



Could the New Wave of Herbicide-Resistant Crops Kill the Planet?

Margot McMillen, MRCC



Herbicide-damaged grapes on McMillen's farm.

Photo by Dan Hemmelgarn

Despite good health for my family, friends and critters, I'm sad. The grapevines planted several years ago, the redbud tree by the house where the tiny farm kid climbed, and the maple that sends seeds into the lettuce beds are all ill.

The culprit is 2,4-D. After 10 years of spraying weeds with Roundup, many weeds have become immune to the main chemical, glyphosate, so now a neighbor sprays 2,4-D to kill those resistant weeds. His plants will soon be genetically altered to survive 2,4-D, just as they were genetically altered to survive glyphosate, but 2,4-D can kill my normal, non-modified, old-fashioned plants. I shouldn't get attached to plants, they're mortals, but aren't we all?

When we first noticed the damage, the strangely cupped and withered leaves, I denied the possibility of herbicide damage. The spray trucks had visited the neighbor's field many times, and nothing died. We scoured garden books and the web for answers, then sprayed the plants with vinegar to discourage fungi and molds, but nothing changed.

Then, during a Slow Foods potluck hosted on my farm, one of the guests, a professional photographer, snapped pictures of the vines. With these in hand I called my county extension office, which deferred the question to another agent as our agronomist had retired. He left a message on the answering machine, a bored voice responding to "something about grapes..." Soon the state grape board, seeing the photos, confirmed it: classic herbicide damage. (cont pg. 3)

Move Out, Monsanto - Family Farmers Feed the World!

Lisa Griffith, NFFC

The U.S. Food Sovereignty Alliance awarded the 2013 Food Sovereignty Prize to the G4+Dessalines Brigade, an inspiring collaboration between four Haitian peasant groups and Via Campesina-Brazil. Selected for standing up to corporate control of their food system, including that imposed by the U.S. government and multi-national corporations like Monsanto, the G4 invited the Dessalines Brigade to help them rebuild Haiti's food sovereignty, agro-ecological practices, nutritious foods and community markets.

The New York City prize ceremony featured honorees offering poignant music and passionate speeches alongside food and social justice activists, including Charles and Shirley Sherrod. The next day, Saulo Araujo (WhyHunger/USFSA) accompanied the FSP representatives - Rose Edith Germain (National Congress of the Peasant Movement of Papay, or MPKNP), Rosnel Jean-Baptiste (Tèt Kole Peasant Association, or Heads Together), and Flavio Barbosa (Brazil's Landless Workers Movement, or MST) to Des Moines for another series of events.

Des Moines is the home of the Norman Borlaug Foundation and annual World Food Prize, so it was fitting for FSP winners to join alternate events hosted there. Occupy the World Food Prize, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) of Des Moines, Iowa CCI, Henry A. Wallace Center, and Food and Water Watch activists assisted those visiting from WhyHunger, NFFC, and Pesticide Action Network North America (PANNA). From protests outside World Food Prize headquarters and the state capitol to presentations before farmers, students, and international celebrities, the Haitians delivered two clear, resounding messages to challenge the status quo as Westerners know it. (cont pg. 5)



Union of Concerned Scientists took to the streets with "Monsanto Fails at Improving Agriculture"

2013 NFFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

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Family Farm Agenda Fall 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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Honoring Achievements

Jerry Pennick - Jerry is retiring after 40+ years with the Land Assistance Fund/Federation of Southern Cooperatives (FSC). FSC Executive Director Ralph Paige noted that he will be remembered for his tireless service to their membership and dedication to the cause of land retention for African-American landowners. Thanks for all your great work, Mr. Pennick.

Lindsey and Ben Shute - Co-founders of National Young Farmers Coalition and Hearty Roots Community Farm, the Shutes received Glynwood's 2013 Harvest Award for tremendous leadership as farm operators, trainers and advocates. Good work!

Land Loss Prevention Projection - Congratulations to LLPP on its 30th anniversary and success in fighting for rural livelihoods and land retention by African-American Farmers across the Southeastern US.

Grassroots International - Best wishes and thanks to Grassroots for 30 years of great global and community partnerships with small farmers and producers, indigenous people, and women around the world.

