

December 2023

FAMILY FARM AGENDA



It Takes A Team

By *Jim Goodman, NFFC President*

As I look back on 2023 and search for a single overarching statement to summarize all that NFFC was involved with in the past year, I come up empty— not because we were all asleep at the switch; au contraire — so many things going on, so many priorities. At times I (and I'm sure all of you) have felt like a friend of mine, a campaigner in England, who was so busy with so many things that he was pretty sure he had met himself several times while driving through the Oxford Roundabout.

When we held our summer meeting in Des Moines I was, as always, humbled to be part of a coalition of groups that are accomplishing so much against overwhelming odds. Dakota Rural Action, Iowa CCI and Dakota Resource Council winning against fossil fuel companies and their multi-state pipelines; Land Loss Prevention Project fighting to help Black farmers stay on the land; Food For Maine's Future working to protect local food economies; Federation of Southern Cooperatives working to train and provide land access to the next generation of farmers: Community Alliance for Global Justice promoting global food sovereignty, trade justice and an end to corporate colonization of African farmers— just a few of the accomplishments of our member groups who are all walking the walk.

Of course our work relies on our NFFC policy staff, Jordan and Antonio, and their success working with House and Senate members in getting two marker bills, The Justice for Black Farmers Act and the Fair Credit for Farmers Act into the 2023 Farm Bill mix.

And, it takes a team to connect all the moving parts. From coordinating board meetings, travel, zoom calls and details too numerous to mention Operations Coordinator Maria and Coordination Wizard Meg (that really is her job title) kept the board informed and connected. Then, there is Sam, Strategic Content Designer, arranger of media interviews and someone who pretends my ineptitude with all things technological is OK.



Tim Gibbons (left) and Jim Goodman (right) serving up Patchwork Family Farms pork at Farm Aid 2023.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jim Goodman, President
(Family Farm Defenders)

Tiffany Bellfield El-Amin, Vice-
President (Community Farm
Alliance)

Edna Rodriguez, Treasurer
(Rural Advancement
Foundation International-
USA)

Megan EisenVos, Secretary
(Dakota Rural Action)

Ben Burkett (Federation of
Southern Cooperatives)

Betsy Garrold (Food for
Maine's Future)

Dena Hoff (Northern Plains
Resource Council)

Leonardo Wassilie (North
American Marine Alliance)

Sam Wagner (Dakota
Resource Council)

Savi Horne (Land Loss
Prevention Project)

Graham Unangst-Rufenacht
(Rural Vermont)

STAFF

Antonio Tovar, Senior Policy
Associate

Danielle Tolley, Development
Coordinator

Jordan Treakle, National
Program Coordinator

Lisa Griffith, National
Outreach and
Communications Coordinator

Maria Superti, Operations
Coordinator

Meghan Stratton,
Coordination Wizard

Niaz Dorry, Executive Director

Samantha Cave, Strategic
Content Designer

Thanks especially to Lisa who keeps me informed, her late night and early morning calls, her historical knowledge of NFFC and her deep commitment to what we do.

Danielle, and Niaz have done an amazing job keeping NFFC's bottom line in the black and thereby given us the ability to partner with our member groups, keep connected and be a bit more creative. Keeping us all focused on the tasks at hand but with just enough humor to keep us coming back for more work — truly a gift.

My somewhat regular check-ins with Niaz always make me appreciate her take, that NFFC is our organization, she looks to the board for guidance which is as it should be — but we depend on her to keep us on task.

I am grateful to Jordan, Patti Naylor and Anthony Pahnke for the time and effort they devote to our international work with La Via Campesina and the FAO. Small farmers everywhere are all in this together, struggling against corporate dominance.

And lastly, on what I think is a very hopeful note, almost daily I think back to our legislative fly-in in February. Strategizing and making legislative visits this year has set a very hopeful tone for NFFC, we had members from so many groups (some for whom it was not our first rodeo) participate, but there were so many new, young faces — folks eager to learn, have their say, and keep my hope for a better future alive.

Thank you,
Jim Goodman, President

Jim Goodman



Jim Goodman and VT dairy farmer Stephen Leslie during NFFC's 2023 legislative fly-in.



