



Pope Francis Meets The Popular Movements

Dena Hoff, Northern Plains Resource Council

In June I received an invitation from the Vatican to be part of a delegation to a meeting in Rome of The Popular Movements organized by the Pontifical Council for Peace and Justice, the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, and Popular (social) Movements known for pursuing social justice. Carlos Marentes, Sr. of the Border Agricultural Workers Project in El Paso, Elvire Francois Laveuce of the Farm Workers Association of Florida, and I represented Via Campesina North America as part of a delegation of people from more than 100 social movements. Our goals for this unprecedented meeting were:

To share Pope Francis' social thoughts; to summarize the views of popular movements on the roots of the growing inequalities and increased exclusion worldwide; to reflect on our organizational experiences; to propose alternatives to the problems that capital finance and transnational companies impose; and to debate the relationship between Popular Movements and Churches, and decide how to move forward working together.

We stayed and worked at the Silesian Congress Center. Our workshops, panels and plenaries were organized under three main headings: Inequality and social exclusion, Human dignity, and The world at risk. In each, the issues of Terra (land), Labor, and Domus (home) were debated extensively with presentations on GMOs, human rights, climate change, agrarian reform, peasant rights, indigenous rights, the rights of Mother Earth, and the influence on all aspects of life by transnational corporations. Panelists included clergy, youth, women, farmers, slum and shack dwellers, agricultural workers, unionists, waste recyclers, and many more activists. All had inspiring stories of organizing and educating the marginalized to better their lives and communities, build local sustainable economies, and have a voice in making policy in their own countries.

On October 28, we started our day at the Vatican with a special mass in beautiful Saint Peter's Basilica. Our encounter with Pope Francis was held in the old Synod building, which the Pope had never visited. He explained that 'synod' (continued p. 8)

Remembering John Bunting

Paris Reid, New York

I first met John Bunting in 1998. I worked with a couple local dairymen who were trying to build a dairy processing facility in Central New York which, they hoped, would get a better price for their milk. One of the founders knew of John's diverse dairy involvement and suggested I contact him for backup in the fine aspects of cheese-making.

John was a gentle activist, due in some measure to his Quaker faith, but he could call a spade a spade. He was freelancing for *The Milkweed*, a monthly newspaper whose editorial philosophy spotlights those spades that plagued the dairy industry, in his view. Many journalists gave up sleuthing out unethical dealings between the industry and elected officials, but John persisted until he nailed the truth, and published it. He wrote some in-your-face commentaries which appeared in *Country Folks'* letters to the editor that didn't endear him to big industry players.

Eleven years ago John was speaking – better yet, preaching – at a dairymen's meeting in northern Vermont. He railed against chicanery and a large milk co-op which he thought was guilty of it. Unfortunately, it was the same co-op to which he shipped wonderful high quality Jersey milk back home in Delaware County. While he was still in Vermont, his daughter Abby called with the words: "Dad, the creamery dropped us for high count." Now, accusing John, Abby and his son Virgil of (continued p. 8)



Mike Schmidt (then-Sen. Feingold staffer), Bryan Wolfe (ALG-OFU), Paul Rozwadowski (FFD) and John (2006)

2014 NFFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President: Ben Burkett

Federation of Southern Cooperatives/
Mississippi Association of Cooperatives

Vice President: Dena Hoff

Northern Plains Resource Council, MT

Secretary: Margot McMillen

Missouri Rural Crisis Center

At Large Members:

Niaz Dorry

Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance, MA

Savi Horne

Land Loss Prevention Project, NC

Mardy Townsend

Ashtabula, Lake, Geauga Farmers Union, OH

Joel Greeno

American Raw Milk Producers' Pricing
Association, WI

NFFC STAFF:

Washington, DC:

Ph: 202.543.5675

Fax: 202.543.0978

Toll Free: 877.968.3276

Executive Director: Katherine Ozer

kozer@nffc.net

Via Campesina Coordinator: Jessica Roe

jroelvc@gmail.com

Volunteer: Jane Rutherford

Midwest:

Outreach Coordinator/Editor: Lisa Griffith

lisa@nffc.net

Ph: 773.319.5838

Family Farm Agenda December 2014

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.

www.nffc.net

www.facebook.com/natlfamilyfarmcoalition

www.twitter.com/FamilyFarmCo

Thank You, and Seasons Greetings, to NFFC Members!