Coalition of Immokalee Workers - CIW received the "Freedom from Want" Medal at the Roosevelt Four Freedoms Awards Ceremony this October. They were recognized alongside Nobel Prize laureate Paul Krugman and environmentalist-writer Wendell Berry.

Factory Farm Inspections Must Result in Tougher Standards

Hugh Espey, Iowa CCI

Thousands of Iowa factory farms will be inspected by trained environmental regulators for the first time under a sweeping new Clean Water Act work plan agreement recently signed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. But the implementation of the work plan could still be undermined by the "hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil" attitude of the Branstad Administration and the Iowa DNR.

The work plan deal obligates the DNR to survey or inspect 8,000 livestock factory farms over the next five years to determine which facilities are polluting our water and to make the worst actors play by stronger rules or shut down.

The problem is there's little public trust that DNR will wake up and start doing its job after years of working hand-in-hand (almost hand-in-glove) with the same corporate agriculture industry it's supposed to regulate. After all, DNR still holds to its legal fiction that Iowa's factory farms are not polluting our water because Iowa is a "zero discharge" state.

If that were true, we wouldn't have 628 polluted waterways (more than ever!) and more than 800 documented manure spills. That's why, at the end of the day, the DNR's Clean Water Act inspections simply won't be credible unless they result in a significant number of federal operating permits actually being issued to factory farm polluters.

Water pollution risks will only get worse as factory farms age and their automated processes become less reliable, and as climate change and unpredictable weather events make it increasingly difficult to manage manure safely and responsibly. Strong permits and strong public oversight have never been more important to water quality in Iowa.

*This op-ed was first posted on 09/19/2013 at
<http://abetteriowa.desmoinesregister.com>.*

Pork, Brought to You by China — Shuanghui Buys Smithfield

Tim Gibbons, MRCC

Last May, Chinese meat processor Shuanghui Holding Ltd., one of the largest food processors in China, agreed to buy Smithfield Foods Inc., the *largest hog corporation in the world*. This acquisition is the largest Chinese purchase of a U.S. company to date. Smithfield Foods, Inc. controls 26% of the U.S. hog slaughter and owns Premium Standard Farms Inc., the largest hog producer in Missouri.

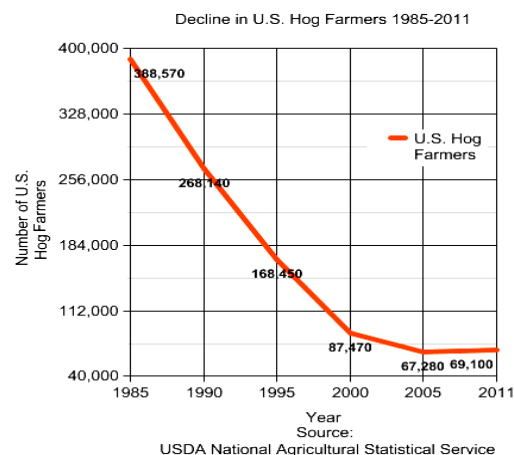
This acquisition is a prime example of how expanded corporate consolidation in agriculture has gone too far. Vertical integration and consolidation result in depleted markets for independent producers, damaged rural economies, limited consumer choices, and higher prices at the grocery store.

Furthermore, this acquisition demonstrates the need for strong Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) rules. American consumers have a right to know if their meat is raised, slaughtered and processed in the U.S. or not. Multi-national meat packers and industry groups have attacked COOL since it was included in the 2008 Farm Bill.

U.S. Senator Grassley (R-IA) said in a released statement: "Like so many Americans, I would rather eat pork, beef and poultry raised in the United States. The deal only makes it more logical to ensure that American consumers know exactly what they are paying for and eating."

This acquisition means that two of the top four meatpackers (which control 2/3 of the hog market nationwide) will be owned by foreign corporations, JBS/Swift and Smithfield, further integrating vertically and consolidating the industry.

Corporate agriculture supporters would like us to believe that the industrialization of meat production is inevitable, more efficient and cheaper for consumers, but it simply isn't true. Family farmers are still the most efficient producers of livestock, jobs, rural economic development and a healthy environment.



From MRCC's 'Our Position – On Livestock, Rural Communities & the Economy':

"The facts show that corporate concentration in agriculture forces farmers to receive less and less of the consumer dollar while driving up consumer prices. Between 1985-2011, the retail price of pork increased 100%, from \$1.71 to \$3.43. During the same period, the hog producers' share of the retail dollar decreased 32% from 49 cents to 33 cents. Since 1985, we've lost 82% of hog producers nationwide, and almost 90% of hog farmers in Missouri."

