



Regenerative Agriculture Healing Land, Communities, Economies

Teresa Davenport, Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance

We know the many ways regenerative ranching can lead to healing ... for people AND for land.

It's a simple statement, but the story behind that statement is incredibly complex. A group of ranchers and communicators began the task of crafting that story in a less complex, more compelling way as they gathered November 14-15 at Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture in Tarrytown, NY. NFFC was represented by member group Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance (FARFA), who sent board member and second-generation pasture-based cattle rancher Mark Hutchins and FARFA's communications director, Teresa Davenport.

FARFA's current efforts focus on two activities based in regenerative agriculture – congressional passage of the PRIME Act, which would give individual states the freedom to permit intrastate distribution of custom-slaughtered meats – and monitoring the US Department of Agriculture's renewed efforts to mandate electronic livestock identification. Based in Texas, FARFA helped steer passage of five related bills during the 2019 legislative session, which included expanding the list of eligible foods under the Cottage Foods Law, capping permit fees at farmers' markets, and allowing on-farm processing of up to 1,000 birds per year by small-scale poultry farmers.



Farmer Will Harris at Stone Barns

Organized by the Grassfed Alliance and marketing company Guidelight Strategies, whose work centers on food and agriculture communications, Talking About Regenerative Agriculture featured speakers from ranching and scientific research worlds: Will Harris from White Oak Pastures in Georgia; Tim Joseph from Grassfed Alliance and Maple Hill Creamery in New York; chief science advisor for GRACE Communications Urvashi Rangan; and dietician Diana Rodgers who produces the "Sustainable Dish" podcasts and blog and has now produced a film called *Sacred Cow*.

Focusing on the vilification of all meat by plant-based, fake-meat producers and opponents of factory-farmed animals, attendees addressed the need to take control of our message. The goal is to develop and share the story of regenerative meat and dairy, educating more consumers about the solutions that this way of farming presents.

Representatives from Guidelight Strategies moderated much of the discussion, with some consensus reached around the need to communicate with empathy and compassion, understanding that most consumers 'just want to eat in peace'. Among the many objectives voiced were:

- Demonstrate that regenerative ranchers are super-heroes.
- Educate the public that there's a need to pay farmers for curing ecological problems, not just for the food they grow.
- Express optimism for the future.
- Be willing to join forces with unexpected allies to accomplish our goals.
- Tackle the issue of green-washing by which industrial food systems take market share away from regenerative farmers and ranchers.

Grassfed Alliance and Guidelight Strategies will continue their partnership to develop and launch a marketing and communications program based on these early conversations. For more information, write hello@grassfedalliance.org.

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Family Farm Defenders

Vice President: Betsy Garrold

Food for Maine's Future

Treasurer: Monica Rainge

Federation of Southern Cooperatives

Secretary: Bruce Drinkman

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Family Farm Agenda December 2019

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

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Reviewing 2019

Niaz Dorry, NFFC Director

Almost every week our staff calls seem to open with "there's so much going on!" And there has been so much going on... the contents of this newsletter alone give a sense of all the work we accomplished together: we finished our strategic plan; hired a new policy coordinator; held our summer meeting in the Great Plains; sent many of you around the planet (literally!) to speak for yourselves while representing our collective work; went on a few mini-tours to visit you where you work, live, dream, and struggle; built a new website; raised our operating budget; launched a campaign to get economic relief for dairy farmers; and, so much more. Just looking at the press releases, statements, and blog posts on our website gives a glimpse into this year. None of this could have possibly happened without each and every one of you. Thank you! I'm grateful for the opportunity I've had to serve NFFC and our members, and look forward to creating change with all of you in 2020 and beyond. Onward!



Niaz with farmer Robert Pierce in Madison, WI, during a 2019 mini-tour

Never A Dull Moment

Jim Goodman, Board President

Never a dull moment. Another difficult year in a long string of tough years for the farmers and rural communities who are part of NFFC, which speaks not just for them, but everyone all over the world wanting a different food system.

So what might a different system look like? Could we have a system helping farmers of any size to be profitable? One that satisfied the farmer's need for fair prices and a dignified life, that produced quality food as determined by a partnership between those who grow food and those who eat it? One where everyone could afford good food produced in a manner that might actually benefit the environment? That's our hope, and it means we must, as we used to say, think globally, act locally.