American Raw Milk Producers Pricing
Association (WI)

Ashtabula Lake Geauga Counties
Farmers' Union (OH)

California Dairy Campaign

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)

Federation of Southern Cooperatives/

Land Assistance Fund

Food for Maine's Future

Iowa Citizens for Community

Improvement

Land Loss Prevention Project (NC)

Midwest Organic Dairy
Producers Association

Mississippi Association of Cooperatives

Missouri Rural Crisis Center

Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative

National Hmong-American

Farmers, Inc.

Northeast Organic Farming Association
of Vermont

Northern Plains Resource Council (MT)

Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance

Powder River Basin

Resource Council (WY)

Progressive Agriculture (PA)

RAFI-USA (NC)

Rural Vermont

Western Colorado Congress

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

Clif Bar Family Foundation
Farm Aid

Grassroots International

Helanthius Fund

Isvara Foundation

Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation

Lawson Valentine Foundation

Norman Foundation

Patagonia, Inc.

Presbyterian Hunger Program

Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund
of Tides Foundation

Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program
at Shelter Rock

Woodhouse Foundation

**Last, but not least, we appreciate the individuals who contributed
to our Farmer Leader Travel Fund, General Support Fund, and
Combined Federal Campaign account (16371) in 2014.**

Please consider a year's end donation to further our work in 2015:

<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/1910>

Farmworkers and Refugee Farmers Honored with Food Sovereignty Prize

NFFC staff

On October 15, the 2014 Food Sovereignty Prize was presented to the Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) from Palestine for their work to secure land for local food production, and to Community to Community Development (C2C) from Bellingham, Washington, for raising awareness of abuses suffered by farmworkers. Both organizations represent peoples who have fought land grabs, displacement and discrimination. The US Food Sovereignty Alliance (USFSA), of which NFFC is a founding member, was pleased to host Ali Hassan of UAWC and Rosalinda Guillen and Patricio Martinez representing C2C.

For the third consecutive year, prize honorees met sustainable food and farming advocates in Des Moines during harvest season and at the same time the World Food Prize was bestowed by the Borlaug Foundation. Iowa CCI and the USFSA hosted a day of dialogue around food and agriculture for local farmers, activists, Africa Food Sovereignty Alliance guests and Prize honorees. Collaboratively recognizing racism, fighting corporate control, and sharing insights were among the actions noted to educate decision-makers and to engage allies to achieve real change.

The dialogue was bookended with a Tuesday evening reception hosted by the Des Moines chapter of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and Wednesday night's Food Prize Ceremony. The ceremony's many highlights included emcees Yeshica Weerasekera (IDEX) and George Naylor (ICCI), Gateway Dance Theatre entertainment, a mistica for departed leaders Charity Hicks and John Kinsman, food sovereignty perspectives from Mary Hanson Harrison (WILPF-US) and John Peck (Family Farm Defenders), and presentations by AFSA guests Herschelle Milford and Daniel Maingi.

In receiving their award, Rosalinda emphasized the significance of honoring C2C's work to support farmworkers, long ignored and abused despite their own sacrifices and many contributions to our society, food security and economy. C2C has worked with immigrant farmworkers to develop farmworker-owned co-ops, organize a successful nutrition education project (Cocinas Sanas), and promote domestic fair trade in regional assemblies and meetings. Patricio represented one of those farmworker organizations, Familias Unidas por la Justicia, seeking fair wages from Sakuma Bros. Berry Farms.

As UAWC's representative, Ali spoke passionately on the need for Gaza residents to be free of Israeli occupation – to have open access to land and water for raising and harvesting their crops safely and securely. Although he once made a respectable living as a farmer, Ali and his neighbors have lost many opportunities through the confiscation and destruction of farms, houses, schools, mosques and factories in the border zone – the strip of land several hundred metres wide along the fence defining the Israeli-Palestine border. To offset these losses, UAWC has helped farmers to re-establish crops (most importantly, olive trees, figs, grapes and dairy herds); save hardy, localized seeds; reconstruct wells, ponds and fences; and build cooperatives where farmers (and even non-farmers) can market their products directly.

From Des Moines, Ali went to Detroit for the Black Urban Farmers and Gardeners conference, while Rosalinda traveled to Washington, DC, as a guest of NFFC. Representing C2C and the USFSA on a food justice panel at National Food Day, Rosalinda's description of farm labor organizing and the real status of farmworker rights captured the audience.

