



Honoring Nelson Mandela

Ralph Paige, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund

I write to express our sorrow at the loss of Nelson Mandela, yet, we also celebrate his life. His long, distinguished work for justice is an inspiration for those of us who seek justice in the United States. We also claim him as our leader.

In the 1990's, in fact, the Federation named a housing initiative in Alabama after Mr. Mandela, known as the Griffin-Mandela Apartments. The United Nations awarded the Federation for these apartments, stating that they were an excellent model for low-income rural communities.

In the 1960's, Mr. Mandela was arrested and then imprisoned for 30 years on Robbin Island because of his activism and leadership against the horrors of the apartheid system. At the same time, we in the southern part of the United States were demanding our rights, freedom of expression and economic advancement against the destabilizing horrors of Jim Crow laws in the South.

Our organization was created in the 1960's in response to this oppression. It was launched on the heels of rural Blacks attempting to express their constitutional rights of voting, access to government services and civil rights overall as American citizens. Unfortunately, these initiatives for freedom were met with derision by many white leaders in the South, such as government officials who denied credit and jobs to those, for example, who wanted to vote or to also assist others to register to vote and to demand the end of the oppressive Jim Crow laws.

As a result of this activism, thousands of Black farmers were forced off their land or from the plantations where they worked as sharecroppers. Thousands left the South in response or were left homeless in desolate rural areas.

The Federation was created in 1967 specially to assist these struggling Black farmers and rural communities. Our tool was and is cooperative economic development as a way of empowering communities and individuals. As a result, thousands of Black family farmers across the south have saved their land and become more economically viable.

We were thrilled and honored when, in 1995, President Mandela's "Minister of Land Affairs", Derek Hanekom, spoke at our Annual Meeting at our Training & Research Center in Epes, Alabama. He remarked that he had searched throughout the world for a port folio that was similar to what South Africans were attempting in terms of land reform for dispossessed Africans. (*cont. pg. 2*)



Ralph Paige with Derek Hanekom (r), Mandela's Minister of Land Affairs and FSC's keynote speaker in 1995. H. Gray photo.

Pro-Ag Manager Tewksbury Recognized

Lisa Griffith

Progressive Agriculture manager, Arden Tewksbury, was recently sworn in to another four-year term on the Elk Lake District school board. This marks the beginning of his 53rd year on the board, a record in his home state of Pennsylvania.

In 1984 his school district launched the Susquehanna County Career and Technology Center to provide vocational education to local residents. Arden helped to establish Dairy Day in 1990 at Elk Lake to promote agriculture to area students and residents, and currently advocates for whole milk, not "colored water", to be served in schools.

"I am grateful to the people of Meshoppen Township for once again having confidence in me and what I try to do on the board," he was quoted by the Wyoming County Press Examiner. The NFFC is grateful for Arden's tenacity and determination, as well; for the past 20 years he has worked to change dairy pricing policy to ensure farmers receive a price that covers their cost of production. His op-eds are often posted in dairy trade journals and regional newspapers.



Arden at House Ag Committee Office

2013 NFFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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Family Farm Agenda December 2013

The Family Farm Agenda is published three times annually by the National Family Farm Coalition, a nonprofit providing a voice for grassroots groups on farm, food, trade and rural economic issues to ensure fair prices for family farmers and fishers, safe and healthy food, and vibrant, environmentally sound rural communities here and around the world.

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Thank You and Happy Holidays to NFFC Members!

<u>American Raw Milk Producers Pricing Association (WI) Ashtabula Lake Geauga Counties Farmers' Union (OH) California Dairy Campaign</u>	<u>Land Loss Prevention Project (NC) Midwest Organic Dairy Producers Association Mississippi Association of Cooperatives Missouri Rural Crisis Center</u>
<u>Community Alliance for Global Justice Community Farm Alliance (KY) Dakota Resource Council (ND) Dakota Rural Action (SD) Family Farm Defenders (WI) Farms Not Arms (CA)</u>	<u>Mvsokke Food Sovereignty Initiative National Hmong-American Farmers, Inc. National Young Farmers' Coalition Northern Plains Resource Council (MT) Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance</u>
<u>Federation of Southern Cooperatives/ Land Assistance Fund Food for Maine's Future Idaho Rural Council Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement</u>	<u>Powder River Basin Resource Council (WY) Progressive Agriculture (PA) Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA (RAFI-USA) Rural Vermont</u>

We have been fortunate to have significant support
from the following foundations:

<u>Clif Bar Family Foundation Farm Aid Grassroots International Helanthius Fund Isvara Foundation Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation Lawson Valentine Foundation Norman Foundation</u>	<u>Patagonia, Inc Presbyterian Hunger Program Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund of Tides Foundation Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock Woodhouse Foundation</u>
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We are very appreciative of the record number of individual donors who
contributed to our Farmer Leader Travel Fund, General Support Fund,
and Combined Federal Campaign account in 2013.

Please consider an end of the year donation to further our work in 2014:
<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/1910>

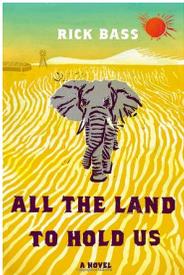
Honoring Nelson Mandela (cont.)

