College. She has been teaching for 26 years and presently teaches Spanish at Old Bridge High School to 9th grade students. "Teaching has afforded me the opportunity to have summers off to focus on the farm and all the work that needs to be done," Midge says.

Midge and her husband, John, met on a blind date in 2000 and married later that same year. She says, "everything moved very quickly because it didn't take long for me to figure out that John was one of the absolute best human beings I'd ever met." This union was her introduction to farm life, which she has taken with incredible stride. Midge has served as President and Secretary of the Middlesex County Board of Agriculture and was named the 2019 Middlesex County Farmer of the Year. Midge has been described as a woman who will do a lot of the behind the scenes work to get things done. Her ability to balance both her career off the farm and the inner workings of their busy farm prove her dedication and passion for agriculture.

Midge's advice to the future generations of women in agriculture is to get involved. We play a crucial role in agriculture. Not only supporting our partners, but important roles in the businesses we help run, the families we raise and support, and many agriculture related boards we volunteer with. It is important that we lend our voices to keep agriculture viable in New Jersey. Legislators need to know that this industry is one of the most vital in the world, not just our country and our state. When asked: What brings you the most joy about being a woman in agriculture?
Midge responded:

"One of the things that brings me much joy about being a woman involved in agriculture is being a part of something bigger than myself. Farming is a legacy, something that is passed down through generations. I'm proud of my husband and the work he does. I'm equally proud to be by his side and help keep the legacy going by supporting him and being a voice for agriculture. It isn't always easy, but it's always rewarding."

What an excellent example you have set for New Jersey women in agriculture. We congratulate you on this achievement, and appreciate your passion for agriculture, and what you represent as a member of New Jersey Farm Bureau.

Dave Bond was presented with the Arthur West Distinguished Service Award to NJ Farm Bureau.

Gary is long term treasurer for the NJ State Horticultural Society, John is also a long-term board member and heads up the NJSHS research grant program.

Patricia Hastings, Rutgers Pest Management Office Program Associate, presenting on pesticide safety at the Northern New Jersey Tree Fruit Twilight meeting in May at Melicks Town Farm Oldwick, NJ. There were over 30 growers in attendance.

An orchard tour at the Northern New Jersey Tree Fruit Twilight meeting in May held at Melicks Town Farm, Oldwick, NJ. There were over 30 growers in attendance.

Dr. Joeseph Heckman, Rutgers Soil Fertility Specialist presenting at a wine grape twilight meeting held this past July at Working Dog Winery, Hightstown, NJ. There were over 25 growers in attendance at this meeting.

Dr. Peter Oudemans, Rutgers Small Fruit Pathologist, presenting at a wine grape twilight meeting held this past July at Working Dog Winery, Hightstown, NJ Over 25 growers in attendance at this meeting.