Herbicide-Resistance Concerns

Continued from Page 1

When the agent from the next county called back, I explained in a nonjudgmental tone what I saw. As he listened to my concerns, the bored tone left and he became engaged in the story. Yes, he said, when the booms are lowered on the spraying mechanism, there's a small shot of herbicide from the pressure, sending a little more than usual into the air. That's probably what got us. The other scenario: 2,4-D and dicamba (another recommended cure for glyphosate-resistance) are prone to vaporizing in hot weather, moving in clouds to areas that may be a hundred miles away.

An arborist who worked on our Timber Stand Improvement gave a third opinion, noting that trees all over the county are dying this summer - the first year 2,4-D and dicamba have been used routinely. So much for my county, but what about the rest of the world? One of my farm interns, a student from Africa, reported that Big Ag is trying to take over there by giving farmers free chemicals for a year or two, then charging so much that the farmers go into debt and inevitably lose their land. And, they're no longer raising teff, a grain which fed the population for millennia - they're planting soybeans for oil on the commodity market.

Through this I've been weirdly astonished by the powerful irony of the universe. I've argued and written about biotech's problems from the beginning. Now Big Ag offers a new non-solution to resistant weeds – an herbicide that's more volatile and deadly than Roundup, leaving a neighbor's bean field as clean as a whistle, while my plants are dying.

A North Dakota organic seed farmer lost her tomato crop this year (more than \$200,000 worth) and a couple in central Illinois lost more \$5,000 in produce from herbicide damage. *I believe that there have been accidental plant deaths from 2,4-D-spraying in every state of the union.* Most will go unreported, sadly, because the USDA is not keeping track. Although I rarely make predictions, if this herbicide overuse continues, I predict it will kill our food supply and, ultimately, the planet as we know it.



Herbicide-damaged grape leaves on McMillen's farm.
Photo by Dan Hemmelgarn

Summer 2013 and the Fight for Fair Prices

Ben Burkett, President

My summer travel began in June when I traveled to Jakarta, Indonesia, to attend Via Campesina's Vth International Conference. LVC President Henry Saragih is stepping down from his position, and I presented him official gifts from NFFC. Via Campesina conferences provide so many opportunities for learning; more people (particularly youth) from the US should participate. We discussed the worldwide movement for fair prices, which all farmers need to remain on their farms. This important conversation leads me to continue serving on Via Campesina's Food Sovereignty Commission, and to advocate for a Farm Bill based on food sovereignty.

The Federation of Southern Cooperatives, which I represent to the NFFC, has been working for family farmers for 46 years. Leadership is growing older and some are discussing retirement, but there are new faces among us, fortunately, as these organization are still essential. Our annual meeting in Epes, Alabama, was attended by more than 400 co-op members. Reverend C.T. Vivian was honored on August 15th for his human and civil rights work, and workshops on crop production were held during the weekend. Jerry Pennick was also celebrated for 40-plus years with the Federation. We appreciate his service and wish him a restful retirement and good health. The Federation hosted the Eco-Cooperative Conference with workshops on developing, organizing and assessing cooperatives in early October.

The NFFC summer meeting was held in a beautiful place with strong member participation and good food. Many conversations focused on messaging - what family farmers and fishermen really need, and how to carry that message forward to others. We also discussed NFFC's Homegrown Village exhibit, and eventually decided to adapt NAMA's phrase, Fishing in the Red, to Farming in the Red, to show how little farmers receive of retail prices.

