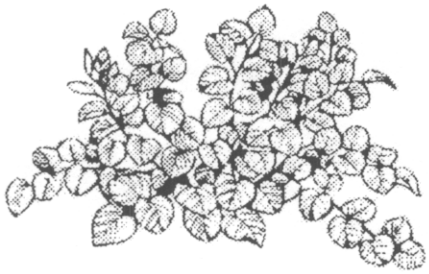
Volume 4, Number 2
June 2001

Women, Food & Agriculture Network



Herbs on our Brochure

by Linda Nash

The new edition of the WFAN brochure will be ready soon, and it features a row of herb plants across the bottom of the main section. We thought you might like to see the plants, and hear a little bit about why they were chosen to be in the brochure.

The plants are, clockwise from lower left, Bee Balm, Burnet, Pennyroyal, Thyme, Rosemary, Savory, and Marjoram.

Bee Balm is also known as bergamot, mountain mint, and other names. It is a true American wildflower, and was often made into a hot beverage by Native Americans and early settlers. It became a special favorite after the Boston Tea Party as a substitute for the lost tea, so we choose it as a symbol of our connection to all protesters of oppression both long ago and current.

Burnet is known and valued for its healing qualities. Legend has it that King Csaba of Hungary used it to heal the wounds of 15,000 soldiers after a great battle. It was supposed to slow the flow of internal and external bleeding. We choose it as a symbol of the healing we need across our planet Earth.

Pennyroyal is a member of the mint family and is considered to relieve spasms and stimulate digestion. However, in excessive and concentrated doses such as essential oil, it becomes toxic. We choose it as a symbol of the many toxic substances polluting our environment because of unwise choices made in the past and choices continung to be made in the present.

Thyme is thought to calm the nerves and to help overcome shyness. The generic Thymus is a derivation of the Greek thymon which means "courage." We choose it as a symbol of the courage we will need to pursue our environmental and social goals.

(Herbs, continuted on page 5)

Mission

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

Calendar

June 26-27, 2001: Touch the Land, Ames. A component of the Iowa 4-H Youth Conference. Iowa high school students are invited to participate in the environmental track of the annual conference. Contact your county extension office.

July 14-15, 2001: Summer WFAN Meeting, Prairiewoods Retreat Center, Hiawatha, IA (near Cedar Rapids). See article page 3.

July 17-19, 2001: Upper Midwest Grazing Conference, Dubuque. Visit the conference website at http://www.wisc.edu/cias/uppermidwest. For information, contact Larry Tranel at 319/583-6496 ext. 14 or email tranel@iastate.edu.

September 7, 2001: Iowa Environmental Council Annual Conference, Des Moines. The theme will be human health and the environment. Carolyn Raffensperger of the Science and Environmental Health Network will talk on the need to reduce toxic pollution before there is absolute proof of its damage to human health. Further information at http://www.earthweshare.org later this summer.

September 7-9, 2001: Pioneering Self-Reliance, Conservation and Leadership Through Community Gardening, 22nd Annual Conference of the American Community Gardening Association. Salt Lake City, Utah. Tel: 801-531-7500. Deadline for proposals June 30, 2001 to Gerard Lordahl, email: plantlot@aol.com; website: http://www.communitygarden.org/new/2001conf.html.

September 21-22, 2001: Beyond Cloning: Protecting Humanity from Species-Altering Experiments. Health Law Department, Boston University School of Public Health, Boston, MA. Addresses the need for policies to prevent the alteration of the human species through genetic engineering. It will discuss where lines should be drawn, lessons learned, and new national and international approaches and mechanisms for proscribing species-altering experiments. Registration: $140. For further information, contact Evelyne Shuster, EvelyneShuster1@msn.com.

November 3: Fall Harvest Celebration, Iowa Network for Community Agriculture, Cedar Falls, IA. Place to be announced.

November 9-11, 2001: 2001 Fall Harvest Women's Gathering with Wisconsin and Minnesota. Good Earth Village, Spring Valley, MN. Sponsored by WFAN in Iowa, Women in Sustainable Agriculture in Minnesota, and Wisconsin Women's Sustainable Farming Network.

December 7-9, 2001: Third Northeast Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Conference. Claryville, New York. Designed to help strengthen existing CSAs and help new ones get off to the right start, the program will provide a broad range of educational and networking opportunities for farmers, farm apprentices, CSA members, educators, and representatives of non-profit and government agencies. To receive a registration packet (late summer), send an email to bholtzma@together.net. Be sure to include your name and mailing address.