Donate to NFFC today to demand farmers - not corporations - can feed us!

Your support helps ensure the voices of family farmers, ranchers, and fishermen are represented and amplified in Washington DC as we collectively demand policies to end the corporate domination of our food system.

But we can't do this alone. As a 501(c)(3) organization, we rely on financial support from people who share our vision of a food system that is:

**ECONOMICALLY JUST FOR FARMERS
HEALTHIER FOR YOU
BETTER FOR OUR PLANET
RESPECTFUL OF ANIMALS**

Your contribution bolsters our efforts to bring our members together around policy, campaigns, media strategies, and cross-pollination opportunities to improve the lives and livelihoods of family farmers all across the country. Our 29 member organizations span nearly every state and represent over 100,000 family farmers and ranchers and 500,000+ fishing families. We aim to leverage the power of our coalition toward achieving systemic policy changes necessary for the long-term health of family farmers and the environment and everyone's access to good food.

If you care about who controls the land, healthy food systems, and vibrant rural farming communities, please join us in this fight and donate today!

**DONATE SECURELY ONLINE AT WWW.REBRAND.LY/NFFCDONATE
OR SCAN THIS QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE!**

Prefer to donate by check? Checks can be made payable to National Family Farm Coalition and mailed to:

NFFC
222 Main Street Storefront
c/o NAMA
Gloucester, MA 01930



Scan here to donate online!

Show your support with “ethical merch that supports our movement”!

Our newest NFFC t-shirts are made in the US by Worx Printing Co-op, a worker owned union coop and printed with water-based, organic, toxin-free, vegan ink. They're PVC-free, contain no phthalates, and are safe for babies. Available in black, gray, and green!

Celebrate the interconnection between land and sea with a limited edition ceramic ornament handmade by our good friend and food-systems advocate, Madeleine Hall-Arber. As a token of our gratitude, we're pleased to offer these ornaments as a special thank-you for donations of \$100 or more. **Donate by December 13 to ensure you receive an ornament in time for the holidays. Available while supplies last.**



NFFC Member Marketplace

Support our members by purchasing their amazing products - any of these would make great holiday gifts!



Send Holiday Greetings With Rural VT's Handmade Notecards

Giving and receiving hand-written notes for the holidays is the best - and even more special with beautiful art! Rural Vermont has notecard sets for sale that feature original art work by local artist Erok Gillard. Each package of 8 cards includes 4 designs (2 of each) and sells for \$10. Blank inside and envelopes included. Additional Rural Vermont merchandise includes carrot tote bags and various bumper stickers.



Order online at www.ruralvermont.org/merch

Local Food, Fair-Trade Holiday Gift Boxes!

Family Farm Defenders is offering their popular gift box options for the holiday season! Enjoy award-winning Cedar Grove Cheeses along with other delicious products

- artisanal Potters crackers, Cherokee Farms bison sausage, organic French Roast Just Coffee, White Earth Native Harvest wild rice, and more. Each box helps ensure that family farmers receive a parity price for their hardwork. Boxes range from \$50-\$100, and shipping is \$25. Visit www.familyfarmers.org or email familyfarmdefenders@yahoo.com to order.



Extra! Extra! Read all about it in The Natural Farmer!

The Natural Farmer is the quarterly newspaper of the Northeast Organic Farming Association. Each 44-48 page issue contains how-to articles suitable for gardeners and

homesteaders, policy updates, news from the region and a pull-out supplement on a particular topic.

An annual subscription is just \$20 - you don't need to be a NOFA member to subscribe! Subscribe today at www.thenaturalfarmer.org.



Curated Gift Boxes that Support Farmers of Color!



Farm to You boxes support RAFI's Farmers of Color Network members who produce value-added products. These boxes are unique gifts that are packed with

a variety of goodies like specialty tea, local honey, organic soaps and salves, elderberry syrup, and much more. Every box also includes a Farmers of Color Network magnet and a farmers' profiles insert.

They make an excellent premium gift - even to yourself! Pantry and Personal Care boxes are \$200, and Combo boxes are \$300 - including shipping.



