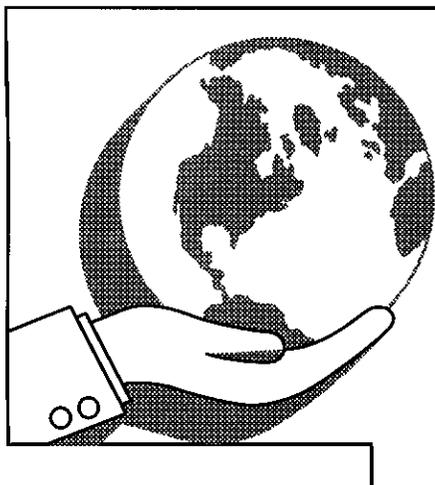


Women, Food & Agriculture Network



The Earth Charter, A Vision Statement

"Earth is our home and home to all living things. Earth itself is alive. We are part of an evolving universe. Human beings are members of an interdependent community of life with a magnificent diversity of life forms and cultures. We are humbled before the beauty of Earth and share a reverence for life and the sources of our being. We give thanks for the heritage that we have received from past generations and embrace our responsibilities to present and future generations."

by Mary Steinmaus

This is the opening of the Benchmark Draft of the Earth Charter, which can be found on the Internet at <http://www.earth-charter.org/>. Since this draft appeared in 1997, people from around the world have provided input to an updated version.

History of the Earth Charter

Starting at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, diverse groups throughout the world have endeavored to create an Earth Charter that would set forth a shared vision of the ethical values and practical guidelines essential to ecological security and sustainable living. The Earth Charter Commission will issue Benchmark Draft II in 1999. It is anticipated a final version of the Earth Charter will be issued early in the year 2002.

As is the nature of a global document process, there is considerable disagreement about the document. Some groups want a short Earth Charter with ten or

twelve brief principles and others want a more substantial document. Many language changes and revisions were suggested. In order to accommodate diverse expectations, the Drafting Committee divided the Charter into three parts. The three parts reflect levels of generality, not a hierarchy of values. Principles are stated in a brief sentence or two. Where further elaboration is required, sub principles are added. In the future, a Commentary on the principles will provide a more extensive explanation, or the 15 main principles can be used as a short version.

December Conference

In December, approximately 150 delegates from all over Latin America met in Cuiabá, Mato Grosso, Brazil, to discuss and elaborate a Latin American and North American synthesis of the Earth Charter document, a document that

(Charter, continued on page 7)

Mission

The *Women, Food, and Agriculture Network* links and amplifies women's voices on issues of food systems, sustainable communities and environmental integrity.



Calendar

February is African American History Month

February 11-12, 1999: Iowa Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association Annual Conference and Trade Show. Crown Plaza Five Seasons Hotel, Cedar Rapids, IA; 319-363-8161.

February 13-14, 1999: Practical Farmer's of Iowa Women's Winter Retreat. Scenic Valley Conference Center, Boone County, IA. Call Nan Bonfils at 515-294-8512 or email: nanb@iastate.edu.

February 16-17, 1999: Through the Farm Gate to the Dinner Plate: The Minnesota Organic Conference. Kelly Inn, St. Cloud, MN. Contact: Jan Gunnink, 507-237-5162.

February 18, 1999: Iowa Women in Natural Resources Conference. Indian Creek Nature Center. Contact Pam Krug at 319-362-0664.

February 19-20, 1999: The 2nd Annual Minnesota Grazing Conference, Victoria Inn, Hutchenson, MN. Contact: Jan Hunnink, 507-237-5162.

February 27: 1999: Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society. Theme: "Adding Value: Promoting Health, Generating Wealth." This meeting will feature keynote speaker Gary Valen, director of the Humane Society's Sustainable Agriculture Program. Workshops will cover a range of sustainable agriculture issues and practices that can help sustain family farms. For more information, call 402-471-0817 or email crisc@navix.net.