Combatting claims of industry improvements from other Food Day panelists, Rosalinda asserted that farmworker conditions have not improved over the last decade, despite a victorious 1995 union contract for Columbia Crest Winery workers. She has seen farm laborer conditions decline, leaving workers demoralized, disenfranchised, and destitute. This is typified by Sakuma Bros. Berry Farm, a family-owned industrial farm operation in Washington. Sakuma offers low, fluctuating piece-rate wages, and has turned its labor camp into a prison-like environment with barbed wire fences, border patrols and a hostile visiting facility.

Hopefully, C2C's boycott of Sakuma berry products (Driscoll Strawberries, Häagen-Daaz Ice Cream and Yoplait Yogurt) will help to bring about change for farmworker families: fair hourly wages, benefits, and protection from workplace injury. Likewise, UAWC will continue to carve out spaces and opportunities for Gaza Palestinians to restore a sense of peace, food sovereignty, and normal, productive lives.

Follow C2C at their [Facebook page](#) and UAWC at [their website](#). The 2014 prize ceremony may be [viewed online](#).



Ali, Rosalinda and Patricio (l-r) at strategic dialogue



Rosalinda (far right) speaks on behalf of C2C



Ali receives the prize for UAWC

Are DNR Regulations Sending Us Down the River?

Shirley Kidwell, Missouri Rural Crisis Center

In October, a 5,600-hog finishing facility near my mid Missouri home spilled over 10,000 gallons of hog waste into a creek that runs through a neighbor's farm and into Mark Twain National Forest. This was not their first spill.

From 1994 through 1999, there were multiple complaints about odor, runoffs, fish kills, and improper disposal of dead hogs at the Pork Masters, Inc., facility. Some violations led to Department of Natural Resources (DNR) citations, but DNR personnel could not cite violations they had not observed.

My neighbors, mostly farmers, sought legal redress against the operation in 1999. An agreement reached with the facility's owner-operator included aeration systems for lagoons and other modifications to mitigate their effects, but the primary term of settlement was based on the owner-operator agreeing to build no hog operations within a five-mile radius of the existing one. He also agreed to bind his heirs, assigns, and purchasers to that settlement agreement.

Fifteen years later, the owner's son (and current operator of Pork Masters, Inc.) signed a contract with Eichelberger Farms, Inc. for them to build a new operation on 20 acres of his land within 2 miles of the existing facility. Eichelberger Farms, Inc. "...is a family owned and operated business producing pork in Southeast Iowa." It is also a primary owner of Triumph Foods in St. Joseph, Missouri – one of the largest pork processors in the US. The waste from the hogs in this operation will be spread on nearly 1,500 acres in central Callaway County, Missouri, under easement contracts signed by David Eichelberger and several landowners. The acreage includes some land already receiving Pork Masters' waste.

However, the permit application for the new operation for 7,600 sows and 2,920 gilts was filed with Missouri DNR under the name of Callaway Farrowing, LLC. That application shows that the proposed operation will be conducted entirely on the 20 acres, with waste pits under the buildings to be emptied twice a year by transferring ownership of the waste to other persons. According to current DNR regulations, once that waste is transferred to "other persons" the CAFO operator is no longer responsible for it, only for the records of those transfers and the nutrient analysis of the waste for five years.

Nutrient management plans, required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), were included in the permit application. Missouri DNR does not require such plans, so following recommended steps when applying animal waste to the land is totally voluntary. Discharge and damage to neighbors' property is not covered, and only when runoff occurs into a "water of the state" does DNR have authority to act. Neighbors of the current operation are fearful, with good reason, as the hog waste will be applied to highly erodible land covering more than three watersheds.

In their Nutrient Management Planner online (<http://nmplanner.missouri.edu/regulations/whatisanmp.pdf>), the University of Missouri insinuates that EPA's standards are too strict for farmers to follow. Similarly, Iowa DNR did not enforce the Clean Water Act adequately until Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement and other organizations convinced the EPA of DNR's obligations to its citizens. EPA has since arranged for DNR to inspect CAFOs to help protect Iowa's drinking water.

On November 21, despite 32 letters opposing the construction of this farrowing facility and zero supporting it, Missouri DNR issued a permit to Callaway Farrowing, LLC, a shell company that seems to have no assets – no barns, equipment, or animals. The entire operation appears to belong to Eichelberger Farms, Inc. of Iowa, which is a typical CAFO setup.