Field Days

Several WFAN members are also members of Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI). PFI sponsors field days where the public can view member farms and see what is new and interesting on alternative farms all over Iowa. The following field days are on the farms of WFAN members:

Saturday July 14, 4:00 p.m.-Turtle Farm, Angela Tedesco, 10743 NW 142nd St., Granger, Iowa. For information and directions call 515-278-4522 or TurtleFarm@compuserve.com. Angela has a three acre CSA with two acres in u-pick strawberries.

Saturday September 15 from 4:00 to 6:00-One Step at a Time Garden, Jan Libbey and Timothy Landgraf, 1465 120th St., Kanawha, Iowa. For more information and directions call 515-495-6367 or libland@frontiernet.net. Jan has an 18 full share CSA. Bring a potluck dish for a 6:00 potluck meal.

Saturday September 15th, Susan and Jeff Zacharakis-Jutz Farm, 5025 120th St. NE, Solon, Iowa. Potluck supper at 5:00 p.m., skit, barn dance with caller,

Women, Food and Agriculture Network

This newsletter is published by the **Women, Food and Agriculture Network**, a Tides Center Project with the help of 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. We welcome first person articles, analyses, book or video reviews, original poetry and art, and letters to editor. Deadlines for upcoming issues:

September issue: August 13
December issue: November 12

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Betty Wells (bwells@iastate.edu)

and live music at 6:30 p.m. ZJ Farm has an 80 goat dairy farm and a 35 member CSA. For more information and directions call 319-644-3052 or zjfarm@ia.net

Saturday, September 22, 1:30 p.m. Full Circle Farm, Nan Bonfils and Don Adams, 1579 P. Ave., Madrid, Iowa. 1:00 p.m. refreshments and door prizes, 1:30 program begins. Celebrate the equinox while learning about an oak savanna restoration for rotational grazing. For more information,call 515-795-3288 or nanb@iastate.edu.

Women, Food and Agriculture Summer Meeting

Mark your calendars for Saturday and Sunday, July 14 & 15, for WFAN's summer meeting. We will meet at the Zacharakis-Jutz farm at 1:00 p.m. to learn about their farm operation that includes dairy goats, sheep, pigs, and a CSA. To get to the farm from Solon, Iowa, go three miles north on Highway 1, then 1.3 miles east on 120th Street. It's the white house and barns beside the road.

From the farm we will go to Prairiewoods Franciscan Spirituality Center in Hiawatha, just north of Cedar Rapids. During the evening on Saturday we will talk about WFAN projects and do some planning.

On Sunday morning Laura Krouse will instruct us on isolating DNA, and Stacey Brown and Virginia Moser will talk about their experience at a biotech conference in Chicago. We will then have lunch and be on our way home.

The cost for the weekend will be $42 and includes lodging in a double room, three meals and the meeting space.

Please join us for learning and fun. Information and registration will be sent out soon. For more information, contact Denise O'Brien, tel.: 712-243-3264; email wfan@metc.net.

News Briefs

Vilsack/Pederson Extend Food Policy Council

(edited from an email release from the Office of Governor Vilsack)

DES MOINES - Citing the importance of promoting the use of Iowa grown foods, Governor Tom Vilsack and Lt. Governor Sally Pederson announced the extension of the Iowa Food Policy Council. The Council, created in 2000 to advise the Governor and Lt. Governor on all aspects of the food production system in Iowa, recently made several recommendations to help Iowa promote a safe and adequate food supply. One was to extend the Food Policy Council.

"The Iowa Food Policy Council is making great strides in developing a comprehensive, strategic food production policy for our state. Their work will help create an efficient system that includes everyone from producers to processors to distributors and retailers," Vilsack said.

"The work of the Council will help Iowans understand how Iowa-grown products are superior in quality and nutrition," Pederson said. "This consumer awareness improves market opportunities for our family farmers and our state's economy."

The Council is composed of members appointed by the Governor. Members come from a variety of backgrounds, including local producers engaged in direct marketing, local food processors, local food distributors, local food retailers, cooperative extension representatives, urban agriculture and education representatives, agricultural policy and legal experts, and hunger prevention and food security experts. [WFAN members Mary Swalla-Holmes and Teva Dawson are members.]