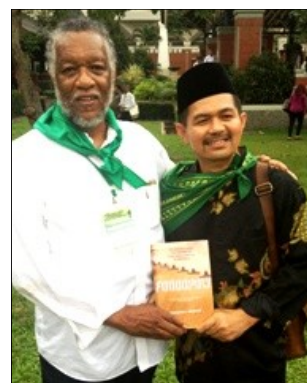
Farm Aid 2013 was held in Saratoga Springs, NY, and was a very good event, despite the evening cloudburst. A number of NFFC member organizations had their own exhibit - NAMA, Rural Vermont, RAFI-USA, National Young Farmers Coalition, Patchwork Family Farms/MRCC, and Farmer-Veteran Coalition (Farms Not Arms) - and Via Campesina's Youth Camp was represented by our ally, the Greenhorns. Ralph Paige, Tywan Arrington and I (the Federation), Gretchen Maine and Robin Fitch (Progressive Agriculture), Joel Greeno (ARMPFA/Family Farm Defenders), Nancy Romer (Brooklyn Food Coalition) and Susan Youmans (*What's For Dinner?* media) helped to staff the NFFC table. I think more people walked through the Homegrown Village than ever before. Many visitors were surprised by the difference between farmer and retail prices (shown by Rachel Nagin's props of grocery items). The giant Land O' Lakes postcard board asking for fair milk prices received hundreds of signatures.

The Black farmer lawsuit settlement is moving forward. Eighteen thousand of the 33,000 claimants have received settlements for \$50,000 (plus \$12,500 for taxes), and 5,339 of them live in my home state of Mississippi.

The dry weather in early fall was good for harvests but hot for planting fall crops. Before flying to China and to Haiti on a farmer exchange, I planted Vidalia onions and strawberries, and am curious to see the first-time results.

It's hard to operate as a farmer and a farm organization without a permanent 5-year farm bill. We should all contact our senators and representatives to finalize, as quickly as possible, a farm bill that is truly representative of family farmers.

It is already time to make plans for NFFC's winter meeting, and for Via Campesina's North American Region convening in Apopka, Florida, in late January. With ongoing corporate pressure to monopolize agriculture and Congress in chaos, there will be plenty to discuss.



Ben with Henry Saragih and NFFC gift in Jakarta



Farmers, fishermen, friends and staff at NFFC summer meeting, Stony Point Retreat Center, NY, over a hot July weekend



'New York was meant to be frack-free!' Pete Seeger's surprise Farm Aid appearance included this rendition of 'This Land is Your Land'



Joel Greeno, David Battey, and Ben Burkett (l to r) ready the Land O'Fakes postcard for signing.

Herbal Medicine is Our Birthright (excerpt)

Earcine Evans, Mississippi Association of Cooperatives

I grew up in the 1950 and 60s in a small town in Lexington, Mississippi. The majority of people in my community, including me, were African Americans. My ancestry is enriched by a long line of midwives and healers, including my grandmother. She taught us that the best way to take care of one's body was to eat garden-fresh foods and to use herbal medicine, and I have come to realize the importance of talking to our elders about their plant knowledge.

Traditional Africans believe that everything is imbued with a life force. This spirit of power is the essence of every living creature, deceased ancestor, inanimate object, and natural event. The preservation and restoration of health cannot be pursued without involving these life forces, each having its own personality and cosmic place. A healer's power is not determined by the number of medicinal tree barks he or she knows, but by his or her ability to apply their understanding of the intricate relationship between all things for the good of the patient and the whole community.

When our ancestors were brought to the Americas from Africa as slaves, they brought their medicines with them. Women working in the fields would plant their special herbs between the rows of corn to be close to their heritage and the medicines from their homeland. They did not forget the powerful healing knowledge of their ancestors, and the seeds of this wisdom are still alive in the elders of our community.

It is time to reclaim our birthright. Start a garden on your patio. Plant herbs in small pots in your window. Eat organically grown food from your region's farmers. Educate yourself about local herbs and their beneficial uses for your health. Connect with elders in your community - learn what they may know about local plants and their remedies.

Cine' founded Pure Cine' Natural Hair & Skin Products.

Read the complete article at <http://womenhowrite.housewifemafia.com>



Cine' in her garden
Photo by Melissa Love.

Family Farmers Feed the World

Continued from Page 1



Rosnel, Flavio, Mike Hochstetler, Rose Edith & Chuck Hochstetler on the Hochstetler farm, Madison Co. (l-r)

First, the Haitians are frustrated at the image portrayed by most Western media – that they are helpless and need aid from US and other foreign entities to feed and shelter them. As listeners learned, this is simply a lie perpetrated to condone the actions of USAID, Monsanto and other uninvited guests.

