

2009 WFAN Annual Report

Dear WFAN Supporters,

Beginning in 2009, Women, Food and Agriculture embarked on a new stage of its journey to become the most effective networking organization available for women in sustainable agriculture. In December, we took the long overdue step of separating ourselves from our long-time fiscal sponsor, Tides Center of San Francisco, CA. Tides provides fiscal sponsorship for about 200 small progressive groups all over the US, and was instrumental in growing WFAN from a handful of women passionate about sustainable food and farming to the formal board-guided organization we are today, offering networking and programming for women farmers, women landowners, and women who want to farm.

The board voted in the fall of 2009 to procure our own 501(c)3 designation and become an independent non-profit organization. While we go through the 501(c)3 application process, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation in Des Moines, IA, has agreed to provide limited fiscal sponsorship, so your donations to WFAN prior to our submission of the 501(c)3 application will be processed by INHF. We hope to have our application in by June 1, but are waiting for the IRS to make a web-based application process available, which carries a significantly lower processing fee (\$200 vs. \$850).

Strategic Planning

The WFAN board met in January 2009 to engage in focused strategic planning, with facilitator Mary Swalla Holmes. From that day-long meeting came a comprehensive committee-based work plan, which guided our activities throughout the year. A few outreach highlights:

House parties. We sponsored our first house party in 2009, at board member Sarah Long's home near Madrid, IA. This type of gathering is a popular way for organizations to bring potential supporters together in a friends' home, to

enjoy refreshments and learn a little bit about the group's priorities and activities. About a half dozen women attended the party, who have remained on the WFAN mailing list and are supportive of our work.

Increased use of the internet and blogosphere. WFAN has a Facebook fan page, which is linked to a Twitter account, and a Facebook group page. All are great ways to keep up with events, articles, resources and comments from other members of the WFAN online community. Our numbers on these pages have more than doubled in the past few months, to more than 400 fans/members. If you're online, "fan" us and share with your networks!

We are also posting occasional articles and essays from our newsletter to various food and farming blogs. See the WFAN website *Resources* page for a list of great blogs that cover topics of interest to women in sustainable ag.

Networking

We continue to provide a quarterly 8-page newsletter full of color photos, information, and profiles of you and your work. A monthly e-bulletin keeps us in touch in the 8 other months. Our listserv has grown from 150 to 192 in the past year, and our email list grew from 700 in early 2009 to nearly 950 today.

Staff and board members have been interviewed on television and radio, and even for a new book: *Farmer Jane: Women Changing the Way We Eat* by Temra Costa, due out in May 2010, will feature profiles of many WFAN names you will recognize, including co-founder Denise O'Brien and executive director Leigh Adcock.

Support for safe and healthy foods and conservation of our natural resources continues to build nationwide, and WFAN's usefulness and relevance have grown along with it. As Tom Philpott of *Grist* writes in the promotional material for *Farmer Jane*: "The sustainable food

movement is largely a women's movement; women run many of the farms, staff the non-profits, provide the vital intellectual and physical energy that propels the movement forward."

WFAN also has been aggressively pursuing foundation and agency funding for our program work, which in 2009 included the following two major efforts:

Women's Land Management Resource Center

Thanks to a 2008 grant from the Kellogg Foundation, we completed a feasibility study in 2009 for a company designed to provide consulting services to women farmland owners in Iowa on estate planning, conservation planning, accounting and budgeting. We are in the process of completing the resulting business plan.

Women Caring for the Land

We continue to provide information and support to women farmland owners through the *Women Caring for the Land* project, funded by the McKnight Foundation, the Ben & Jerry's Foundation, and Farm Aid. This project, which began in February 2009, brings together groups of women landowners from two or three contiguous counties to share knowledge with one another and learn from women conservation professionals about how to improve soil and water conservation on their farmland.

Board Changes

Our board of directors added two new members in December 2009: **Dana Foster** of West Branch, IA, and **Betty Wells** of Ames, IA. We said grateful goodbyes to long-time board members **Stacey Brown** and **Amy Miller**.