As he could find no similar government programs anywhere in the world, Hanekom chose to make his first international visit to the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, which resonated with similarities to the South African land reform initiatives as well as similar challenges.

We are so thankful for the life of Nelson Mandela. He led the way for millions of us throughout the world. His compassion, wisdom and tireless dedication are an inspiration to us all. While our work for justice is by no means complete, the leadership of Nelson Mandela inspires us to continue and to never give up the struggle.

Downtime

BOOKS



All the Land to Hold Us – Rick Bass (fiction)

The Dirty Life: A Memoir of Farming, Food, and Love – Kristen Kimball

Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies – Seth Holmes

Getting Back to Full Employment: A Better Bargain for Working People

– Jared Bernstein and Dean Baker

The Good Food Revolution: Growing Healthy Food, People and Communities

– Will Allen and Charles Wilson

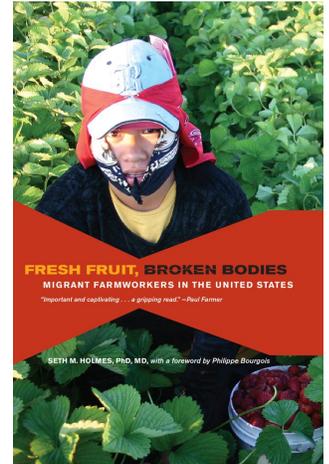
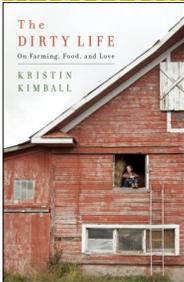
The Perfect Peach: Recipes and Stories from the Masumoto Family Farm

– David Mas Masumoto, Marcy Masumoto, and Nikiko Masumoto

Twain's Feast: Searching for America's Lost Foods in the Footsteps of Samuel Clemens

– Andrew Behrs

Waste: Uncovering the Global Food Scandal – Tristram Stuart



FILMS

[16 Seeds](#) – A documentarian assesses the food justice movement in Oakland, California

[The Dream Is Now](#) – Undocumented youth advocate for US immigration reform

[For the Best and For the Onion](#) – Story on the lives of Nigerian onion farmers and their pricing struggles

[Gasland II](#) – Sequel continues to expose the spread of fracking worldwide for 'safe and clean natural gas'

[Gleason Ranch: Risking Everything](#) – Family farmers and community members share their struggles

[Growing Operations: Battlefields to Farmfields](#) – Farmer Veterans find new lives tilling soil

[Growing Change](#) – Venezuela strives to regain food sovereignty

[Inequality For All](#) – Robert Reich analyzes the demise of the U.S. middle class

[Land Rush](#) – Documents the devastation wrought by trans-national agribusinesses buying up Africa

[Leviathan](#) – A harsh perspective of commercial fishing

[More Than Honey](#) – The lives and demise of honeybees demystified, just a bit

[Nothing Like Chocolate](#) – As currency and candy, its history reflect ritual, health, luxury and enslavement

[Ocean Frontiers: The Dawn of a New Era in Ocean Stewardship](#) – Dispels the 'boundless ocean' myth

[On Our Land](#) – Film documents Papua New Guinea's loss of 14 million hectares of land to palm oil and timber

[Raising Resistance](#) – Countless acres of Paraguayan forest plundered for soybean production

[Sand Fishers](#) – The renowned Bozo fishermen of Mali share their story

[Stealing From The Poor](#) – A first-hand view of the pirate fishing industry

[Rebels With A Cause](#) – Citizens fight to preserve open space, agriculture and wildlife

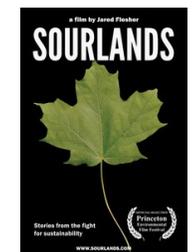
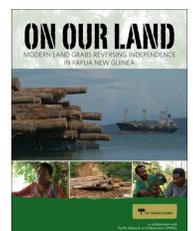
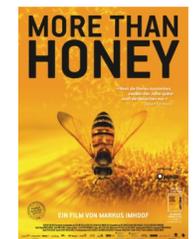
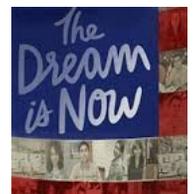
[Sourlands: Stories From The Fight For Sustainability](#) – Can New Jersey attain sustainability between Philly and New York City?