Second, the Haitians are angry with the invitation from their government to outside interests. Like the rest of us, they want their natural resources used wisely to provide local foods and livelihoods, not to be wasted on the gain of foreign companies hungry only for profit. The loss of control over their resources – arable land, fresh water, and indigenous, sustainable crops and livestock – is a devastation shared by farmers around the world. Despite differences in the scale, geography, and level of violence accompanying resource takeovers, the Haitian farmers understood the lowans' tales of lenders selling their farms surreptitiously to international enterprises building barns for 5,000 hogs or monocropping tens of thousands of acres.

Our crew was not available to deliver the petitions signed by 345,000-plus people reproaching the World Food Prize for celebrating agrichemical institutions Monsanto and Syngenta this year – the Center for Food Safety, SumOfUs, PANNA and Iowa CCI had that honor. However, the action underscored the 2009 establishment of the Food Sovereignty Prize when a food security conference was held in Des Moines the same week as the World Food Prize. The FSP winner that year? La Via Campesina, the international peasant organization that coined the term 'food sovereignty'.

The irony of biotech bullies winning the World Food Prize certainly was not lost on anyone in our legion, though. While guests offered their observations, two more came to mind: 1) There are more GMOs planted on the Earth's surface now than at any time, yet there are more hungry people than at any time in recorded history. 2) The most industrialized countries are among the countries with the largest proportion of food waste. The US, for example, wastes about 40 percent of its food annually.

Something is obviously wrong with the Green Revolution logic that GMOs will feed the world.



Brad Wilson with
WILPF protest outside
World Food Prize Headquarters

Director's Note

Kathy Ozer, NFFC

The first fall cold snap has just chilled DC and harvests are underway nationwide, yet a devastating snowstorm swept the Northern Plains in early October. Like the merciless drought of 2012, the loss of tens of thousands of head of cattle from that storm underscored the importance of maintaining strong disaster provisions.

Despite a government shutdown for two and a half weeks last month, Farm Bill conferees held their first meeting on October 30 with 2 hours of opening statements. The future of Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) and GIPSA have become key political issues – both made it into many opening statements. The follow-up is subject to the "call of the Chair" although staff will convene.

Congress will need to resolve various issues by December 13 if the government is to avoid another shutdown on January 15. The next steps are very vague, in spite of conciliatory statements and discussions of bi-partisanship. Congress is grappling with deep discrepancies in priorities, including in the House and Senate versions of the Farm Bill – the House calls for \$39 billion in cuts and egregious changes to eligibility standards for SNAP, in contrast to the Senate's proposed \$4 billion in cuts.

Also at stake are the 30-plus programs that expired at the end of the 2008 Farm Bill (October 1, 2012). Despite the extension negotiated on New Year's Eve 2012, there was NO additional funding allotted. NFFC and members joined more than 400 organizations signing a letter to Congress calling for a full and fair Farm Bill to fund these programs, many of which simply ceased to exist last fall. NFFC and many members also signed a letter presented to President Obama on October 31 recommending restoration of \$20 million per year for Section 2501 (Minority Outreach and Education) during this time of expanded need.

The NFFC priority for farm policy that enables farmers to earn a fair price from the market, not from taxpayers, and to have fair and competitive livestock, dairy and grain markets, is unfortunately part of neither the House nor Senate Farm Bills. The one window of hope for dairy farmers lies in the possible agreement of conferees to a provision introduced by Senator Gillibrand (D-NY) that requires USDA to hold a series of hearings on the pricing of milk. On the eve of the conference committee the NFFC Dairy Subcommittee held a press tele-conference expressing the urgency and reasons for this action.

In addition to the budget debates entwining the Farm Bill, Congress and the Obama Administration continue to promote new trade agreements and fast-track authority, now called Trade Promotion Authority. These agreements and the non-democratic fast-track process jeopardize laws and policies in the U.S. as well as in other countries. Significant trade negotiations are slated for December 2013 – the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Bali and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in Singapore. In addition, negotiations are underway for the US-EU trade agreement, a.k.a. the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) or the Trans-Atlantic Free Trade Agreement (TAFTA). Following the late October Senate Finance Hearings, Robert Scott (Economic Policy Institute) issued an excellent analysis, "[Job Claims are Pure Baloney](#)". By citing the actual number of jobs lost since the 1993 passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), he refuted Senator Baucus' false claims. The myth of job creation fueled by increasing exports permeates the Obama Administration's agenda, and halting fast-track in our Congress is the most important step we can take towards thwarting new agreements. We wish Ben Burkett a successful trip to Brussels, Belgium, in late November as he represents NFFC at a meeting with European allies on this issue.