Order online at www.rafiusa.org/give/farm-to-you



A Taste of the Holidays

A program of the Missouri Rural Crisis Center, Patchwork Family Farms is a group of independent hog farmers who believe in raising their hogs the traditional way. Purchases of delicious holiday hams from Patchwork Family Farms help support Missouri's independent farm families, rural communities, and a healthy environment.



Sugar-Cured and Smoked Boneless Deli Holiday Ham (6lbs) are \$65 each. Sugar-Cured and Smoked Bone-In Holiday Hams range from \$100-115. Local mustard, Wisconsin Cedar Grove Cheese and Holiday Gift Packages are also available. US shipping costs extra - order by Monday, 12/18/23 to get your ham in time! www.morural.org | 573-449-1336 | patchwork@morural.org



FARM & RANCH FREEDOM ALLIANCE

Organic, Texas-Made T-Shirts from FARFA

Visit the Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance website to purchase 100% organic cotton shirts (\$25.00 each), and proudly display your support for common sense policies for local, diversified agricultural systems!

Order online at www.farmandranchfreedom.org/farfa-store



Look Stylish with NPRC shirts, hats, and more!

Show your support for Northern Plains with one-of-a-kind merchandise! Much of our merchandise uses recycled or organic materials or is sourced through B Corp companies, and we always work with local print and embroidery shops to bring our designs to life. Grab your gear today and take Northern Plains with you wherever you go!



To order, visit www.northernplains.org and select "Membership and Giving" from the menu!



Get Cookin' with Aprons and Recipes from CAGJ

Visit Community Alliance for Global Justice's online store at www.cagj.org/cagjstore for products including...

- Fair Trade Organic Apron and Poster ft. artwork from Nikki McClure
- "Recipes for a New Normal", CAGJ's new Zine, plus two past editions of Our Food, Our Right: Recipes for Food Justice

RECIPES FOR A NEW NORMAL



Victories From Our Members

[Agrarian Trust](#)

Agrarian Trust won a historic USDA Increasing Land Access grant that will support community land purchases in the new year, brought on new leadership, and raised over \$200,000 nationally for land access projects helmed by next-generation farmers.

American Raw Milk Producers Pricing Association

With other dairy farmer allies, ARMPPA has continued our demands for a fair milk price for dairy farmers to offset the \$10 billion to \$12 billion annual losses they calculate that dairy farmers face every year the federal milk-pricing formula excludes dairy farmers' "cost of production." We also hosted NFFC staff on a tour of northern Pennsylvania members' farms.

Ashtabula Lake Geauga Counties Farmers' Union

ALGFU has fostered the local foods movement in our community, and was pleased to see our longtime dream of a community teaching kitchen become reality.

[California Dairy Campaign](#)

California Dairy Campaign's proposal to add mozzarella to the Class III cheese price formula at the USDA federal milk market order hearing was accepted for consideration; if implemented, dairy producers would be paid prices based on higher-yield mozzarella cheese, which has surpassed cheddar cheese in US cheese production. The Campaign and California Farmers Union are helping farmers complete their State Water Efficiency & Enhancement Program (SWEET) applications to reduce water use and greenhouse gas emissions.



CAGJ hosted organizers from MVIWATA, a national farmers organisation in Tanzania, for a Rich Appetites film screening and discussion in September.

[Community Alliance for Global Justice](#)

CAGJ's AGRA Watch campaign deepened bonds with our African partners, participating in conferences in Cameroon and Tanzania and screening our 5-part documentary film series, Rich Appetites, on the continent; the series was also selected for several film festivals.

[Community Farm Alliance](#)

This year CFA produced 13 episodes of the Blacker Berries Podcast Series, the Farmer of Color Story Project, launched the Mattie Mack Farmer Fund, received a USDA Farm to School Grant to continue the work of the Kentucky Farm to School Network, received a USDA GusNIP grant to expand Kentucky Dollars, and undertook an Executive Director transition with Martin Richards retiring at the end of the year.

[Dakota Resource Council](#)

In 2023, DRC held farm bill listening sessions, took producers to DC to talk about Cattle Issues, and organized to stop the Summit Carbon Solutions Pipeline, resulting in denial of the approval for the project. Our organization was also able to organize and set up independent air quality monitors in the Fort Berthold Reservation to monitor methane flaring operations.