Representing NFFC this past year has taken me from the Iowa Presidential forum, to Congressional visits in Washington to advocate for fair farm prices and an end to corporate land grabs, to Rome to help smallholder farmers protect the seeds they have saved for millennia from multi-national seed companies and Western governments. Closer to home in Wisconsin, we joined allies at Farm Aid focusing on the ongoing dairy crisis, the loss of small family farms, like mine – a struggle the



NFFC staff and board deal with every day. Over Thanksgiving, Rebecca and I met Code Pink, fisherman Sarah Schumann, and others for Jane Fonda's Fire Drill Friday (pictured left) at the US Capitol joining civil disobedience against climate change and poor food policy while amplifying the voice of family farmers.

No doubt the workload, the outreach, and collaboration will only grow in 2020. The need will always be there, and I look forward to another year of continuing the struggle with our members and allies. Never a dull moment.

The Impacts of MPC/Ultra-filtered Milk on Supply and Farm Price

Gerald Carlin, Progressive Agriculture Organization

Are the milk glut and low farm milk prices caused by the use of Milk Protein Concentrate (MPC) and Ultra-filtered Milk (UF) in cheese and other dairy products? No one really knows how much milk MPC/UF Milk displaces since the Federal Milk Marketing Orders (FMMO) do not collect data on their production and use. This is considered proprietary information. MPC/UF Milk are now being used in all four classes of milk products.

The issue of MPC use dates back to at least the mid-1990s. On April 17, 1997, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released its proposed rule on substances Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS), which allowed a manufacturer to “market a substance that the manufacturer determines is GRAS without informing the agency (FDA), or if the agency is so informed, while the agency is reviewing that information.” Although FDA has approved various industry requests for MPC GRAS status in the past five years or so, the FDA has not independently, officially granted GRAS status to MPC. Is this because the high-pressure filtration process has a negative effect on the fragile milk proteins? How does the human body utilize these denatured proteins? If milk proteins are derived from milk that has already been ultra-pasteurized, even more questions are raised.

MPC/UF Milk are not approved ingredients in standardized cheeses, but the FDA has exercised discretionary enforcement, as reiterated on August 11, 2017. The FDA further stated, “. . . we do not intend to take action against companies that manufacture standardized cheeses and related cheese products that contain fluid Ultra-filtered Milk or fluid Ultra-filtered Non-fat Milk without declaring them in the ingredient statement, as long as their labels declare milk or non-fat milk in the ingredient statement.”

To answer the first question, let’s look at cheese production. The traditional yield factor for cheese is 10.01 lbs. per 100 lbs. of fluid milk containing 3.5% butterfat and 2.99% true protein. Higher average components may yield 11 lbs. of cheese per 100 lbs. of milk. National cheese production in 2018 for cheese falling under Class III was about 12.7 billion lbs. Class III utilization (weighted average) in all Federal Orders was 43%. If this rate of utilization is true nationally, average cheese production would be 14.0 lbs. per 100 lbs. of milk, so it seems unlikely that the national average cheese yield is less than 13.5 lbs. per 100 lbs. of milk, which equates to at least 20 billion lbs. of farm milk being displaced by the use of MPC/UF Milk in cheese.

Low-fat and non-fat dairy products are promoted by dairy farmer checkoff dollars and through the Federal milk pricing formula which includes dairy product non-specific make allowances for butterfat, protein, and other solids. Declining fluid milk sales may be due in part to people not liking the taste of low-fat or non-fat milk. It is even getting harder to find full-fat yogurt and cottage cheese. The fat that traditionally would go into these products is used with MPC/UF Milk to produce substandard cheese. How much milk is being displaced in other dairy products because of MPC/UF Milk and other innovative products and methods which are used to extend yields? No one really knows since this is proprietary information. More profit is pocketed by cheese manufacturers when MPC/UF Milk is used than when cheese is made the traditional way. There is no doubt that MPC, UF, and other milk protein derivatives (many of which are imported) have been a tool of the milk processing industry for over 20 years to maintain an illusion of oversupply, enabling them to obtain farm milk at depressed prices while at the same time increasing milk manufacturing profits. The FDA, USDA, dairy industry leaders, and politicians have aggressively ignored this issue and hidden it from public knowledge. All this has contributed to the decimation of family dairy farms, rural communities, and local food.