March is Women's History Month

March 4-6, 1999: Tenth Annual Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference. Sinsinawa Mound Center, Wisconsin (12 miles northwest of Dubuque, IA). Diverse groups of people share organic farming principles and practices. Women, Food and Agriculture is supporting this conference and a group of women will be going. Scholarships will be available to help defray costs. For more information, contact Denise O'Brien 712-243-5752 or email: hnob@nishna.net. The conference website is <http://agile.net/UMOFC/>. People can register for the conference on this site, which also has other links related to organic agriculture.

March 8, 1999: International Women's Day.

March 20: Spring Equinox.

March 26-28, 1999: Women, Food and Agriculture Network meeting. Place to be announced. Contact Denise O'Brien 712-243-5752.

Websites

General women's websites:

<http://www.wowwomen.com/rural-zone/frontpage.html> — feminist rural women's website

<http://www.nwhp.org> — National Women's History Project

<http://www.wred.org> — Women and Rural Economic Development, based in Ontario, Canada. What rural women are doing in Ontario. Highly recommended.

<http://wlo.org> — Women Leaders Online

<http://www.awia.org.au/> — Austrian Women in Agriculture (AWIA)

<http://www.awid.org> — Association for Women in Development (AWID)

<http://www.cgiar.org:80/ifpri/themes/mp17/gender/gender.htm> — Gender Research Network

<http://www.undp.org/fwcw/daw.htm> — Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), official United Nations agency.

Personal websites:

<http://www.radiks.net/~mhowe/> — website by Maggie Howe and her mother who have a shop in Woodward Iowa.

<http://www.flickerville.com> — website by Cass Peterson who has a farm in Pennsylvania that produces for restaurants in Washington D.C. and farmer's markets in Tacoma, Maryland.

Small business websites:

<http://www.iabusnet.org> — sponsored by Small Business Development Centers, Iowa State Business College, USDA Small Business Administration and MidAmerica Energy

<http://www.onlinewbc.org> — Online Women's Business Center, a public/private partnership with the Small Business Administration.

<http://www.profiles.iastate.edu/econ/> — demographic information about Iowa.

Women, Food and Agriculture Network

This newsletter is published by the **Women, Food and Agriculture Network**, a Tides Center Project with the help of the Stanley Foundation, Muscatine, Iowa, and Iowa State University Extension, Ames, Iowa. We welcome suggestions, stories, and news from your part of the world. Our emphasis is on women's lives, their relationships, communities and families.

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News Briefs

Women Added to Constitution

Iowans overwhelmingly voted to add women to the Iowa State Constitution on November 3, 1998. Article 1 of the Rights of Persons Section of the Iowa Constitution now reads, "All men and women are, by nature, free and equal, and have certain inalienable rights—among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness."

Women in the Iowa Legislature

Election results of November 3, 1998 show that women comprise 21.3 per cent of the Iowa General Assembly: 21 women (11 Republican, 10 Democrat) in the Iowa House of Representatives and 11 women (7 Republican, 4 Democrat) in the Iowa Senate. Patty Judge was elected as the first female Secretary of Agriculture for the state. (See story to right.)

Iowa State Board/Commission Openings

There are many positions open for women to serve on various state boards or commissions. Iowa has a law that requires these positions be gender balanced. If you are interested in serving or interested in a list of positions, contact the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319; 515-281-4461 and 800-558-4427 or icsw@compuserve.com.

(The above items are taken from the Jan/Feb issue of IoWoman. To subscribe to the IoWoman contact the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319)

Bottle Bill

A full-time lobbyist has been hired to work against Iowa's bottle bill, the law that puts a five-cent deposit on soft drink and alcohol bottles at the supermarket. Iowa has been targeted by bottlers nationwide and seen as a plum among the 10 other bottle law states. If they can repeal Iowa's law, the others will be easy targets. There are good statistics through

the Department of Natural Resources Waste Management Division on the effectiveness of the bill in cleaning up our roadsides and parks. Ask for the DNR white paper on the bottle law. Rep. Cele Burnett (D-Ames) has introduced legislation which would strengthen the existing law by expanding its coverage to additional containers and increasing the amount of the deposit. To express your views, contact your legislators by calling 515-281-3211 and as for your senator or representative.