Both DRC and DRA had major successes in fighting back against carbon pipelines in their states!

[Dakota Rural Action](#)

After two years of organizing landowners and citizens impacted by two proposed carbon pipelines in SD, we celebrated multiple victories of people over profits when the SD Public Utilities Commission unanimously denied both Summit and Navigator's permit applications, and Navigator officially canceled their multi-state project.

[Family Farm Defenders](#)

FFD just celebrated the winners of the 2023 John Kinsman Beginning Food Sovereignty Prize Award: Rue de Bungalow and Beauty Blooms Farm, with honorable mention awarded to Bad River Food Sovereignty! The keynote speaker at the prize ceremony in Wisconsin was Curt Meine of the Aldo Leopold Foundation talking about “Food, Land, and Justice: Lessons from the Driftless Area to the World.” The recording is now available online.

[Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance](#)

FARFA had a banner year, advancing six bills in the Texas Legislature and winning one to expand local meat processing options, in part thanks to almost 200 legislative visits by farmers and activists over the course of four grassroots Lobby Days. We also had the largest attendance to date at our annual Southern Family Farmers and Food Systems Conference, with over 500 people participating from 22 states.



FARFA hosted four Local Foods Lobby Days in 2023 where farmers and activists visited Texas legislative offices.

[Federation of Southern Cooperatives](#)

The Federation of Southern Cooperatives Land Assistance Fund (FSC/LAF) was selected to be one of eight community-based organizations to provide Discrimination Financial Assistance Program (DFAP) education, outreach, and technical assistance, primarily to Black farmers in seven Southern states. They are also excited to host their 5th annual Heirs Property Bootcamp soon.

[Food for Maine's Future](#)

FMF brought eaters and other concerned citizens to Farm Bill listening sessions throughout the state while advocating farmworker rights and the Right to Food.

[Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement](#)

Iowa CCI expanded its communication base of independent cattle farmers to 740 and is executing a campaign to move Senator Grassley, Senator Ernst, and Iowa's U.S. House Reps to restore Mandatory

Country of Origin Labeling and strengthen the Packers and Stockyards Act.

[Land Loss Prevention Project](#)

Land Loss Prevention Project Executive Director, Savi Horne, was awarded a 2023 Leadership Award by The James Beard Foundation! The award recognizes individuals and organizations whose work is helping to create a safer, more healthful, equitable, and sustainable food world.

[Missouri Rural Crisis Center](#)

From working in our communities around the state to advocating in our state capitol to flying farmers into Washington D.C. and holding events in person and on your screens, MRCC and our members have been organizing every day to support family farms and independent family farm livestock production, prevent environmental degradation, promote stewardship of the land and a safe, affordable high-quality food supply, create affordable and accessible healthcare systems and defend justice and economic opportunity in both rural and urban communities.



Patchwork Family Farms, a project of MRCC, just celebrated their 30th anniversary!

[Northeast Organic Farming Association](#)

NOFA has been actively involved in the Northeast region of the USDA Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP), which includes all seven NOFA State Chapters and additional allies. This partnership network is establishing a mentorship program for farmers transitioning to organic certification on their land, providing direct farmer training, education, and outreach activities. The Northeast TOPP Region has recruited 90 mentee farmers and a similar number of mentors to launch the mentorship program in November and December of 2023.

[Northern Plains Resource Council](#)

Northern Plains turned out to shape Montana's climate and environmental policy, join a citizen complaint against Signal Peak Energy for failing to reclaim land, and advocate Mandatory Country of

Origin Labeling and new rules for the 1921 Packers and Stockyards Act.



NPRC sent member-ranchers to a “livestock fly-in” to lobby legislators about the need to reform livestock markets.

[North American Marine Alliance](#)

In 2023, NAMA released the Aquaculture Values Report, which lays out a set of values to guide, uplift, and build trust across current and emerging aquaculture contexts.

