

News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Dodge Farmer Inducted Into the FarmHer Hall of Fame at Nebraska  
Grow Event**

*Grow by FarmHer expanded to include first event in Nebraska*

**DES MOINES, Iowa** – Joan Ruskamp, a farmer from Dodge, NE, was the first Nebraskan to be inducted into the FarmHer Hall of Fame. She was awarded during the Grow by FarmHer event, which was held in Lincoln, NE, on Wednesday, November 9, 2016.

250 women gathered at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to learn, be inspired, and encouraged to pursue their passion for agriculture through their future careers as professionals and producers.

The day consisted of connecting with professionals, listening to inspirational speakers, and recognizing women in agriculture. The FarmHer Hall of Fame award was started at the first Grow by FarmHer event, held in Iowa in 2015, to recognize women who are going above and beyond as a leaders in agriculture.

Joan Ruskamp stood out, not only as a mentor who spoke to the young women in attendance at Grow by FarmHer, but through her nomination as well. Fellow producer Linda Emanuel nominated Joan and wrote:

“Joan is a pioneering advocate of agriculturists within the state of Nebraska as well as our nation. She is changing the face of an industry that is traditionally male dominated. Joan is the manager of J&S Feedlots of Dodge, Nebraska and operates a 3,000 wean to finish cattle operation alongside her husband, Steve. She is a spokesperson with CommonGround, National Cattlemens Beef Association, and Secretary/Treasurer of the Cattlemens Beef Board.”

Joan is a leader in the industry and a true FarmHer. She is a role model and mentor for tomorrow’s female leaders and FarmHer is proud to induct her into the FarmHer Hall of Fame.

Grow by FarmHer is made possible by our forward-thinking sponsors, including Nationwide Agribusiness, Frontier Cooperative and The University of Nebraska-Lincoln. For updates, follow @FarmHer1 on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and on our website at: [www.farmher.com/pages/grow](http://www.farmher.com/pages/grow)

**About FarmHer:**

FarmHer was founded in 2013 to change the image of agriculture, depicting women taking an active role in the industry through photographs and by sharing their stories. It quickly became clear that women in agriculture not only appreciated FarmHer, but they needed it. And they asked for more. Today, FarmHer has grown into much more than just a gallery of images; it is changing the way people perceive a farmer. The online FarmHer community has created a place for women to connect and learn from others in a safe and positive environment. The television show highlights women every week on RFD-TV. Finally, the GROW events for young women in agriculture are empowering and connecting young women in agriculture across the country. Over 200 women from across the country have been captured through the camera of FarmHer founder, Marji Guylar-Alaniz, updating the image of agriculture.

Women are rising to the forefront of agriculture and FarmHer is excited to be a driving force behind this effort. Learn more at [www.FarmHer.com](http://www.FarmHer.com).

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