Environmental Scorecard

The League of Conservation Voters calculates a scorecard on the votes of Representatives and Senators on environmental issues. For the second session of the 105th Congress, 1998, the following are the results for Iowa's legislators:

Charles Grassley (R)	0%
Tom Harkin (D)	93%
James Leach (R)	76%
Jim Nussle (R)	21%
Leonard Boswell (D)	34%
Greg Ganske (R)	41%
Tom Latham (R)	14%

For information on the specific votes, see the website <http://www.lcvedfund.org>.

Small Farms

We are no longer a nation of small farms: Two percent of farms generate 40% of gross farm sales, five corporations control 85% of the beef market, four corporations control 58% of all pork processing, and 40 producers control one-third of all hogs.

Iowa Rural Life Poll

The 1998 Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll by Paul Lasley at Iowa State University indicates 3 out of 4 Iowa farmers opposed non-farm investors putting money into livestock production in their neighborhood.

International Women's Group

Four women from India, Germany and the USA have formed the group Diverse Women for Diversity to resist the destruction and erosion of diversity in our environment, especially in our food and in our cultures.

"We demand [that governments, international organization, and transnational corporations] address the crisis that has

been caused by the creation of monocultures and the reduction, enclosure and extinction of biological and cultural diversity."

The group plans on influencing global negotiations and treaties taking place now on diversity. For more information, contact A SEED Europe, PO Box 92066, 1090 AB, Amsterdam, Netherlands; email: aseedeur@antenna.nl.

Iowans Elect Woman for Secretary of Agriculture

On November 3, 1998 Iowans went to the polls and elected not only a Democrat for Governor, but also a woman for Secretary of Agriculture. Patty Judge who hails from Albia, Iowa became the first woman in the state of Iowa to be elected to this position.

Judge has been a member of the Iowa Senate for six years where she served in a leadership position on the Agriculture Committee. She is a mother to three sons and has farmed with her husband for more than 25 years.

During the campaign Judge talked about adding value to Iowa farm products and bringing together the diverse agriculture groups to work for the common good. She feels that her experience in farming and on the Agriculture Committee has given her a first hand view of what Iowa needs. Coming from a farm that struggled through the 1980's farm crisis prepared Judge to help distressed farm families through this current difficult time. She was trained as a mediator for the Iowa Farmer Creditor Mediation Service and worked for them until 1992.

Her election to this office is not without controversy. Questions have been raised regarding sources of some of her campaign funds. A farm group asked that she return funds they feel represent large corporate hog interests. Judge has refused to do so saying that she has done nothing wrong.

Judge has formed a task force to study the issue of historically low pork prices and has announced a plan called LEEP, Livestock Economic Emergency Program. To find out about this program either call the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship at 515-281-5321 or visit the website at www.state.ia.us/agriculture.

The Meatpacking Line: What it Says About Rural Life

Book Review



Cutting into the Meatpacking Line: Workers and Change in the Rural Midwest

by Deborah Fink. 1998. Published by University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, NC.

Reviewed by Jane Shuttleworth

“Having grown up in the rural Midwest,” Deborah Fink writes in the opening lines, “I conformed to the class inequalities laid out in this book before I knew what they were.... I understood who belonged where in rural society, but I was not aware of what centered or marginalized people.”

Working Class in Rural Midwest

With these words the multiple meanings of the book’s title begin to emerge. It is a book about the rural working class in the Midwest as told through the example of the meat packing industry. ‘Cutting into the line’ describes the action of slicing sow bellies as they move along the production floor conveyor belt, and it also describes the struggle of the rural workforce to ‘cut into’ the larger social order to claim their rights and dignity. The book ‘cuts into’ the line of economic development thought that “privileges the viewpoints of the economic elite over those.... who perform the physical labor that produces wealth.” Finally, ‘cutting into the line’ refers to the often painful and lengthy process by which women and minorities struggle to assert their rights and dignities in the rural labor force.