Connect with NFFC



Can't wait for the next newsletter? We revamped our website - same address, new look! We'll still post our sign-on letters and issue resources, and have introduced the **Updates** section with *blog posts* about recent events and news. When you need news from NFFC between newsletters, visit us at: nffc.net



Share Your Story: Please post your own or a fellow member's story on the **FarmLand Monitor**. It will boost lobbying efforts and help us to better document resource grabs across the country. Contact the DC office or post your story at:

placestories.com/project/8465



Tweets aren't just for the Birds: NFFC is now on Twitter! We will send live updates from relevant events, including the Farm Bill Conference. Follow us at: twitter.com/FamilyFarmCo



Don't forget to visit our Facebook page: It's more active than ever. Find newsworthy articles from coalition members and allied organizations. Like us at: facebook.com/NatlFamilyFarmCoalition

Federal Employees can Support NFFC

NFFC is pleased to be a part of the **Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)** and hopes to raise \$10,000 this year for farmer and fisher leader involvement in NFFC efforts. Through a payroll donation, federal employees can support non-profit organizations like NFFC (#16371.) This year's campaign has been extended to January 15, 2014.

Thanks for helping us reach our goal!

Legislative and Administrative Updates

Genetic Engineering

In response to public pressure and efforts led by Sens. Tester (D-MT) and Merkley (D-OR), Appropriations Committee Chair Sen. Mikulski (D-MD) kept her commitment to strip the bio-tech rider included in last March's CR from future funding bills.

USDA's May 29 disclosure of the GE wheat discovery prompted public outcry and reduced exports to several US trading partners. Farmers met with Secretary Vilsack but response has been vague. He seems to have ignored farmer, consumer and health concerns around the release of crops resistant to 2,4-D, dicamba, glufosinate and isoxaflutole, some of which can vaporize and drift or persist in groundwater. The public is encouraged to oppose new herbicide-resistant GMOs: support GMO-labeling efforts; provide comments to USDA and EPA when possible; and save seeds to replant.

To participate in a USFSA seed survey, write lisa@nffc.net. COMMENT DEADLINE on AGRICULTURAL COEXISTENCE is JANUARY 3; you may access the portal at:

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=APHIS-2013-0047-0001>.

Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Comment Deadline

In early 2013 FDA published more than 1,200 pages of rules on 'smart practices' covering produce, produce safety and produce processing; the **comment period for these rules ends Friday, November 15, 2013**. Integral aspects include water quality; soil amendments; worker hygiene; packing equipment; and the exemption for farms selling less than \$25,000 in produce annually.

The Tester-Hagan Amendment is critical to farmers' coverage under FSMA as it provides for an exemption to those that meet the following three main criteria: selling less than \$500K annually; selling within 275 miles or inside the state; and selling more than 50 percent directly to the end user.

The details defining how this exemption will operate are subject to public comment in the proposed regulations. Small- to medium-sized producers are particularly concerned over FDA's minimal understanding of cooperatives, canning, and cheese-making. Processors must have a food safety plan but most USDA county extension offices will offer training. A 2-year to 6-year compliance period is in place. Dockets for public comment are located at:

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm334115.htm>

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm334114.htm>

NFFC is developing comments and will post a sample letter online. We encourage all readers to visit the Western Organization of Resource Councils' (<http://worc.org>) and Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance's (<http://farmandranchfreedom.org/>) websites. Both organizations have studied the proposed regulations extensively and offer sharp insights for individual submissions, as well.

Competition/GIPSA

The Continuing Resolution (CR) enacted by Congress on March 26, 2013, included the FY2013 House Appropriations rider to rescind the GIPSA poultry provision, effective as of February 2012, and hinders USDA's ability to enforce existing laws. The same rider was included in the temporary CR that's funding the government until January 15, 2014. Efforts are underway to eliminate these riders and other USDA limitations on enforcing the Packers and Stockyards Act from the Farm Bill and the 2014 appropriations bill. NFFC was one of 150 organizations signing a letter on this issue to Farm Bill conferees (<http://nffc.net/index.php/farmbillconfereeleaders>).