Minnesota Consumers Get Scoop on Their Food

(edited from an email release from the National Assoc. of State Departments of Agriculture)

Ever go into a grocery store and wonder where a particular food item was grown, or what methods were used to produce it? Thanks to a new program, Minnesota consumers can now have the answers to these and other questions regarding the food they eat. The new Minnesota Certified (MinnCERT) program is a response to growing consumer demand for information about how and where food has been produced....

"Consumers worldwide are showing an increasing interest in how their food is raised," says Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson. "The MinnCERT program gives Minnesota farmers a credible and practical way to respond to that interest." Developed cooperatively by the MDA and the University, MinnCERT is a voluntary program that certifies farmers' production practices and gives them the ability to sell their products with the label "Minnesota Certified." When consumers see this label, they know the product has been produced and handled according to specific quality standards. Soon, consumers will be able to trace the product back to its farm of origin. The MinnCERT program does not dictate specific production guidelines. Instead, producers develop the standards according to customers' demands, and MinnCERT provides an independent review of the standards and certification that those standards have been met....

The MinnCERT program is good news for farm families as well as consumers. By having independent, third-party certification of their claims, farmers participating in the program can differentiate their product from the rest of the marketplace. This differentiation allows them to receive a premium for their products. (Contact: Malissa Fritz, MDA Communications Coord., 651-284-3707)

Resources

Learn Prairie Reconstruction

A new book, ***A Practical Guide to Prairie Reconstruction*** by Iowa naturalist and photographer Carl Kurtz, is now available from University of Iowa Press. The paperback is a joint effort of the Iowa Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Kurtz offers advice on seed and site selection, soil preparation, and maintenance tips including mowing and burning. Sources for local ecotype seed included. $12.95. To order visit www.uiowa.edu/ ~uipress.

Laura Krouse — Farmer, Teacher and Seed Breeder

Laura Krouse farms north of Mt. Vernon in eastern Iowa. Her farming operation consists of raising open pollinated corn, oats, and soybeans. She also has a CSA and teaches biology at Cornell College.

How did you get interested in farming?

Laura: I got interested at Iowa State when I was an undergraduate. I was studying political science and wanted to be an environmental lawyer specializing in rural environmental issues. I took some courses in agronomy to learn about soil erosion, water quality. I liked agronomy so much I decided to change my major. Of course, all professional agronomists are frustrated farmers who don't have any land of their own, and it quickly became apparent that I was just like them. I needed to be a farmer, too. It took ten years to get it accomplished.

What in your background helps you to be a farmer?

Laura: I'm well trained in agronomy and in anthropology and economics. I think this is a good combination. Agronomy is practical; the other fields help you see the big picture. I found myself specializing in an ecosystem management approach to agronomy (a little bit different than the traditional approach). Iowa State used to require six months work experience in agronomy before you could graduate. That was great for me, because I had no on-farm work experience before then.

When I got out of college, I worked in western Kansas at a coop and learned a lot about dryland farming. Then I worked many years with migrant farmworkers in southwest Florida learning about industrial farming and horticulture. I have traveled some and seen lots of different kinds of agriculture. I have seen how theory is put into practice in lots of different ecosystems and economic models.

My parents always had a huge garden. Growing up, a lot of my relatives and friends were farmers, so I was always around farms and plants. Not animals so much. So I like plants and soil more.

Another good training ground for me was 4H. I learned to follow-through on tasks and to be responsible for my own work. And to speak publicly. All good skills to make a good farmer.

What type of farming do you do?

Laura: I raise all the regular Iowa crops: corn, soybeans, oats. But my farm is small and I rotate, so I don't raise all of them all the time. I also grow a heritage field corn that was first selected on my farm in 1903 by the grandpa of the family. It is a feed type corn. I sell the seed to livestock farmers, mostly organic dairies, all over the upper midwest.

And don't be afraid to think small. You have to start somewhere. Be small and creative.

I have learned about corn genetics and made friends with all kinds of interesting people who are breeding and selecting open pollinated corn all over the world. I have begun to manipulate my own population in ways that I hope will improve its genetics. It's fun and creative work.

When I studied agronomy, I never thought that I might be a corn breeder. They are the hotshots of agronomy, and I never saw myself in that role, but now I like it. I've also become well educated on genetic engineering in corn and a bit of an activist on the genetic preservation issues that arise when we release genetically engineered corn into a corn-growing state like Iowa.