The workers she studied during anthropological fieldwork in Denmark introduced Fink to the class realities of rural life. It sensitized her to the absence of working class representation in rural life back in Iowa and Nebraska. In pondering how to access the lives of rural

Midwestern workers, she settled on the idea of taking a job in a rural meatpacking plant. She worked at the IBP plant in Perry for almost four months until her undeclared research role was discovered and she was fired. In addition to working at the plant, she investigated the history of the Midwest labor and meatpacking industry. She drew on interviews from the Iowa Labor History Oral Project and the United Packing House Workers of America Oral History Project. Her inclusion of non-organized workers adds another dimension to the documentation of Iowa’s labor history.

In the opening chapters, we learn how Fink interviews and gets a job and trains at IBP. We learn what it is like to be inside the plant: the noise, the smells, the tools, the physical sensations, the high accident rates, the wear and tear of the work on the body, and the difficult and painful lives of some of the co-workers. She moves us in and out of factory life, into library archives, back in history to small town Iowa life, and then returns us to the present with a new understanding of the social forces that have and continue to shape our rural landscape.

Fink had three main goals. One was to illuminate the important role rural wage workers have played in Iowa’s history and economic development, contesting the Jeffersonian portrayal of a rural America built solely on the industry and entrepreneurial spirit of independent, self-employed farmers. Iowa’s history, she tells us, has been told primarily by its political, economic and intellectual leadership with its “illustrious heroes and few heroines.” It “wastes few words on the majority of the population which built the history piece by piece through ordinary lives...giving short shrift to those who built Iowa’s railroads and bridges, picked its crops and turned its hogs into ham and sausage.”

Gender and Race

The second goal was to give voice to the ways gender and race/ethnicity have also shaped rural Midwestern history. Just as the working class is largely absent from historical account of Iowa, even more so is the role of blacks, women, Mexicans, and other minorities in Iowa’s

early development. She fills in history and then adds a contemporary analysis exploring how the increasing presence of women and minorities in the rural work force has played out in union politics, government anti-discrimination and labor policy, and the restructuring of the meatpacking industry. For example, we learn that technological changes in meatpacking production simplified tasks but also de-skilled labor and lowered wages. We learn how this played into gender and race-related dissensions within labor organizing efforts: “A worker knew less of the full cutting process than before and required less training. Such a worker — often a young rural woman — usually had no background in union life, either.”

1980s Farm Crisis

Her third goal was to put the “farm crisis” of the 1980’s into historical perspective. She points out that the tumult of the 1980’s farm economy is part of a long-term pattern of contradictions between rural and urban culture, between labor and management, between unorganized and organized wage earners. We learn about the rise of ‘new breed’ packers like IBP and why their characteristic combination of a rural location and non-unionized labor force is no simple coincidence.

Fink acknowledges her undercover research at IBP was an “ethical quagmire.” Although it is hard to imagine IBP would have given her the job had she stated her purpose up front, one also wonders if, by not telling the truth, she contributed to distrust and suspicions between workers and management, between corporations and policy makers. But perhaps in the long run she has created space for more open dialogue and positive policy change. I hope it is the latter. Although each chapter of her book critically outlines social injustices, she also offers suggestions to improve the relationship between “the production floor, the home and the community.” She does not reject the industrial revolution, but upholds faith in its potential to bring health, leisure and prosperity for workers and communities. This, she maintains, is what should govern technology, not corporate profits.

Nicaragua and the Devastation of Hurricane Mitch

by Briana Harris (Junior, Macalester College)

On Sept. 1, 1998 I left the comfort and familiarity of my life in the U.S. and went to Nicaragua on a semester abroad program through the School for International Training. I went with the intention of studying the history, politics, economics, and the women's and social movements of Nicaragua. However, our semester was turned upside down at the end of October when Nicaragua was completely devastated by Hurricane Mitch.

Before Mitch

Nicaragua is one of the poorest countries in our hemisphere. The average annual income for an entire family is \$400 a year and most survive on less than \$1 per day. More than half of its population is under the age of 25. Transportation is rustic and many still use horses and carts. I guess you could compare it to life in the U.S. 50 to 100 years ago.

As one can imagine, Hurricane Mitch was terrible for Nicaragua. Without an infrastructure, relief efforts were slowed, response time took too long, and supplies were unavailable. In a situation that would inconvenience our lives here, people died. Rescue efforts took days when it should have only taken hours. People were stuck in trees and on rooftops without food or water as their houses, animals, and family members were being swept away by mud and water.