Now the FDA is moving ahead to modernize standards of identity which may result in lab-produced milk alternatives being integrated into dairy products without the consumer’s knowledge, further exaggerating over-supply and compromising food quality. The anti-animal agriculture forces are very influential in this process.

This all points to the need for dairy farmers’ cost of production to take first priority. Hearings and investigations must be held to get to the bottom of this mess. Once the pricing, displacement, extension, product labeling, and food quality issues are dealt with, a sensible, farmer-funded supply management program could be implemented, as needed, to insure a fair price for dairy farmers.



NFFC's New Online Digs

Check out our new website at <https://nffc.net/> including pages describing our inspiring member organizations, food and farm policy recommendations, history, and dedication to longtime leader Kathy Ozer; resources with fact sheets, a press room, and glossary; and ways to join, volunteer with, and otherwise support NFFC. Our members will be glad you did, and so will we!

This Holiday Season, Support NFFC Members!

Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance

www.namanet.org

is a fishermen-led organization building a broad movement toward healthy fisheries and fishing communities through effective policies and market strategies.

Our good friend and accomplice Madeleine Hall-Arber has been up to her elbows in clay hand-crafting our 2019 NAMA ornament, which features the Puffer Fish to symbolize how NAMA's work expands the movement fighting the corporate takeover of our ocean. We're pleased to offer this one-of-a-kind ornament to folks making a donation of \$100 or more to NAMA during our Year-End Giving Campaign.



To make a donation visit <http://bit.ly/2qExlI5>



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- NOTECARD SETS featuring original art
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www.ruralvermont.org/merch



Your purchase supports Rural Vermont's advocacy for public policy that delivers health and well-being to our farmers, communities, and ecosystems.

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Call or Fax: 608-260-0900

Email: familyfarmdefenders@yahoo.com

Visit: <http://familyfarmers.org/?p=1673>

Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance



AgActivist bumper stickers (\$2) and FARFA t-shirts (\$25) are free at various membership levels.

Common sense policies for local, diversified agricultural systems.



Visit: www.farmandranchfreedom.org/support

This Holiday Season, Support NFFC Members!





Community Alliance for Global Justice

*For the 2019 holiday season,
visit CAGJ for:*

Food Justice poster with
artwork by Nikki McClure

CAGJ t-shirts with artwork
by Heather Elder

CAGJ's Zine and Book:
"Our Food, Our Right:
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*Please order by Noon
Pacific Time
Thursday 12/19/19*

<http://bit.ly/CAGJSLEE17>
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4 Seasons Farm Market (PA):

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Patchwork Family Farms

Patchwork Family Farms is a group of independent hog farmers who believe in raising their hogs the traditional way - with great care and plenty of access to fresh air and sunshine, and no non-therapeutic antibiotics. When you purchase from *Patchwork Family Farms* you also help support Missouri's independent farm families, rural communities and a healthy environment.

Patchwork Family Farms is a program of the *Missouri Rural Crisis Center (MRCC)*, a committed and successful family farm membership organization that organizes and fights every day for policies that support America's farm families, rural communities and democracy.

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www.morural.org
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*Shipping (throughout US) is extra; order by Friday, 12/20/19

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Pillowcase-size quilts describe migration from homelands to the US.

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Items are handmade by Hmong women artisans who pass knowledge and skills from mother to daughter.






Southern Alternatives Agricultural Cooperative



SAAC in southwest Georgia produces fair trade shelled pecans and pecan candies. Led by women, SAAC is the only African American-owned pecan-shelling facility in the U.S. These lifelong advocates have crafted a business that creates new jobs for workers and strengthens local, rural economies.

Order online at federation.coop starting December 2.

Rural Vermont Restoring On-Farm Traditions

Caroline Gordon, Rural Vermont

For generations, people in Vermont have relied upon their immediate community of friends, neighbors, and land for their meat supply. The practices of on-farm slaughter and processing remain widely valued traditions, though modern regulations and the decline of community-scale agriculture more broadly have presented threats to its preservation.

Vermont is unique in terms of its slaughter and processing infrastructure and regulations.