[Terra Firma: Suck It Up and Drive On](#) – Three female war Veterans experience farming's healing powers

[Truck Farm](#) – A quirky, creative twist to urban farming

[Unacceptable Levels](#) – A father investigates everyday chemicals and their effects

[Voices Of Transition](#) – Agroecological responses to food insecurity in Cuba, England and France



Support NFFC Members



**Community Alliance
for Global Justice**



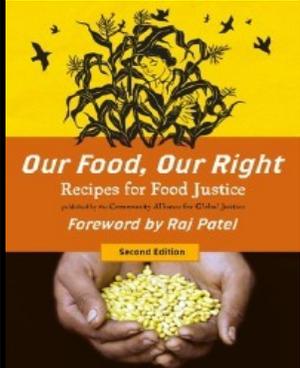
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Support NFFC Members

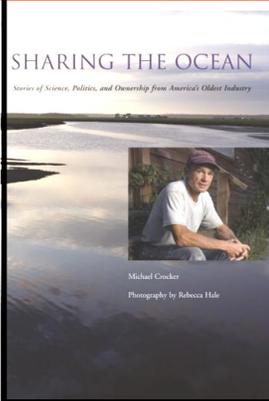


Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance promotes Community Supported Fisheries

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Federation of Southern Cooperatives

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Revelry by Shawn Braley

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From the President

Thanks to the NFFC and the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, I was able to participate in the 2014 International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) kickoff celebration in Brussels, Belgium. The first two days were spent strategizing with La Via Campesina on sustainable agriculture and family farming, food sovereignty, free trade, corporate control of the world food supply, land use and land grabbing. There were representatives from around the world but I was the only one from the North American region. There were several good and lengthy discussions on counterattacking the loss of the family farm.

Carlos Petrini, President of Slow Food International, was an opening plenary speaker. Other speakers included members of Agricultural and Rural Development - European Commission and Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) - United Nations, HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand, and HRH Prince of Wales, Charles, by video presentation.

To celebrate the 2014 theme, I suggest that we highlight the family farm in all our scheduled events. Papa Abdoulaye Seck of Senegal, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, spoke aggressively on the lack of support for family farmers in his country, which is not unlike the United States. The Family Farmer makes up only 1.7 percent of the U.S. population, but 40 percent of the world's population and 65 percent of Africa's. Half the world's economy revolves around farming and food.

As a fourth generation family farmer, I am fully committed to the future of family farmers on my farm, in my state, nationally and internationally, and believe NFFC and Via Campesina are, as well. Surely we can build on the connections made through our membership, Via Campesina and the U.S. Food Sovereignty Alliance to gain real wins in Congress and the marketplace.

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season, and look forward to seeing a majority of our board members at the NFFC 2014 winter meeting. On the worldwide scheme of things we have much to be grateful for, but still much to achieve.



Ben (r) and colleague in Brussels at the EU Commission.

From the Director

Damage from the government's October shutdown translated to a two-year budget deal replacing automatic budget cuts (sequestration). The House approved the deal (and a one-month farm bill extension) on December 12 and the Senate is expected to vote by December 20. If enacted, it guarantees no government shutdown in January 2014 and almost assures the appropriations process advancing for fiscal year 2014 (started October 1).

A farm bill conference could be completed in January. For programs languishing with no funds, such as Section 2501 and Beginning Farmer and Rancher, it means months of ambiguity, layoffs and lost opportunities. We continue to fight language in the House farm bill and FY2014 appropriations bills that would negate 2008 farm bill wins like GIPSA, leaving USDA no authority to enforce fairer livestock and poultry contracts. Farmer and consumer groups are also pressuring Congress to maintain COOL (County of Origin Labeling), per WTO's ruling. NFFC supports the Senate FB version seeking USDA hearings on the milk pricing system. We counter the myth that reverting to 1949 permanent law and parity pricing (paying farmers a price based on cost of production) is bad policy – parity should be the basis of all farmer and fishing pricing policy.

NFFC participates in task forces on agroecology, farmworker rights, seed sovereignty and GMO contamination. We have focused on the dangers of deregulating more herbicide-resistant (HR) GMOs, including herbicide drift, fewer pollinators and health risks, most recently signing a full-page NY Times ad. Many NFFC members face potential disaster through weather extremes and energy extraction, also, and we support their efforts as much as possible.

NFFC will join fair trade allies to express the growing resistance to proposals offered by US-EU trade negotiators meeting in DC next week. We're trying to escalate the fight against fast-track authority and stand with the 151 Democrats in Congress who have publicly opposed it.

We hope you'll be able to convey your outrage over unsound budget cuts and the defense of corporate – not constituent – interests to your legislators when they're home for the holiday break. We also wish you some rest and relaxation, however – in January we'll restart the process of magnifying the message that fairness and justice must be the basis of our food, agriculture, fishing, labor, economic and trade policies.

-- Calendar --

January 3 - Deadline: USDA Comments on Agricultural Co-existence

January 7 - Congress returns to DC

January 23 - 26, Mobile, AL - Southern SAWG

January 24 - 29, Apopka, FL - La Via Campesina N. A. Regional Mtg.

January 25 - 26, Location TBD - Fish Locally Collaborative assembly

January 30 - February 1, Portland, OR - Organic Seeds

January 31 - February 2 - NFFC Winter Meeting

February 6 - 9, State College, PA - PASA Conference

February 9 - 13, Granville, OH - OEFFA Conference

February 14-16, Albany, GA - FSC Small Farmer's Conference

February 21 - 23, La Crosse, WI - MOSES Conference

March 8 - 11, Santa Fe, NM - NFU Meeting

March 14 - 16, Baraboo, WI - FFD Food Sovereignty Dinner and Ceremony, Annual Meeting and Food Conference