After Mitch

In the wake of this disaster the structure of my study program changed dramatically. All of our energy was put into relief efforts. We spent the following weeks bagging food, making food packets, collecting and packing clothing and distributing it to those most in need. It was difficult for our group to sit and watch the devastation and its effect on the people and families around us. It was horrible to watch a country that we had grown to love fall apart. The lives of so many people who had worked so hard for what little they had were being destroyed.

In a situation as critical as this, one would think that the government would come to the aid of people. Unfortunately for many Nicaraguans, their government works against them. The President of Nicaragua, Arnoldo Alemán, did not declare a state of emergency. He said the farmers would be able to use the disaster as a reason not to pay on their loans. He did not want NGOs (non-governmental organizations) to have the power to receive and distribute aid. Alemán initially refused the help of Cuban doctors, world renowned for their medical care, saying that there were sufficient doctors in Nicaragua, and all the Cubans wanted to do was eat Nicaragua's food!

The Future

Nicaragua's future will be determined in the next few months. As disease begins to breakout and food shortages begin to occur, Nicaragua's survival is going to depend on the international community. Before the hurricane, Nicaragua was in need of help. With the huge loss of crops (more than 80%), property, viable topsoil and infrastructure, Nicaragua need is now urgent. Four thousand people are dead and 7,000 missing.

I am now starting back to school to finish my spring semester. Needless to say, I will be warm and comfortable in my surroundings and I cannot help but have friends and the people of Nicaragua in my mind. I am now in the process of organizing a work brigade to go to Nicaragua in June. I have been in touch with a Methodist missionary whom I met while there about setting up a work assignment for us. My church in Atlantic, Iowa is working to raise money for supplies and travel. My mother, Denise O'Brien, is helping make this a successful trip. If any of you are interested in either going to Nicaragua or contributing, please get in touch at 712-243-5752 or hnob@nishna.net.

Central America



From the London Free Press, January 17, 1999, by Peter Geigen-Miller

The treatment of Nicaragua's poor people in the wake of last fall's devastating hurricane is a "sin," says a just-returned London nun. Sister Janet Zadorsky of the Sisters of St. Joseph in London said yesterday she observed people living in appalling conditions during nearly four weeks in the Central American country, ravaged by Hurricane Mitch in October.

"The conditions are inhuman," Zadorsky said. Where she worked, no water service had been installed and people had to walk more than a kilometer to obtain clean water. The people live with dust, dirt and squalor and lack sufficient food, medicine and housing

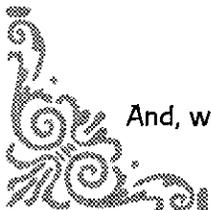
"The aid is there, but it is stalled by the bureaucracy." A good job of helping is being done by non-governmental organizations such as the Sisters of St. Joseph, Doctors Without Borders, the Red Cross and Change for Children, she said.



From: "The Feminine Face of God"
by Sherry Ruth Anderson & Patricia Hopkins



A circle of women can provide a container for emergence
in a way that a woman alone or even a one-to-one relationship cannot.
Intimate relationships and even friendships can break or at least be greatly strained by life changes.
But from the combined wisdom and energy of a small group of women
who are committed to "hearing each other into speech,"
continuity and trust can develop that can be relied on over the long term.



And, witnessing each person's direct knowing of her truth, we can be empowered to live our own.



WFAN Participates in Wingspread Conference

By Betty Wells

Denise O'Brien and I were among nearly 50 attendees this summer at a Wingspread conference in Racine, Wisconsin on Women, Empowerment and Sustainable Futures: East-West Partnerships. It was a follow-up to the June 1994 International Symposium on Women, Politics and Environmental Action in Moscow and featured three teams: (1) Health Implications of Environmental Degradation, (2) Food Security and Safety, and (3) Use of Common Spaces. Each team included 7 members from abroad, including 1 from Central Asia.