I also raise vegetables for my CSA. I have about 50 shares with 75 families from the Mt. Vernon and Lisbon area. I have about 3 acres in garden, and I grow every vegetable that will grow in Iowa (I think). The CSA operates from early June (whenever school gets out) until Halloween.

What other work do you do? How do you fit this into your farming?

Laura: I am a biology teacher at Cornell College. I teach labs for freshmen, upper division plant labs, and courses for non-science majors. They are usually about food, food systems, and environmental and ecosystem issues. One of my favorite courses is those who are going to be elementary school teachers. Over the years, I took courses to become certified to teach in middle and high school. Now, I enjoy teaching future teachers.

Many classes use my farm as a lab. We have animals, plants, water, bugs, everything you need to teach biology, so a lot of professors in my department bring students out to my place. Botany, ecology, and evolution classes have all worked in my cornfields. The students like working on a real evolutionary project, the selection of the corn every fall for the following spring's planting.

When did you start farming and how many acres do you farm?

Laura: I bought my farm in 1988 (during the last big drought). It was a VERY bad year to start with no equipment, no experience, no friends in the neighborhood, and no rain. My farm is 72 acres, about 60 are tillable. The rest is in pond, edges, and wet areas.

Right now I am taking three acres out of production and restoring a wetland. Taking out tile!!! It will be one acre of water, with two acres of nice prairie around it. I am very excited about using it as a demonstration site. I think we need to be thinking about retaining water on the uplands if we are going to do anything about water quality. I am building this right by the road to show that it can be done, and that it is not incompatible with farming and making a living.

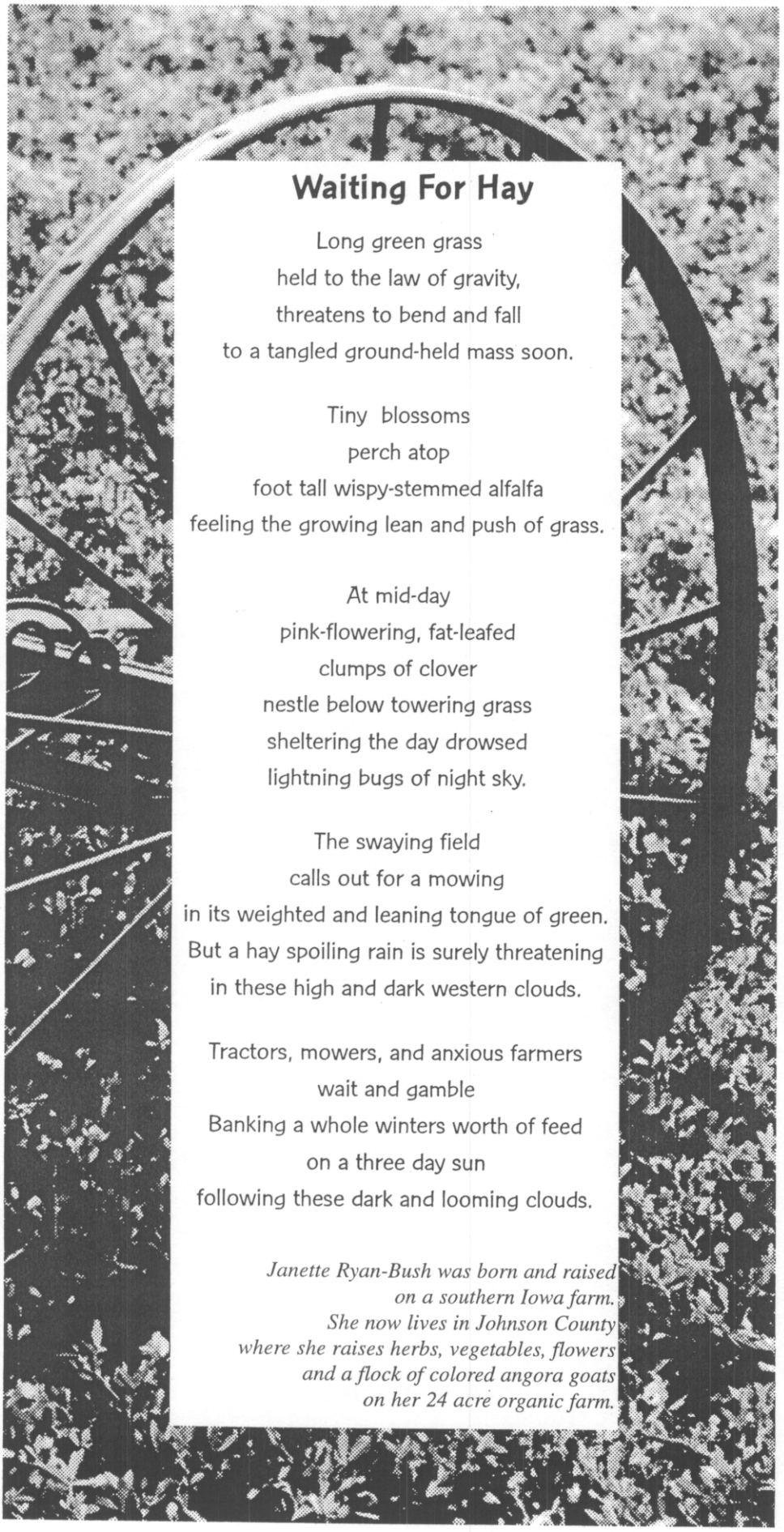
Have you encountered any barriers over the years you have farmed?

