

**California Women for Agriculture
Federal Legislative Task Force
Ruth Jensen, Chair
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By the time this report is published our nation will have elected a new President, which will result in a new Administration, as well as a new congress.

Needless to say, our work will be cut out for us as it will be our job as an Agricultural Advocacy and education organization to educate the new Federal government.

The most important thing our membership can do is to make appointments with the staff of the members of congress and senate, set up meetings with the elected officials and begin the task of building relationships and education. Plan your tours and set up “show & tell” events. Your goal should include developing a relationship on a first name basis.

If you are so inclined, join American Agri-Women www.americanagriwomen.org and participate in the national effort to develop relationships with agency leaders and staff. This is where the nuts and bolts of policy and regulations take place. Some of the key agencies include, USDA, Farm Service Agency, Food & Drug Administration, Environment Protection Agency, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Interior, Health and Human Services, and the list goes on.

Needless to say, we have a lot of work to do and report our findings to members that can't participate in this huge and momentous task.

Items that may come up in the “lame duck” congress between election day and December include: Estate Death Tax, Immigration Reform, Funding Bills to name a few. Keep your eyes and ears open and don't hesitate to chime in.

Thank you for your participation during the numerous “Calls to Action” throughout the year. If you are affected by a government rule or regulation, I urge you to go to that agency's website and engage in Public Comment. If they don't hear from you, they count that as agreement.