I co-led the 15-member Food Security and Safety team. Members from the U.S. included Denise O'Brien (Women, Food and Agriculture), Anni Bellows (Center for Russian, Central and East European Studies, Rutgers University), Betsy Lydon (Mothers and Others), Patricia Hynes (Boston University), Linda Elswick (World Sustainable Agriculture Association), Sylvia Erhardt (Erhardt Organic Farm), and Bharati Sadasivam (Women's Environmental and Development Organization).

Team members from abroad included three women from Russia: Tatiana Blinova and Natalia Fisenko (Institute of Agrarian Problems) and Natalya Andreeva (organic farmer, Center for Citizen Initiatives-USA, Sergiev Posad); two from Poland: Maria Staniszewska

and Halina Kacprzak (Polish Ecological Club); one from Lithuania: Vilija Budvytiene; and one from Mongolia: Oidov Oyunsetseg (executive director and foreign relations manager for two NGOs).

Our 15-person team identified common problems including the globalization of economies and the role and reach of transnational corporations. We devised a post conference plan of action to take advantage of advocacy opportunities, including follow-up to the Earth Summit, the Beijing Conference; and the World Food Summit. The program afforded all three teams ample opportunity to become acquainted with individuals and team agendas.

Various groups of those attending the Wingspread conference attended other events around the country and in Iowa:

Six went to the 2nd International Conference on Women in Agriculture reported in this Newsletter (Aug. 1998, Vol. 1, No. 3) and presented a workshop, "Food Insecurity Amidst Abundance: East-West Strategies." We asked why poverty, hunger, malnutrition, and food contamination exists in the midst of abundant food and contrasted conventional agriculture in the U.S. with collectivized agriculture in the Russia and parts of Eastern Europe.

We also addressed ways to improve the quality of women's lives and the quantity, quality, and distribution of food.

We saw as paramount the need to build secure local and regional community food systems.

Eight traveled to Iowa and visited farms and gardens in several regions of the state. They also joined in a tour by Japanese consumers and farmers in which they went to an organic farm, heard a representative from USDA, went on a hayride, and listened to stories about early European immigrants. How changes in the structure of agriculture are affecting Iowa's towns and rural neighborhoods was highlighted. (See August 1998 WFAN Newsletter, Vol. 1, No. 3).

By July 23 all visitors had departed to their homes. We are now turning our attention toward extending our ties with our international visitors and incorporating many of the food systems activities of our Wingspread team under the auspices of the Women, Food and Agriculture Network.

Many individuals and organizations contributed to this month long event. Support was received from the Mott, Soros, Stanley and Johnson Foundations; the Northeast and North Central Regional Centers for Rural Development; Iowa State University, Center for Agriculture and Rural Development; the U.S. Agency for International Development, USDA Rural Development, and the Center for Russian, Central and East European Studies at Rutgers University.

Earth Charter

(Charter, continued from page 1)

would be a regional statement of sustainability, equity, and justice. The draft assembled the final day of the conference incorporated the principles of respect, solidarity, equity, justice, participation, peace, security, honesty, and love as guides for our relationship with the Earth.

"Embracing the principles of this living Charter, we can grow as a family of cultures that permits the development of the human being in all its potential and in harmony with the community of the Earth. We must preserve an unbreakable faith in the possibilities of the human spirit and a profound sense of dependence on the universe. Our best actions will work to integrate knowledge with compassion." (Working Draft for Latin America and the Caribbean, 1998)

The Future

What would our world look like if we all lived as if the principles in the Earth Charter mattered? This was a question we pondered as the conference drew to a close, and we prepared to return to our respective countries, our jobs, and our communities. Those of us from North America envisioned our communities with copies of the Earth Charter hanging in our Court Houses, City Halls, places of business, places of worship, and in every classroom in the nation. Crazy? Perhaps. It would take an incredible amount of work and a national campaign to make that happen.

Microenterprise Project Underway

In December and January fourteen women came together in Audubon, Iowa to explore and discuss entrepreneurship and microenterprise development. They looked at the possibilities for earning more income from their farms. Two publications were used: *Farming Alternatives*, *A Guide to Evaluating the Feasibility of New Farm-Based Enterprises* from the Small Farm Series (NRAES-32, Cornell University) and *A Six Step Process for Development: Assessment, Strategy, Planning, Action and Evaluation* modified by J. Winkelpleck (1992, The Search Communities Rural Initiative).