Laura: I've encountered physical and time barriers. Really cumbersome farm machinery is difficult for me to manage. And there is never enough time to do all the work in exactly the most timely fashion. And being timely is such an important component of being a successful farmer. It's a problem.

What do you like best about what you do?

Laura: I like the creativity that goes

(Krouse, continued on page 5)



Waiting For Hay

Long green grass
held to the law of gravity,
threatens to bend and fall
to a tangled ground-held mass soon.

Tiny blossoms
perch atop
foot tall wispy-stemmed alfalfa
feeling the growing lean and push of grass.

At mid-day
pink-flowering, fat-leafed
clumps of clover
nestle below towering grass
sheltering the day drowsed
lightning bugs of night sky.

The swaying field
calls out for a mowing
in its weighted and leaning tongue of green.
But a hay spoiling rain is surely threatening
in these high and dark western clouds.

Tractors, mowers, and anxious farmers
wait and gamble
Banking a whole winters worth of feed
on a three day sun
following these dark and looming clouds.

Janette Ryan-Bush was born and raised on a southern Iowa farm. She now lives in Johnson County where she raises herbs, vegetables, flowers and a flock of colored angora goats on her 24 acre organic farm.

Laura Krouse

(Krouse, Continued from page 4)

with farming. Being able to have an idea and see what will happen if I try it. I am a risk-avoider by nature (most farmers are), but I like a certain amount when I am trying something creative, something that will be great if it works, or if I can figure out how to make it work better.

Any words of advice to potential farmers?

Laura: Get to know your neighbors and learn to appreciate them, no matter how different they are from you. Respect what they do, and the decisions they make. They are doing the best they can, just like you are. If you show your commitment to your mutual community, they'll be your best allies when you really need their help. And it's difficult to make it farming without some good allies at your side.

And don't be afraid to think small. You have to start somewhere. Be small and creative.

Don't pay interest, except on your land. Be able to pay for improvements as you go, because you never can predict that some scheme, even the best one, will pay off like you expect. Farming is too fickle.

Herbs on Our Brochure

(Herbs, continued from page 1)

Rosemary has long been a symbol of friendship and remembrance, both of which we celebrate in all their many forms.

Savory makes a soothing tea to help digestion. It was believed to be a favorite of satyrs because of its peppery flavor; it is also deeply aromatic. We choose it as a symbol of our connection to our earthy-most selves.

And finally, legend says that marjoram's sweet scent comes from the touch of the goddess Aphrodite who first cultivated the flower. We choose it as a symbol of our feminine charm and strength.