Clearly, the DNR does not have the protection of Missouri's natural resources or citizens in mind when it issues these permits. Allowing corporations to take over land, water and air to raise thousands of hogs in a concrete box set over pits to catch waste for future distribution is not farming; it is a land grab that threatens the physical, societal and economic health of our community.

The power of multi-national agribusinesses to influence legislation and regulations is enormous. These companies have distorted the mission of public agencies by successfully manipulating common law and private property rights to favor only those – like themselves – who have the financial means to challenge them in court.

Region 7 readers (in Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska) are urged to send or call in comments to their contacts at http://www.epa.gov/region7/water/cafo/cafo_contacts.htm. The Friends of Responsible Agriculture will not back down, but the legal fights in our future to protect our homes and farms will be costly, and we need all the help we can get.



*Hog waste from Calloway CAFO spills into stream after 3" rainfall in October.
Philip Glenn photo*

From the President

Ben Burkett, Federation of Southern Cooperatives

As the UN's International Year of Family Farming, 2014 provided opportunities for me to travel on behalf of family farmers, the NFFC and La Via Campesina. I participated in trade meetings in Quebec and Brussels, the Africa-US Food Sovereignty Summit in Seattle, and Slow Food events in Denver and Turin, Italy. In October I received a James Beard Foundation Leadership Award in New York alongside urban farmer Karen Washington, advocate Navinna Khanna, and writers Michael Pollan and Mark Bittman. It is crucial for us to make the connections for those who appreciate good, sustainable food with an understanding of the difficulties in raising, harvesting and marketing that food.

Most farmers across the US, excluding cattle producers, continue to have a rough time as grain and dairy prices have dropped significantly. In the state of Mississippi, total farm income provided more than \$7 billion for the third consecutive year, but the largest portion of that came from contract poultry growers who are just breaking even. Our farmer cooperative sold watermelon to four [Firstline Schools](#) in New Orleans for 2,000 students this year. We are proud to be part of this program which benefits economically and geographically disadvantaged students, as well as the farmers growing some of their produce.

The United Nations declared 2015 as the International Year of Soils, which is very significant as producers combat climate change, mineral extraction, and the release of more herbicide-resistant GMOs. We know that it is more important than ever to work together to fight the corporate control of our food and farm system, and hope to see all NFFC member organizations represented at our winter board meeting in DC in February. Family farmers and fishers need a larger presence there, and working with the Coalition and Via Campesina can offer that opportunity.



Deb Eschmeyer with Ben at the JBFL Award ceremony

Amendment 18 Advances to Protect Independent Fishers

Aaron Dority, North Atlantic Marine Alliance

On November 18, 2014, the New England Fishery Management Council voted on the groundfish fleet diversity amendment, aka Amendment 18, a draft policy that several Fish Locally Collaborative (FLC) participants have worked on since 2010.

Current policy enables the concentration of fisheries access into the hands of a few wealthy, larger-scale corporations, which, in turn, wipe out the access to inshore areas on which community-based fishermen depend. The purpose of the fleet diversity discussion is to set in place protections and safeguards to stop these problems and ensure a diverse fishing fleet.

The Council meeting was the last opportunity to add, remove or change pieces of the amendment. The draft document represented years of meetings – council, committee, industry, advisory, etc. – and Amendment 18 had finally been shaped into something that promised to protect fleet diversity and afford opportunities for young people to enter this fishery in the future.

Some background: when New England shifted to groundfish quota management in 2010, the controls regulating the scale of fishing were removed, representing a dramatic shift toward privatization in fish policy. This change coincided with 1) decreasing health of the cod stocks and 2) a hyper-aggregation of fish on a small piece of ocean bottom that represented only 1 percent of the Gulf of Maine. As inshore fishing efforts soared, this perfect storm annihilated the Gulf of Maine cod stock, drawing comparisons with the collapse of cod stock in the Canadian maritimes 20 years ago that led to quota cuts and unemployed fishermen.

Small boat, inshore fishermen knew what was happening when they saw increased fishing on local fishing grounds off Massachusetts – from big boats and small from all over New England. After a core group of concerned fishermen sounded the alarm for three years, the council voted this spring to protect inshore fishing grounds and the fishermen who depend upon them – thus promoting fleet diversity – by establishing an inshore/offshore line. The proposal, included in A18, contained provisions for area-based trip or seasonal declarations and differential catch limits, a measure to prevent future pulse fishing (a term for the process in which mobile fleets sequentially overfish fish subpopulations) which wiped out the cod fish over the past few years.