[Powder River Basin Resource Council](#)

Powder River Basin Resource Council and local community members worked with Northern Cheyenne elder and ethnobotanist, Linwood Tall Bull and his son, Randall Tall Bull, to install a “Northern Cheyenne Medicinal Garden” at the Sheridan Food Forest. The Tall Bulls gave a well-attended public talk at the garden about traditional food and medicinal uses of native plants. Identifier plaques with QR codes are planned for each plant, which will make the Tall Bulls’ stories available to people who visit the garden

[Progressive Agriculture Organization](#)

Pro Ag continued their demands for a fair milk price to dairy farmers to offset the \$10-\$12 billion annual

losses they calculate that dairy farmers face, thanks to the dramatically low prices set by the Federal Milk Marketing Order.

[Rural Advancement Foundation International - USA](#)

This year, via the Climate & Equity Policy Project, RAFI helped fund 27 organizations led by or serving BIPOC farmers with approximately \$600,000 to begin or increase climate advocacy work on the Farm Bill.

[Rural Vermont](#)

Rural Vermont continues to advocate, with partners, to defend states jurisdiction to create food safety regulations, including state meat inspection programs and the ability to enact on-farm slaughter laws.

[Women, Food and Agriculture Network](#)

2023 provided ample space for connections and relationship building, including WFAN’s first in-person conference since 2018, which gathered three generations of WFAN founding mothers and members.



Attendees gather at an ethnobotany event by Powder River Basin Resource Council to learn about traditional plant knowledge and use from Linwood and Randall Tall Bull.



Don't miss a single thing!

Visit www.nffc.net/about-us/nffc-member-groups to see all of our current members, and make sure to sign up for their newsletters, and follow them on social media!

Signing up for the NFFC monthly e-newsletter is also a great way to stay in touch with what the coalition is doing! In addition to featuring member updates, our newsletter includes policy alerts, featured articles from our network, events, and more. Visit our website to sign up, or just scan this QR code!



Five Years and Counting

By Niaz Dorry, NFFC Executive Director

It's hard for me to write a year-end reflection without acknowledging what's happening in the world today. My heart breaks around the daily news from Gaza and other forms of oppression we are witnessing around the world, including some happening right where many of us live. My only wish as this year comes to a close is true peace across our planet.

When people ask me where I find hope in such times, I always refer to our collective work. Hope is represented each time a farmer plants a seed. Hope is reflected in the birth of each new calf. Hope is what fishing communities have each time they put their gear in the water. So me having hope is really fed by your collective ability to have hope every day when you do the work you are committed to doing.

That hope was further cemented for me when I stepped into my current role. What started off as a "three year creative exercise" has passed its five year mark. On May 1st, 2018 we embarked on the shared leadership model with the North American Marine Alliance (NAMA). At the time, none of us were certain how it would all shake out. Frankly, I was very nervous about it all at the start. It was after much soul searching that I felt I could actually step into the role of serving two organizations in whose work I was deeply invested.

When I shared my apprehensions with my wise friend Harriet Barlow, she said just think of it as a three year creative exercise. That simple statement helped me visualize how things can go. Today, I'm truly honored to serve both organizations.

Inherent to creativity - at least my style of creativity - is giving space to step back, look at the whole picture, and make adjustments as we go. Guided by the strategic plan that you all helped shape, we've been doing lots of that over the past five+ years.

Today, we find ourselves with a staff of eight talented people fulfilling roles that either didn't exist before or that were shoehorned into the jobs of already overworked people. Our budget has grown accordingly with our 2024 proposed budget surpassing \$900,000 - that's three times the proposed budget of 2018.



NFFC staff joined NAMA staff and members for a seafood dinner in New Orleans, LA this Spring. On the menu - fresh crab and crawfish!



From left: Sara Kendall (Western Organization of Resource Councils), LyTanya Brown, (Federation of Southern Cooperatives), and Niaz Dorry at the Salmon Bake at Teter Organic Farm, a pre-Farm Aid Festival gathering. Photo by Claire Kozower of Farm Aid.

But we haven't grown just for the sake of growing. We've grown intentionally. Each year, we have looked at our strategic plan and identified gaps in staffing that has been keeping us from achieving the goals you all laid out for us. We are intentionally working on not growing beyond what we envision to be sustainable.

Thanks to our funders and donors who have clearly seen and heard our collective vision, we have been able to garner the resources to meet our growth.

