



MEET MARY ELLEN MILLER

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Mary Ellen Miller is a seventh generation Iowan with a life-long interest in sustainable land use and healthy environments. She grew up on a “subsistence” farm in the 50s and discovered the value of regenerative land conservation practices while a 4-Her. She purchased her first farm in Washington County Iowa in 1975 and for twenty years raised and custom sold organic angus beef. She currently operates Rose Haven Farm in Wayne County, IA, focused on developing perennial food crops. She worked in research at the University of Iowa College of Medicine for 30 years between Preventive Medicine/Epidemiology and Pathology departments managing federal research contracts. For eleven years she was a Division Director for the Iowa State Cancer Registry.

Upon leaving academia in the early 90s she pursued work as a fundraiser, non-profit consultant and environmental issue advocate. She was an Iowa legislative candidate in 1992 and 2002. In “retirement” Miller serves as a Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner, Secretary/Treasurer for the Wayne County Conservation Foundation, Board Secretary for Conservation Districts of Iowa, President of the Iowa Nut Growers Association, Board Treasurer of the Sustainable Iowa Land Trust and serves on the National 19th Amendment Society Advisory Council. Miller has long been a League of Women Voters member and wrote the two-year Land Use Study for the LWV Iowa. She currently serves as Vice-President and Program Chair of the Metro Des Moines League and has served as Chair of the LWV Upper Mississippi River Region Inter League Organization since June 2021.

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