At the meeting, a council member (and outspoken critic of fleet diversity protections) proposed to remove the differential catch limits from the amendment, arguing that now was the wrong time to worry about fleet diversity. NOAA Fisheries' Regional Administrator John Bullard argued that inshore catch limits were critical to the whole inshore/offshore line concept – the policy was meaningless otherwise. Thankfully, several fishermen from our network spoke up in support of inshore area protections, including inshore catch limits. The motion to weaken A18 failed by just two votes, taking us toward the home-stretch; final votes and public hearings will take place in 2015 and the policy will be implemented in 2016. This policy should provide critical protections for fish stocks along New England's coastal shelf, prevent extreme quota consolidation, and ensure more transparency in the quota leasing market. A18 is a long time in the making, and all of us who have worked on it look forward to implementing it.

Director's Take

Katherine Ozer

Looking to 2015, there has never been a more important time for NFFC to define and convey what is needed to change the situation that farmers, ranchers, and fishers face every day. In the past six months most commodity prices have collapsed, and what had been the highest dairy prices in years are sliding downward. Despite those relatively high prices, the net prices for many farmers and their families barely kept pace with increased input costs.

Farmers, ranchers and fishers need national and international trade and pricing policies that enable them to cover their costs of production, to have control over their production and harvest, and to have fair access to markets. It is our challenge to bring that message and those actions into the national debate.

The 2014 midterm elections dramatically changed the landscape for the latest lame-duck session and Congress' return to DC on January 5. New leadership on the Agriculture and Appropriations Committees, along with the retirement or defeat of some of our longtime supporters and advocates, makes it even more crucial for us to sharpen our strategy.

We look to our member groups for input and insights on political shifts at the state level; there are many examples from the 2014 elections, including gubernatorial posts in Maryland, Illinois and Virginia. Oregon's GMO labelling bill lost by fewer than 1,000 votes, despite millions of dollars spent by anti-labelling advocates on misleading media campaigns.

In September, NFFC outlined our concerns with the ongoing release of herbicide-resistant GMOs and our support for agro-ecology to the National Academy of Sciences. In November, we joined more than 200 organizations urging Congress to retain Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) during this lame-duck session. We also appealed to the Senate to remove the rider gutting GIPSA's ability to enforce their provisions for fair livestock contracts, but the rider was part of the \$1.1 trillion budget bill – aka 'cromnibus' – signed into law by the president on December 16.

NFFC joined Citizens Trade Campaign and more than 300 voices in front of the US Trade Representatives' office on December 8 while the TPP negotiators were trying to wrap up a secret deal. Early 2015 will provide an important showdown on fast-track and pending free trade agreements. The real fight will take place in the House as the Senate has long promoted fast-track and free trade agreements, regardless of party majority.

In addition to critical trade efforts, NFFC will continue to work with allies in and outside of the US Food Sovereignty Alliance to oppose the approval of more GMOS and to advocate for farm and food workers. We have deepened relationships with Community to Community Development, the Restaurant Opportunities Center and Food Chain Workers Alliance to help their campaigns for respectful treatment and fair wages to gain momentum nationwide.

Reflecting on 2014, we know that our members experienced many personal and organizational losses, but three voices and visions most deeply missed from the NFFC community are John Kinsman, Charity Hicks, and John Bunting, who passed in January, July and November, respectively. **Each one inspired many to fight for farm and food justice, and their lives were committed to informing others about the issues that motivated them to change the world.**

I deeply appreciate all of our members, our volunteers and our staff for working so hard on our issues and for bringing the voices of our farmers, fishers, and ranchers to the debates on Capitol Hill, within USDA, and at important events across the US and the globe. I also want to thank our individual, Combined Federal Campaign and foundation supporters who recognize us among the many organizations vying for scarce resources.

Let's look forward to a year of working together to make a bigger difference in the lives of all our members. Please join us on our monthly board calls and at our winter board meeting in DC to re-focus our objectives, message, and energies for 2015.