(by Linda Nash, Sunflower Fields Family Farm & CSA, 776 Old Stage Road, Postville, Iowa 52162; tel: 563-864-3847; e-mail: sunspot@netins.net; http://www.sunflower-fields.com)

What is It? The Free Trade Area of the Americas

(The following is taken from the Public Citizen Global Trade Watch website to help us develop an understanding of the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA). Some editing has been done for space reasons. See http://www.citizen.org/pctrade/FTAA/ftaafactsheet.htm)

The Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) is the formal name given to an expansion of NAFTA (the North American Free Trade Agreement) that would include all of the countries in the western hemisphere except Cuba. This massive 34-country NAFTA expansion is being negotiated right now in secret by trade ministers from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean. The goal of the FTAA is to impose the NAFTA model of new corporate investment and patent protections, trade liberalization, deregulation, and privatization hemisphere-wide. The FTAA draft texts are secret, but information that has leaked reveals that many of the FTAA's chapters are literally extensions of NAFTA rules. These rules would significantly increase the power of corporations to constrain governments from setting standards for public health and safety, to safeguard their workers, and to ensure that corporations do not pollute the communities in which they operate. Effectively, these rules would handcuff governments' public interest policymaking and enhance corporate control at the expense of citizens throughout the Americas.

Who is involved in the FTAA negotiations, and how did it get started?

High on their 1993 NAFTA victory in Congress, U.S. officials organized a "Summit of the Americas" in Miami in December 1994. There, trade ministers from 34 western hemisphere countries agreed to a U.S. proposal to launch negotiations to establish a hemispheric free trade area. After the so-called Miami Summit, however, little was agreed on FTAA until the "Santiago Summit" in Chile in April 1998. At this second summit, the 34 nations set up a Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC), consisting of vice ministers of trade from every country and headed by Dr. Adalberto Rodriguez Giavarini of Argentina. Negotiators also agreed that the FTAA would include rules on agriculture, services, investment, dispute settlement, intellectual property rights, subsides,anti-dumping, competition policy, government procurement and market access. You would never know it from news reports, but since late 1999, nine formally-established working groups have met every few months to lay out their countries' positions on these issues and have begun writing the actual text of a new hemispheric free trade agreement.

As with the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), many members of Congress have no idea that any of this is going on. Congress never set goals for U.S. participation in these talks and has never delegated its Constitutional role of setting the terms of international commerce to the Executive branch. Instead, a variety of corporate committees have been and continue to advise the U.S. negotiators. Under the U.S. trade advisory committee system, over 500 corporate representatives have security clearance and access to FTAA NAFTA expansion documents. Organizations such as the Organization of American States (OAS), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), collectively known as the "Tripartite Committee," also provide direction.

Early on, non-governmental civil society organizations (NGOs) demanded working groups on democratic governance, labor and human rights, consumer safety and the environment. These demands to include public interest negotiating topics on par with those related to corporate interest were rejected. A "Committee of Government Representatives on Civil Society" was established, ostensibly to represent the views of civil society to the TNC. Yet in reality, this so-called committee is little more than a mail in-box. There is no mechanism to incorporate civil society concerns and suggestions sent to the committee into the negotiations, rendering the committee effectively useless as a forum for these issues.

The U.S. is represented by the U.S. Trade Representative's office (USTR), headed by Robert Zoellick. The lead USTR negotiator on FTAA is Peter Allgeier.

What is the current status of the FTAA negotiations?

All nine of the FTAA negotiating groups held meetings at two to three month intervals throughout 2000 to work out the positions of their governments on the nine core issues in preparation for the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City, Canada in April, 2001. The agreement is to be complete by 2005, with implementation the following year.

What can we learn about FTAA from NAFTA?

FTAA would deepen the negative effects of NAFTA that people in Canada, Mexico and the U.S. have already suffered over the past seven years and expand NAFTA's damage to the other 31 countries involved. The FTAA would intensify NAFTA's "race to the bottom." For instance, under the FTAA, the wages of already-exploited workers in Mexico could be leveraged against even more desperate workers in Haiti, Guatemala, or Brazil by companies receiving new investor guarantees to produce goods for export back into U.S. markets.

O'Brien Visits Honduras, Plans WFAN Trip

by Denise O'Brien, Coordinator, Women, Food and Agriculture Network

On April 3, 2001, my husband and I traveled to Honduras to see our daughter Briana. She is a Methodist Mission Intern assigned to the Christian Commission for Development (CCD) founded in 1982 by a group of people working with Salvadoran refugees along Honduras' border.

CCD works with 113 communities in the poorest areas of the country. In each village, CCD helps organize and develop a well-trained, representative group of leaders who then work with their neighbors, together analyzing problems and defining solutions.

Briana works with women in developing lending circles and microenterprises such as a bakery and a sewing cooperative. She also works on domestic violence issues. Currently she is helping to establish direct trade of Honduran coffee with people in North Carolina.