USDA-inspected commercial livestock slaughterhouses exist alongside facilities solely inspected through the Vermont Meat Inspection Program. This program was created with the Wholesome Meat Act in 1967 and allows products to be sold within Vermont. In addition, there are personal-use exemptions for slaughter on-farm or in custom slaughterhouses which allow for the use of meat by owners, household members, nonpaying guests, and employees, but never for the sale of meat. These exemptions allow farmers to slaughter their own animals, and customers to buy a living animal from a farmer to slaughter themselves or to be slaughtered by a hired slaughterer. On-farm slaughter does not oppose other options for producers and consumers; it complements these facilities, creating a more resilient, viable, and localized food system. A legal pathway for on-farm slaughter is of federal relevance for a number of reasons: it exemplifies an alternative to situations where mass production of concentrated animal feeding operations dominate the supply chain of slaughterhouses; provides a pathway to direct consumer engagement with the working lands community and with one of the most basic of farming and food systems processes; and facilitates the cultural dissemination and preservation of these practices, livelihoods, and relationships – the hard and soft skills of responsibly raising and humanely taking another animal's life, as required by law.

A significant breakthrough from this legislative session came in the option of multiple owners to purchase one live animal under the personal-use exemption for on-farm slaughter. The purchasers, or an itinerant slaughterer, can slaughter and divide a carcass in halves or quarters for the owners to take to a butcher or home for processing. Prohibition on multiple purchasers of an animal was a primary barrier to the practical implementation of this law for producers and consumers. Previously, only one person per household could legally use the entire carcass of the animal post-slaughter – a substantial amount of meat for an individual to buy, store, and consume (in the case of larger animals) – and that carcass had to be transported from the farm in halves. Now, an unlimited number of parties can purchase a live animal, organize slaughter on the farm where the animal grew up, have it humanely slaughtered by an itinerant slaughterer, and have the carcass divided into quarters for the transport from the farm.

The linchpin to this amendment was the investigation of Legislative Deputy Chief Counsel, Michael O'Grady, who was able to confirm with USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service that the multiple owner provision did not conflict with federal law. The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets believed for many years that this provision conflicted with federal law, which legislature and advocacy groups had more or less accepted as true.

These successes are balanced by a sunset clause in the law that was not struck (as Rural Vermont advocated) but only pushed back from July 2019 to July 2023. The legislature suggested that if farmer compliance with registration and reporting requirements does not improve, they may decide against extending this law beyond 2023. Rural Vermont is working with individual farmers and slaughterers, as well as organizations such as Vermont Grass Farmers Association and UVM Extension Center for Sustainable Agriculture, to provide workshops and outreach on farms, at events, and in communities to provide opportunities to learn about on-farm slaughter, processing, regulations, and policy advocacy. Contact caroline@ruralvermont.org if you are, or want to be, active in on-farm livestock slaughter in Vermont or would like more information about its regulation nationwide.



Itinerant slaughterer Mary Lake leads workshop at Howling Wolf Farm, VT

#StandWithFarmFamilies Campaign Addresses Meatpacker Abuse at US Capitol

RAFI-USA staff and farm families from across the country visited Capitol Hill on July 16 to expose decades of abuse by the nation's largest meat companies. In 33 Hill visits they met USDA representatives, Members of Congress, and Senate and House Agriculture Committee staffers, and held a congressional briefing. During their press conference, farmers launched a petition to the USDA and shared stories of predatory contracts, rigged markets, and retaliation in the poultry industry. (On October 10, the petition was delivered to USDA with more than 84,000 signatures. Watch a video and learn more at rafiusa.org/blog/petitiondelivery.)

In the coming weeks to months, USDA will release a rule governing Undue Preference between large meat packing corporations and individual farmers and ranchers. This rule would make it illegal for any meatpacking corporation to give undue (continued p. 7)

Millennial Involvement and Understanding Could Help Stem Black Land Loss

Briar Blakley, Federation of Southern Cooperatives

On a crisp fall November evening, at the age of 23, my family was gearing up for the Thanksgiving holiday. My mom was preparing and sampling her famous pecan pie as she made a call to her brother. While assisting her and listening to the sounds of holiday chatter throughout the house I could hear my uncle say through the phone, "What'd the timber guys say?" I couldn't understand the reason for such a question; was my family interested in purchasing timber? Were they considering starting a timber company? As the conversation continued, my curiosity grew until finally, I heard my mom say, "It's done and I'll call you and let you know when they'll start cutting." The call ended but my curiosity continued to grow. I finally asked her what the conversation meant, hoping not to overstep a boundary that could be interpreted as being disrespectful. The answer was shocking, inspirational and educational. At the same time, my consciousness was raised far beyond that associated with most millennials today – pursuing fame and fortune. My mother's willingness to openly discuss land-related business with me made me realize the need for elders to include the next generation in conversations around land – after all, it is they who could be the heirs to this valuable resource.