Lauren Faccinto and Kathy Ozer at USTR action

-- 2015 Winter Calendar --

January 5 - Congress returns to DC

January 14-17 - Southern SAWG, Mobile, AL

January 17-21 - NFU Women's Conference, Clearwater Beach, FL

January 21-24 - Eco-Farm Conference, Pacific Grove, CA

February 3-7 - PASA Conference, State College, PA

February 8-10 - NFFC Winter Board Meeting, Washington, DC

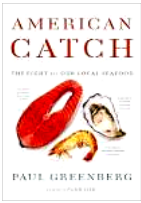
February 9 - 13 - OEFFA Conference, Granville, OH

February 14 - 15 - NOFA-VT Annual Conference, Burlington, VT

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

March 14-17 - NFU Annual Convention, Wichita, KS

Winter Reading Options



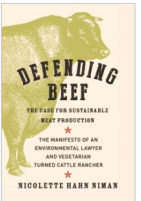
[*American Catch: The Fight for Our Local Seafood*](#), by Paul Greenberg. This very readable treatise describes the lost connection between our palates and the coast. Its primary point should be central to all conversations on fisheries: **Decoupling what is caught in the US from what is eaten in the US can compromise our coastal economies, our national food security, and our marine environments.** Louisiana's brown shrimp market (losing out to imported farmed shrimp and disappearing Gulf marshland) and Bristol Bay, Alaska's sockeye salmon (threatened by the proposed Pebble Mine to unearth gold and copper) exemplify the losses from severing the reciprocal nourishment of ourselves and our waters. Eating wild seafood is a powerful connection to the fresh and salt water ecosystems that produce it. As rising greenhouse gas emissions toy with the temperature and acidity of our oceans, as working waterfronts give way to upscale marinas, and as greater swaths of the ocean come under the desirous gaze of extractive industries, it is more important than ever to remember that wild marine ecosystems are food systems. If we nourish them, they will nourish us, but this mutuality requires both eating local and engagement in the political work of sustaining marine ecosystems. (Sarah Schumann, NAMA; from [The Providence Journal](#))



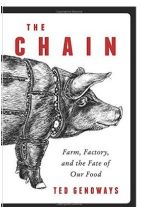
[*Food Voices: Stories From the People Who Feed Us*](#), by Andrianna Natsoulas. *Food Voices* offers a close look at the individuals who feed their communities and promote food sovereignty globally. Natsoulas collected interviews from more than 70 small-scale farmers and fishermen on several continents because, "They are the closest to the earth and hold the responsibility in their hands to provide healthy, wholesome, culturally relevant food to their communities now and into the future." In his forward, George Naylor writes that readers can "...learn from people with experience organizing others with the give and take of creating a new global democratic society." (Lauren Faccinto, NFFC)



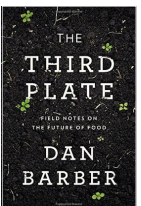
[*This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate*](#), by Naomi Klein. In this excellent new book, *No Logo* and *The Shock Doctrine* author Naomi Klein skillfully explains how the climate crisis and gaping inequalities in our global economy are tied together, and what we can do to make a difference. ([Briana Kerensky, Food and Water Watch](#))



[*Defending Beef: The Case for Sustainable Meat Production*](#), by Nicolette Hahn Niman. The environmental attorney and animal rights activist promotes carbon sequestration, grassland restoration, and resource management as positives aspects of grass-fed beef operations. She also suggests that non-therapeutic antibiotics and genetically modified feed contribute more to modern health problems than beef and animal fat, which can provide the rich nutrients, essential vitamins and proteins our bodies crave. (Lauren Faccinto, NFFC)



[*The Chain: Farm, Factory, and the Fate of Our Food*](#), by Ted Genoways. This book has been widely touted as an update to Upton Sinclair's 20th Century expose' of meat processing horrors, *The Jungle*. [Tom Philpott at Mother Jones](#) noted that, "[Nicolette Hahn] Niman exhorts her readers to choose their meat 'wisely and well'; Genoways reminds us of just how tricky that task is."



[*The Third Plate: Field Notes on the Future of Food*](#), by Dan Barber. Barber recommends eating more indigenous and readily harvested foods, not just those typically adapted and cultivated in a region. [Tom Philpott](#) wrote that, by "...bringing a Wendell Berry-like ecological vision to the role of the chef, Barber has produced a delicious read." This suggests a much more sustainable and agro-ecological approach to preparing and eating food than many chefs espouse. If that's the case, we hope it catches on.



[*The Big Fat Surprise—Why Butter, Meat, and Cheese Belong in a Healthy Diet*](#), by Nina Teicholz. Worth another mention, Teicholz's New York Times best-seller provides an in-depth history of the battle against fat and the ways that modern science is proving the anti-fat craze to be false. (Tyler Mac Innis, NFFC)

Pope Francis Meets The Popular Movements

Continued from pg. 1

means 'to walk together', which he thought was rather symbolic.