Our visit was first of all to see Briana. Secondly, I wanted to consider organizing a visit of WFAN members to the women in Honduras. A long term strategy of WFAN is to network internationally. What better chance than when my daughter could help with details and logistics?

The plan would be to visit with women in a producer/craft grassroots organization. The cost would be between $800 to $1000. A goal of the trip would be to exchange in-formation on sustainable/organic agriculture and on rural development. Because the coffee harvest will be underway, we might be able to help harvest coffee.

Another purpose of the trip would be to discuss the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA). (See story previous page.) Many grassroots organizations are beginning to educate their members about the consequences of a hemispheric agreement. A visit with women in Honduras would present an opportunity for understanding free trade agreements from other points of view.

If you are interested in the trip to Honduras, please call me at 712-243-3264; email: wfan@metc.net.

Coordinator's Corner

by Denise O'Brien, Coordinator, Women, Food and Agriculture Network

It is hard to believe that June is almost over! What happened to that winter hibernation time? How soon I forget those treacherous roads, snowed in days and those moments of wondering when winter will end!

During the last full week of February, Linda Nash, Amy Miller, Katy Hansen, Betty Wells, Stacey Brown, Danielle Wirth, Virginia Moser and I held an WFAN Executive Committee meeting in Toledo, Iowa. These women have agreed to work on oversight by meeting a couple times a year and communicating by email on the basic work on keeping an organization functioning. During this time it was decided that WFAN would join Iowa Shares, "a statewide coalition of social action nonprofit organizations that have joined together to raise funds through workplace giving." The paperwork is now complete and we are a part of that group.

Because the Iowa Legislature is in session from January to April (May this year), I was frequently on the road to Des Moines to work with groups such as the Iowa Farmer's Union, the National Catholic Rural Life, the Sierra Club, the Iowa Environmental Council, and the Iowa United Methodist Conference on issues concerning our rural population, the environment and the infrastructure of Iowa. This year we worked on trying to retain funding for the Leopold Center, defeat English only legislation, strengthen the bottle deposit bill, and pass emergency funding for high fuel bills for low income people.

The results of the legislative session this year were quite dismal. The Leopold Center's budget was cut by $250,000. This is drastic news and an incredible blow to the Center. As the Des Moines Register stated on its May 10th editorial page, "their visibility today is insignificant compared to their importance to the future of Iowa. They deserve better. ...taking the ax to low profile, low-budget items could create headline-making problems down the road."

March was packed full of meetings! WFAN is participating in Iowa Harvest Inc., a limited liability company that has been formed to market Iowa grown products as well as handicrafts. Iowa Harvest is leasing a former Kopper Kettle resturant on Interstate 80 at exit 86 near Menlo and Greenfield. Karen Varley, WFAN member, is heading up the project. We are currently getting the building and grounds ready for a farmers market this summer. I will keep you informed of the progress.

The middle of March found Stacey and me at the Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference conducting a participatory workshop on celebrating women's lives. During the workshop participants told stories of their mentors, their current lives, and the draw of agriculture. There was a general sharing on many topics. I have a tape recording of the session if anyone is interested in borrowing it.

Cynthia Vagnetti came to Iowa during March to begin work on her photodocumentary project, described in the last newsletter. Cynthia is now well underway with her work.

Stacey, Betty and I participated in a Brown Bag Lunch Seminar for the Sociology Department at Iowa State University during which we shared progress on our women landowners project.

At the end of March I went to San Francisco to attend a small conference sponsored by the Economic Literacy Action Network. Economic literacy is an avenue for encouraging people to participate in understanding our economy through the use of popular education techniques. In 1997 when WFAN was in its infancy, we sponsored a two day workshop with Pam Sparr who is an economist trained in economic literacy. There are plans to do some more of this work during the coming year.

All of the activities that I have mentioned are open to any members who want to participate. I have tried to keep you informed about legislation and upcoming events on our listserv without trying to burden you with too many messages and too much informatioin. I would love to hear from any of you about your concerns or ideas for WFAN's participation in activities. Most of all I would love to have you with me.

Women, Food & Agriculture Network

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Let's keep connected:
Women, Food and Agriculture Network

Membership is either $30 or $10 (your choice). Fill out this form to join. 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 yearly membership.

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Name _____

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

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☐ I would like to subscribe to the WFAN listserv

☐ Enclosed is $30 as a gift subscription for:

Name _____

Address _____

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