And thanks to all of you and our staff, we have been able to see our vision translated into policy ideas that are being considered for inclusion in the Farm Bill as we speak. Our demand for safeguards in land ownership that

would allow farmers to keep or get access to land was supported by over 100 allies and led to the Farmland for Farmers Act. Our call for economic equity was supported by 96 allies and led to the Fair Credit for Farmers Act. We haven't quite gotten the support we need for our Milk from Family Dairies Act, but we haven't given up on that one yet!

Internally, a few important milestones were set earlier this year, including during our summer meeting in Des Moines, Iowa this past August:

- The Executive Committee voted to continue the shared leadership model for at least another three years. So the creative exercise continues and I'm honored to move forward with all of you to shape both organizations futures.
- In August, our members voted for new Executive Committee members consisting of new faces to NFFC's leadership. As a result, our EC is full for the first time in quite a few years and has the most diversity in terms of age, gender, and race that we've had in a really long time. The EC is going to have a retreat the week of November 8th to better connect, coalesce, and gel as a team with a shared direction and clear path ahead.
- We elected Tiffany Bellfield El-Amin as our new vice president. Tiffany, currently with Community Farm Alliance, will be launching her own organization soon so we'll be able to welcome Kentucky Black Farmers Alliance to our membership in 2024.
- Since our existing five year strategic plan that was adopted in 2019 will technically expire in 2024, a committee was formed to look at our strategic plan with an eye to updating it over the next year. We'll be working with our trusted facilitator, Jeremy Phillips, on that process soon.

As we move into 2024 I hope you'll continue to bring your passion and creativity into NFFC as you have over all these years. Our members are the heartbeat of our organization and your leadership is what makes our blood flow efficiently.

With gratitude,
Niaz Dorry, Executive Director

Niaz Dorry



*Our members make our work possible!
This group photo is from our NFFC
Summer Gathering in Des Moines, Iowa!*



Working Towards a Fair 2023 Farm Bill



NFFFC members and staff visited nearly 40 Congressional offices at our 2023 fly-in!

The Farmland for Farmers Act (S. 2583)

The Farmland for Farmers Act is the first-ever national policy addressing speculative corporate buy-up of US farmland!

Increasing land consolidation trends are a worsening problem for family farmers across the US, especially for young and beginning farmers who, in a survey by the National Young Farmers Coalition, name finding affordable farmland as their number one challenge. Corporate buyers undercut family farmers using extractive, often predatory investment methods to purchase huge amounts of farmland. The Farmland for Farmers Act protects farmers and rural landowners from losing their land to corporations by restricting future farmland ownership and leasing by corporate investors.

The Fair Credit for Farmers Act (S. 2668)

The Fair Credit for Farmers Act of 2023 (S.2668) makes important improvements to services offered by the Farm Service Agency, a public agency of the USDA. Many farmers and ranchers are unable to obtain loans from private commercial lenders - especially small farm businesses and young, beginning, and historically-underserved farmers - and depend on fair and equitable access to FSA loans. The Act offers stronger protections and more flexible credit terms for independent producers.

In 2023, we also...

- Published our 2023 Farm Bill Platform, which includes a suite of policy proposals that prioritize consumers, family farmers and ranchers, and rural communities over the profits of corporate agribusinesses. The Platform is online at www.nffc.net/what-we-do/farm-bill/.
- Continued participation in international spaces, including the 51st Plenary of the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS), Global Nyeleni meetings, hosted by the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty, and the 8th International Conference of La Via Campesina.
- Published a new Disparity to Parity to Disparity Again timeline, which follows the story of Parity in the context of the broader history of US agrarian policy.
- Attended the Farm Aid concert and pre-Farm Aid events, including a Farmer Forum. We also hosted an interactive booth at the Homegrown Village educating attendees about land and resource grabs.
- Organized a 2023 Winter Fly-In with members, meeting with nearly 40 Congressional offices to advocate for policies that further our shared goals and benefit family-scale farmers and ranchers. We discussed fair credit, dairy price reform, stopping farmland grabs, and strengthening local markets.
- Released "Selling Out the Delta", a report that details the findings of our collaborative research project with Federation of Southern Cooperatives and UC Santa Cruz on the impact of corporate land grabs on farmers of color in the Mississippi Delta.
- Continued to participate in the Stop Land Grabs Coalition, pressuring TIAA to divest from fossil fuels and agricultural land holdings.
- Increased our media presence and outreach, including stories in Reuters, Civil Eats, Public News Service, American Ag Network, The Progressive, and more.
- Participated in key partnerships with the US Food Sovereignty Alliance, Citizens Trade Campaign, Dairy Together, Coming Clean, and many more.
- Worked with the Campaign for Contract Agriculture Reform advocating for regulatory reforms that would strengthen enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act, and improve transparency and fairness for contract growers.