Briar Blakley

Since that eye-opening conversation with my mom, there appears to be a growing trend of millennials being interested in all aspects of agriculture, especially sustainable farming but also land-based community economic development focused on all things 'green'. This trend is driven in part by the need to know the source of their food and have a choice of what kind of food they eat.

Monica Rainge, Director of Land Retention and Advocacy for The Federation of Southern Cooperatives, contends that, "Millennials have become one of the fastest-growing groups of new landowners and farmers."

Because so many millennials could eventually own their family farms and land, intergenerational conversations on succession planning and other land retention tools are paramount and could ensure the transference of this wealth-generating asset for generations to come. The Federation authored a research study that found that African Americans have owned 15 million acres of land in 1910, today, that number has dwindled to less than 3 million acres. According to Rainge, one of the primary reasons for the drastic decline in black land ownership is heirs property. Heirs property is the result of a landowner dying without a will or other form of estate planning. Heirs are left without clear title and the land is susceptible to tax or partition sales among other barriers. A recent report from PewSocialTrends.org showed that in the United States today, 76% of African Americans do not have a will; consequently, their land will likely become heirs property.

The question becomes - how can the conversation on Black land ownership, retention, and wealth-building amongst black families help millennials protect this transformative asset for themselves as well as future generations? An article titled "Progressive Governance Can Turn the Tide for Black Farmers" by AmericanPress.org stated, that, "Black households hold about 10 percent of the wealth of white households". This is due primarily to a lack of resources. Landownership and sustainable development can go a long way toward closing the racial wealth gap. Therefore the conversation with millennials about land ownership needs to be centered on economics as well as history and culture.

This essay is the first in a series as I attempt to provide a Black millennial perspective on issues related to Black land tenure and to stimulate a more focused solution based on intergenerational discussion.

RAFI at the Capitol (from p. 6)

preference to any person and show any undue prejudice to any person. Details will explain how USDA will enforce this rule, and whether farmers will be protected from corporate retaliation, abuse, and exploitation.

The USDA will release the rule soon, and RAFI-USA will need help to bombard them during the 60-day comment period to ensure a strong rule. Join their email list (rafiusa.org/subscribe) to receive notice about submitting comments. To learn more about this program contact Tyler Whitley, tyler@rafiusa.org.



RAFI crew in Senate Hart Building

News from New York - NOFA

By Emma Ertinger, NOFA-NY Communications Coordinator

As the first snow falls in the Northeast, we know that conference season is upon us! The New York chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA-NY) will hold its 38th Annual Organic Farming and Gardening Conference January 17-19, 2020, in Syracuse. One of the largest farming conferences in the region, the Conference will feature more than 100 educational workshops across 13 tracks, including a Dairy Day with dedicated programming for organic dairy and field crop farmers. Peter Jemison, site manager of Ganondagan State Historic Site and *Treaty of Canandaigua 1794* author, will serve as our keynote speaker. Registration is open to all - farmer, gardener, homesteader, or eater - at www.nofany.org/winterconference. Since NOFA-NY seeks to amplify the farmer voice in the policy implementation process, we will offer several conference workshops directly relating to New York legislation passed in 2019.

Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act

The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), passed in June, includes ambitious goals for moving New York State off fossil fuels: 100% carbon-free electricity generation by 2040, and net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The bill also works to ensure that communities polluted by existing power plants, incinerators, and other industrial complexes get a fair share of resources in rebuilding the energy system. NOFA-NY testified in favor of the CLCPA, urging that any climate change legislation include provisions addressing agriculture.

Learn more about the CLCPA at this workshop: How Would Climate Change Legislation Affect You?

Presenter: Nancy Jacobson

Only about 9% of total greenhouse gas emissions come from farms in the US. Most of the rest come from burning fossil fuels. How can we decrease these fossil-fuel emissions at the national and state levels and help reduce future climate change? At the national level, there are five bills with this aim that have been introduced into Congress, four of them are bipartisan. At the state level, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act has recently been signed into law. NOFA was involved in this bill and will continue to be to ensure targets are met. What's in these bills and how would they affect individuals and organic farms?