All of us were painfully aware that most people living in the United States are not even aware that the Earth Charter exists. The experience of working with people from Latin America brought into focus how little we in North America are moved by the plight of people from the south. The Latin Americans are acutely aware of the "global deadlines" relative to our natural environment; they sense the urgency and the need to change the way we live, how we consume, and the corporate mentality that seems to govern both. A gentleman from Honduras spoke eloquently and tragically of the devastation his country has suffered as a result of the hurricane Mitch (see story page 5). He wanted us to understand his world had changed forever, and that we need to work together if his country and ours are to survive and flourish.

Permeating the whole conference, however, was a sense of hope. Perhaps it was the number of youth at all the public plenaries. Whole classes were there with their teachers, listening to the speakers and asking questions of the delegates during the breaks. And perhaps it was the number of indigenous representatives attending from areas of Central and South America. Coming from distinct cultures, languages and ages, we can work together, creating ways to live in harmony with each other and our planet.

(Mary Steinmaus is a Stanley Foundation program officer who attended the Earth Charter regional drafting meeting in Brazil.)

Carol Smith, Guthrie County Extension Director, Denise O'Brien of the WFAN, and Donna Bauer of Audubon County Family Farms, worked with the women during two four hour sessions. The long-term goal is to assist and support women looking for additional income sources from their farms as opposed to finding off-farm employment.

The next set of meetings will take place March 13th in Solon, Iowa and will have the same format. This project was funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. For further information, contact Denise O'Brien at 712-243-5752.

Training Sessions in Support of the Iowa Family Farm

The Iowa Caucus Project is sponsoring training sessions around Iowa to help prepare people meet potential presidential candidates prior to the Iowa caucuses. The Iowa caucuses are the first opportunity to gain national press attention to the plight of our family farms and the devastating rise of factory farming.

Training sessions will teach participants how to find and attend press conferences and public meetings of candidates to question them on the family farms vs. factory farms issue. You will also learn how to ensure this issue stays in the press during 1999 campaign season.

The Iowa Caucus Project is a one-issue project — the exposure of the industrial model of agriculture that has driven farmers and their families off the Iowa landscape. Training sessions are being set up for late winter, early spring. For more information contact Denise O'Brien at 712-243-3264 or hnob@nishna.net.

Internship Available

Sky High Farm in Winters, California is offering intern positions to young women. Sky High Farm is a diversified organic farm that integrates plant and animal systems in a dry land region. It rain-water catchment systems, rotational grazing on non-irrigated pastures, agroforestry, watershed and wildlife habitat. For information write to: Ann Baier or Susan Temple, 3524 Digger Pine Ridge, P.O. Box 612, Winters, CA 95694; tel.: 530-795-2322; e-mail: skyroot@aol.com.

Wanted

Help is needed by Brenda Stahl, Belmond, IA with a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). It was established three years ago and has 20 family members. Brenda has small children and a new baby and needs to take some time off, but she wants to keep her members in food. Call Brenda at 515-444-4316.

Wanted

Heenah Mahyah, ISU's student-operated organic farm, needs volunteers and interns for 1999 season. Call 515-232-7162; e-mail at pernell_74@yahoo.com.

**Women, Food
& Agriculture
Network**

A Tides Center Project
RR 2, Box 79
Atlantic, IA 50022

Women, Food, & Agriculture Network links
and amplifies women's voices on issues of food systems,
sustainable communities and environmental integrity.

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Let's keep connected:

Women, Food and Agriculture Network

Membership in Women, Food and Agriculture is either \$30 or \$10 (your choice). Fill out the form below and we will sign you up. This newsletter is a benefit of membership. We are a network of women with food, agricultural, environmental and economic concerns. Please share your thoughts, ideas, successes, interests, and solutions with us.

Enclosed is \$30 for my membership.

I have the following to contribute

Enclosed is \$10 for my membership.

Name _____

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Organization _____

Fax _____

(if you are joining as a representative of a group)

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E-mail _____

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Atlantic, IA 50022