Highlights from NFFC Staff



Antonio - NFFC began a different fly-in process in 2023 than our usual winter Board Meeting and some Congressional visits, to a full scale fly-in with our general membership. For me this was a new experience and a challenge because it meant coordinating with multiple Senate and House offices and the constituents coming from different parts of the country. The group was an inspiration and a recognition of my work in the cold marble buildings of Capitol Hill.



Danielle - Helping bring farmers and fishermen together to share their stories and wisdom with funder allies at the Health and Environmental Funders Network Gathering was a highlight. Together, Ben Burkett from the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, shrimpers Kindra Arnisen and Lance Nacio from the Gulf Coast, and Justin Solet, a United Houma Nation fisherman, illustrated the interconnectivity of family farmers and fishermen. It was really meaningful that we were invited to highlight the shared work of NFFC and NAMA with an evening of powerful storytelling, great food, and instant community.



Lisa - Re/Connecting with Members at various events energized and inspired me at our summer meeting in Iowa, on dairy and vegetable farms in Pennsylvania, at several Farm Aid events, including the #BlockCorporateSalmon protest, and visiting MRCC farmers and staff from Hatton to Columbia!



Maria - This has been my first year with NFFC and most of it has been spent learning the ropes! I'm most proud of the collaborative work we've done on updating our personnel policies and streamlining some of the admin and finance procedures. It feels really good to get everything laid out clearly, with smooth admin processes that allow both staff and members to get back to their important work!



Meg - The highlight of my NFFC year was our annual gathering in August. We had a great showing of members from nearly all of our member organizations - a feat in itself! Folks who have been to many NFFC gatherings commented on the diversity in the room - diversity of race, age, occupation, geography, and gender. Everyone seemed happy to be there connecting with familiar faces as well as new allies. Our game night was a particular highlight for me - playing games together gave us all a chance to get to know each other on a more personal level and have some fun together. I'm already counting down to our next gathering in Kentucky!



Jordan - My role in NFFC's campaign opposing corporate land grabbing was particularly rewarding in 2023, as years of organizing started bearing fruit and campaign wins for NFFC. In March, we completed our participatory research project with the Federation of Southern Cooperatives and the University of California at Santa Cruz on black farmer land rights and I co-authored the Selling out the Delta report. Soon after I began working with Senator Booker's office and the Vermont Law School to write the Farmland for Farmers Act of 2023. This collaborative research approach offers important contributions to national conversations about land governance, and energized our campaign partners.



Sam - The opportunity to help write NFFC's 2023 Farm Bill Platform, and create the accompanying design was a particular highlight this year! This was my first ever chance to throw myself into food and farm policy work, and my first in-depth exposure to the Farm Bill. This opportunity to learn was deeply rewarding.

Return To:
NFFC C/O NAMA
222 Main Street
Gloucester, MA 01930



Mobilizing family farmers, fishers, and ranchers for fair prices, vibrant communities, and healthy foods free of corporate domination.

Policy Office:

National Family Farm Coalition
110 Maryland Avenue NE, Suite 307
Washington, DC 20002

Phone: (202) 543-5675

www.nffc.net

Facebook: [@natlfamilyfarmcoalition](https://www.facebook.com/natlfamilyfarmcoalition)
Instagram: [@familyfarmcoalition](https://www.instagram.com/familyfarmcoalition)
Twitter: [@FamilyFarmCo](https://twitter.com/FamilyFarmCo)

Finance & Admin Office:

NFFC C/O NAMA
222 Main Street
Gloucester, MA 01930

Phone: (978) 865-3178