Farm Laborers Fair Labor Practices Act

The Farm Laborers Fair Labor Practices Act (FFLPA) was introduced in the past seven legislative sessions, and finally passed in 2019. It grants farmworkers one day of rest out of seven, with payment of time and a half when a farmworker voluntarily works on a rest day. It also grants them access to Workers' Compensation, and requires that employers, hired supervisors, labor contractors or crew leaders report all farmworker injuries and refrain from retaliating against workers who apply for workers' comp. It ends the exclusion of farmworkers from the state definition of an employee, thus recognizing the right of farmworkers to organize.

Learn about the implementation of the FFLPA at this workshop: The Farm Laborers Fair Labor Practices Act

Presenters: Mary Jo Dudley & Crispin Hernandez, moderated by Liz Henderson

What does this NYS law mean for organic farms? In this workshop we will examine the components of the new legislation, how it will be implemented, new oversight committees, why it is important to farmworkers, how to engage in productive discussions between farmers and their employees, and what collective bargaining means.

CBD Hemp Industry

In the final day of the 2019 legislative session, the Senate and Assembly passed a bill to establish a regulatory framework for hemp extract production, manufacturing, and sale in New York. The bill updates the hemp permitting process and regulates the extract industry through testing and labeling. It also requires that New York State hemp processors use New York-grown product.

At the 2020 Winter Conference, we're excited to feature an entire hemp track! Workshops will cover production and processing techniques, organic certification and compliance, economics of hemp production, and more. Additionally, the New York Cannabis Growers and Processors Association will hold their annual meeting at the NOFA-NY Winter Conference.

NOFA Winter Conferences

NOFA is comprised of seven state chapters. Each chapter holds its own winter conference – visit their websites to learn more!

NOFA Connecticut: March 7, 2010 in Middletown, CT (<https://organiconn.squarespace.com/>)

NOFA/Mass: January 11, 2020 in Worcester, MA (<https://www.nofamass.org/events/wc>)

NOFA New Hampshire: February 8, 2020 in North Sutton, NH (<https://www.nofanh.org/winterconference>)

NOFA New Jersey: February 1, 2020 (<https://nofanj.org/>)

NOFA New York: January 17-19, 2020 in Syracuse, NY (<https://www.nofany.org/winterconference>)

NOFA Rhode Island: March 8, 2020 (<https://nofari.org/>)

NOFA Vermont: February 15-17, 2020 in Burlington, VT (<https://nofavt.org/conference>)

NFFC Policy Updates

Jordan Treacle, NFFC Policy Coordinator

This year, NFFC focused on reinvigorating our DC presence amid a new political landscape, the 2018 Farm Bill, and new international opportunities. Some highlights include:

Farm Bill implementation

Since the 2018 Bill's passage, Congress and USDA have held implementation hearings and listening sessions. NFFC submitted comments to five listening sessions to advance our priorities and advocate for more substantial policy reforms in the face of the deepening farm crisis. Specifically, we provided policy guidance on: urging USDA to make more substantial reforms to the financial safety nets for dairy farmers; new heirs property provisions to address historical discrimination and black farmer land loss; and strengthening community-based accountability mechanisms in the Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach (FOTO) Program. With the dairy crisis in its fifth year, changes in the 2018 Farm Bill to federal dairy insurance schemes improved from the disastrous 2014 versions, but are still failing most dairy farmers. Supply management remains an important topic in discussions around a fair milk pricing system, and NFFC has continued to be a vocal advocate for a farmer-led supply management system.



Jordan (center) and Rosanna Marie Neil (NAMA) visiting Ben Burkett's MS farm on a tour following the Federation's annual meeting

Green New Deal

After years of minimal policy movement on climate change in DC, House Democrats created the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis in 2019. Perhaps more notable has been the substantial, if polarizing, impact that Green New Deal (GND) debates have had on the public dialogue around climate issues, and the role of public institutions to help communities and industries adapt. The GND initially alienated many in the agriculture world, but NFFC saw an opportunity, framed by extreme weather that devastated so many rural communities, to insert our policy goals into GND discussions and to stave off some false solutions without explicitly endorsing the GND in its current vague form.