As always, we thank those of you who have been with us for many years, and welcome those who are just joining our community. Please keep in touch with us via phone, email or Facebook!

Warmly,

Sarah Long, Board Chair

Leigh Adcock, Executive Director

In Appreciation

WFAN is honored to recognize those who donated to the organization in 2009. With our change in organizational structure in 2005, we do not ask for membership dues but rather ask for an annual donation. These gifts are essential to WFAN for general operating purposes, including our newsletter and website, and to help ensure that WFAN will continue to serve you and other women working in sustainable agriculture into the future.

Foundation & Corporate

Ben & Jerry's Foundation
E-Resources Group
Farm Aid
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Iowa Shares
McKnight Foundation
Pioneer Hi-Bred, Intl.
Wheatsfield Co-op

\$500 and Above

Denise O'Brien & Larry Harris

Jana Linderman

\$250 - \$499

Steph Larsen
Hannah Lewis
Joyce Rigby

\$100-\$249

Penny Brown Huber
Linda Grove
Ruthanne Harstad
Henning Sisters
Cassi Johnson
Sarah Long
Amber Anderson Mba

Alta Price

Angela Tedesco
William Wilcke

Under \$100

Nancy Adams
Marlene Alberigo
Fr. Marvin Boes
Jeanne Cadoret
Lloyd Dumenil
Ann Fitzgibbons
Dana Foster
Ardyth and Gil Gillespie
Barb Grabner-Kerns
LaVon Griffieon

Katy Hansen

Neva Hassanein
Bonnie Haugen
Vivianne Holmes
Pat Hynes
Faye Jones
Linda Kinman
Fred Kirschenmann
Mary Lee
Jan Libbey
Joyce Lock
Dr. Joan Mencher
Amy Miller
Joanne Nelson
David Osterberg

Chris Petersen

Mae Petrehn
Merlin Pfannkuch
Kay Jean Riley
K. Jesse Singerman
Sarah Wilson Smith
Mary Steinmaus
Connie Tjelmeland
Wendy Wasserman
Sandi Weller
Danielle Wirth
Lin Zahrt

2009 - 2010 Board of Directors

Sarah Long — Chair

Steph Larsen — Vice Chair

Jana Linderman — Secretary

Julie Wilber — Treasurer

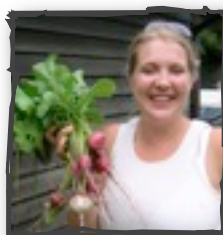
Penny Brown-Huber

Dana Foster

Cheri Grauer

Betty Wells

Julie Wilber



Sarah

Staff

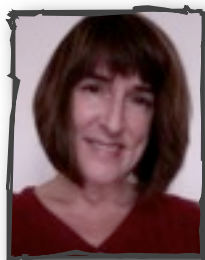
Leigh Adcock — Executive Director

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Leigh

WFAN's Mission

Linking and empowering women to build food systems and communities that are healthy, just, sustainable, and that promote environmental integrity.

Women, Food, and Agriculture Network 2009 Operating Statement

Revenues		
	Grants & Contributions-Individual	\$4,592
	Grants & Contributions-Foundations	\$6,075
	Grants & Contributions-Corporations	\$558
	Grants & Contributions-Non-Profit Organizations	\$381
	Contributions-Fundraising Agencies	\$1,120
	Contributions-Foundations	\$7,000
	Total Revenue:	\$19,726
Expenses		
	Personnel	\$17,711
	Professional Services	\$37,863
	Rent	\$1,200
	Utilities	\$392
	Equipment Rental & Maintenance	\$89
	Postage	\$532
	Supplies	\$264
	Printing & Reference Materials	\$2,832
	Insurance	\$1,000
	Travel & Conferences	\$4,282
	Fees	\$2,221
	Memberships & Dues	\$200
	Communication & Outreach	\$794
	Board Expenses	\$25
	Total Expense:	\$69,403
	Revenues less Expenses:	(-\$49,678)