In his address, Pope Francis said of the poor who not only suffer injustice but struggle against it: "They are not content with empty promises, excuses, or alibis. Neither are they waiting with folded arms for the aid of NGOs, welfare plans, or solutions that never come, or if they do come, arrive in such a way that they go in one direction, either to anaesthetize or to domesticate."

He said of solidarity, "...it is a word that means much more than some acts of sporadic generosity. It is to think and act in terms of community, of the priority of the life of all over the appropriation of goods by a few. It is also to fight against the structural causes of poverty, inequality, lack of work, land and housing, the denial of social and labor rights. It is to confront the destructive effects of the empire of money: forced displacements, painful emigrations, the traffic of persons, drugs, war, violence, and all those realities that many of you suffer and that we are all called on to transform. Solidarity, understood in its deepest sense, is a way of making history, and this is what the Popular Movements do." Pope Francis elaborated on the topics of land, work and homes as the right of all in a way that showed his understanding of their importance in a sustainable, just world.

Several delegates were privileged to deliver short messages to Pope Francis after his address. Evo Morales, President of Bolivia, also addressed the delegates, but did not engage in a dialogue with us.

On the last day of the meeting, we discussed collective action towards human dignity and social justice, a proposal for interaction, and a conference statement which will be forthcoming after translation.

I would like to thank Pope Francis and the organizers of this historic encounter for bringing together social movements which did not know each other, for the most part, and for allowing us to share stories and strategies for collective action. Let us hope we can use this encounter to inspire other churches, and institutions to follow the example of Pope Francis and engage in this work of building a peaceful, just, sustainable world for everyone. I hope you will all read his speech in its entirety, and be as inspired by it as I was. (For the full transcript of the Pope's address see: <http://www.zenit.org/en/articles/pope-s-address-to-popular-movements>)

Index of Topics:

Pgs. 1 & 8: Popular Movements in Rome; Remembering John Bunting

Pg. 2: Member and Support Recognition; Events Calendar

Pg. 3: Food Sovereignty Prize in Iowa

Pg. 4: Departments of Natural Resources and CAFOS

Pg. 5: President's Note; Progress on Amendment 18 to Protect Fishers

Pg. 6: Director's Note

Pg. 7: Recommended Reading

Remembering John Bunting

Continued from pg. 1

high somatic cell milk was akin to accusing Gandhi of gluttony. No good deed goes unpunished.

In April 2012 John was hospitalized with a bad stroke; he never walked again unassisted. His mind was in overdrive, but communication skills had shorted out and continued to deteriorate until the Lord called him home on November 10, at age 74.

Deb Fleming, a long-time friend of John's, eulogized him at the West Delhi Church on November 22. Deb read from Psalm 121, because, in her words, it speaks of the beauty of God's handiwork and His promise to never forsake us. "John loved farming in these hills and valleys and was a steadfast steward of God's creation. He loved the beauty in the changing seasons and drew strength from God's majestic handiwork. When someone mentions John Bunting's name, the first image that pops into my head is a sizeable man with an equally sizeable mustache; and a shy grin peaking out from beneath that great bushy upper lip."

John was born in Pavilion, NY. His father was a Baptist minister, his mother a nurse. Because his father served in various churches, the family moved frequently. As a boy, John was required to learn Bible verses. His higher education continued at several colleges – Syracuse, Bard, Cranbrook – but he never finished his course work to earn a diploma. Deb believed that his IQ was off the charts, but John, a free spirit, was not one for long-term, retirement-type employment. He had had a variety of jobs: driving a cab in Detroit, working in a machine shop, cutting and selling fence posts. Those jobs never gave him a steady income, but he always had enough money to live on (and share with those less fortunate). The farming bug bit him hard, leading him to do what his heart told him to do: be a steward of God's creation. He loved animals and was obsessed with all things farming.

After her eulogy, all present were allowed to reflect on John's life, so I mentioned that the Apostle Paul, when learning that his own life would end soon, wrote to fellow Christians that he had "fought the good fight". I told people that John's life defined the concept of fighting the good fight better than anyone I ever knew.

When visiting John in the hospital in late 2012, I wrote down some of his thoughts, including this bit of wisdom:

"Our entire food system is based on what people have done before us. If we have no appreciation for what was given to us, how can we respect those who follow?"



John was very proud of his draft horse, Ross