NAFTA 2.0

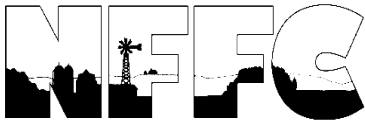
Since NAFTA was signed in 1994, the U.S. has lost 250,000 family farms; Mexico has lost 2 million. So with significant awareness and anger from rural America on free trade agreements and corporate capture, NAFTA's renegotiation was a major issue. A key policy ask was the reinstatement of Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) but the White House Trade Representative marginalized it early in renegotiations, ensuring an uphill battle. Labor rights enforcement and concerns about maintaining high prescription drug prices for the next decade were primary negotiation issues that are still unresolved. NFFC is working with labor, environmental, and farming allies to push for COOL, and use the trade topic as an entry point to address agriculture consolidation.

Engaging the United Nations

Building on our international policy work through fair trade pursuits and La Via Campesina, NFFC accepted a leadership position in the UN's Committee on World Food Security (CFS) to more effectively take on the growing industry presence in the United Nations. (The Rome-based CFS is the only participatory policymaking space for food and agriculture issues.) With support of NGO allies, Patti Naylor (Family Farm Defenders farmer) agreed to represent NFFC and producers and communities from across North America to CFS. In October, we led a collective effort demanding our government end support for corporate industry interests and endorse agroecology in the CFS. In November, we were the farmer voice in a UN Food Systems and Nutrition consultation that provided a platform to call out USDA's failure to address long-standing deficits in socio-economic health and services in rural US.

Land Grab Opposition

NFFC is working to ensure that heirs property provisions are properly recognized and implemented for farmers lacking a title to their land despite having planted it, lived on it, and/or paid taxes on it for generations. In addition, NFFC has been engaged the past decade in efforts to expose and stop the purchase of US and Brazilian farm and forest land for speculation by pension fund manager TIAA (also known as TIAA-CREF), grabbing it from local ownership and oversight. Early in 2019 NFFC and allies met in DC to strategize on amplifying these concerns to Congress, farmers in the Midwest and Southeast US, and TIAA pension plan holders nationwide (including many land grant university employees), thus contributing to the corporate concentration of land ownership and management. In October, the group hosted community activist Altamiran Ribieros to discuss TIAA's impacts in Brazil at presentations in DC, Boston, and Mississippi. Visit www.stoplandgrabs.org for more information.



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FIRST CLASS

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CAGJ Celebrates People Power!

Heather Rule English Day and Simone Adler, Community Alliance for Global Justice

On November 30, 1999, more than 50,000 people took to the streets of Seattle and shut down the opening ceremony of the World Trade Organization ministerial. The Battle in Seattle lasted a full week, with multiple marches, peaceful civil disobedience, and educational forums throughout the city to call attention to the WTO's failed policies impacting the daily lives of working people, polluting the environment and undermining farmers around the world. By week's end, WTO talks collapsed as Global South delegates heeded the ongoing street protests and recognized that their interests were not being served by WTO's planned expansion, dealing a lasting blow to the institution and a victory for the protesters. Town Hall Seattle hosted organizers in 1999, and did so again on November 30, 2019, when current leaders joined WTO protest veterans to honor this history and trace the lineage to today's struggles for justice.

Earlier in November, CAGJ sent a delegation representing our AGRA Watch campaign to Senegal to participate in the 2nd [African Food Systems Conference](#), followed by the General Assembly of the [Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa](#) (AFSA). AGRA Watch holds the Gates Foundation accountable for their agricultural development program in Africa, which invests in promoting a "new green revolution for Africa". As one of two US organizations present, CAGJ joined more than 100 farmers, fishers, pastoralists, people of faith, youth, activists, and organizers from across the African continent to focus on African food systems in the context of urban food systems, climate change, policy, the future of food, and protecting traditional African food systems.

At AFSA's General Assembly, CAGJ/AGRA Watch was officially approved as an Associate Member. AFSA members were invited to help decide the first-ever continent-wide campaign, which was determined to be 'Agroecology for Climate Action' for the coming year. As exciting as it was to be part of the process, CAGJ also sensed the heightened need for urgency and support in resisting the onslaught of Gates Foundation-backed policies, including biosafety laws promoting GMOs and new biotechnologies.

For more insights about both events, visit www.cagj.org.



Flyer for November 30 events