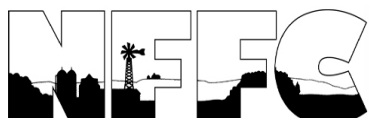
COOL - Country of Origin Labeling

After the June 2012 WTO (World Trade Organization) ruling that COOL makes beef more expensive to produce for export to the US, USDA issued proposed rules modifying the country of origin label. Comment period on the proposed rules ended April 11, 2013, and more than 200 organizations signed a letter to USDA Secretary Vilsack supporting the rules. USDA issued final rules by the WTO's May 23 deadline, although lawsuits have been filed against the rules by the livestock industry (National Cattlemen's Beef Association et al). On October 3, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia assisted ranchers and consumers when they determined that R-CALF USA, Food & Water Watch, South Dakota Stockgrowers Association and Western Organization of Resource Councils could legally defend COOL from a lawsuit filed by the international meatpacking industry.

R-CALF USA hired Dudley Butler and Harlan Hentges in July to help defend COOL. Butler is a former administrator at the USDA Packers and Stockyards Administration, and Hentges is a former R-CALF USA Private Property Rights Committee Co-chair.

Dairy Policy

NFFC continues to promote S.1640, the Federal Milk Marketing Improvement Act, as a sensible supply management proposal based on farmers receiving a price that reflects their cost of production. While this proposal was not reintroduced by the current Congress, we strongly support the Senate Farm Bill provision authored by Senator Gillibrand (D-NY) requiring USDA to hold public hearings to determine the need for a new milk pricing system. On October 29 NFFC's Dairy Subcommittee held a press teleconference during which they advocated this provision be included in the final Farm Bill.



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Index of Topics:

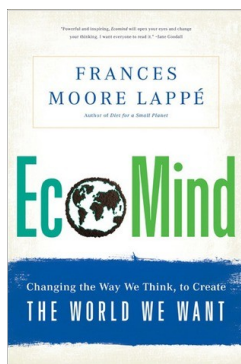
Herbicide-Resistance Concerns - pp. 1, 3
Food Sovereignty Messages - pp. 1, 5
Honoring Achievements - p. 2
CAFO Inspection Standards - p. 2
Chinese Corp. Buys Smithfield Foods - p. 3
NFFC President's Summer Review - p. 4
Herbal Medicine - Our Birthright - p. 5
NFFC Director's Note - p. 6
Legislative Updates - p. 7
Good Reads and Calendar - p. 8

Good Reads



Haitian efforts to rebuild lives and livelihoods are described in Beverly Bell's (of Other Worlds) latest book, *Fault Lines: Views Across Haiti's Divide*. The 20-plus chapters cover a range of topics between agriculture and women's rights, and dispel any myths propelled by Western media that Haitians stand by simply waiting for foreign aid. Their resilience and creativity should inspire everyone.

Francis Moore Lappe urged listeners to be "possibilists" in her keynote speech at the WILPF symposium in Des Moines on October 19. Highlighting concepts from her latest book, *EcoMind: Changing the Way We Think to Create the World We Want*, she reinforced the significance of staying in closer communication with allies and reaching out to new ones. As the 2013 Food Sovereignty Prize winners from Haiti and Brazil have demonstrated, collaboration can yield great results.



Disaster Relief Needed!

South Dakota farmers and ranchers are still reeling from the snowstorm that blasted the state in early October. NFFC member Dakota Rural Action suggests helping through: <http://www.southdakotastockgrowers.org/BlizzardDonation.htm>

-- Calendar --

November 15 - Comments Deadline: Food Safety Modernization Act
December 3-6, Bali, Indonesia - World Trade Organization Ministerial
December 5-6, Washington, DC - Rural Coalition Annual Winter Forum
December 7-9, Singapore - Trans Pacific Partnership Ministerial
December 16-20, Washington, DC - TTIP/TAFTA Trade negotiations
January 24-29, Apopka, FL - La Via Campesina North American Regional Meeting
January 25-26, Location TBD - Fish Locally Collaborative assembly and planning session
TBD - NFFC Winter Meeting
February TBD, Albany, GA - Federation/LAF Small Farmer Conference
March 14-16, Baraboo, WI - John Kinsman Beginning Farmer Food Sovereignty Prize Award Dinner & Ceremony, FFD Annual Meeting and One-Day Conference