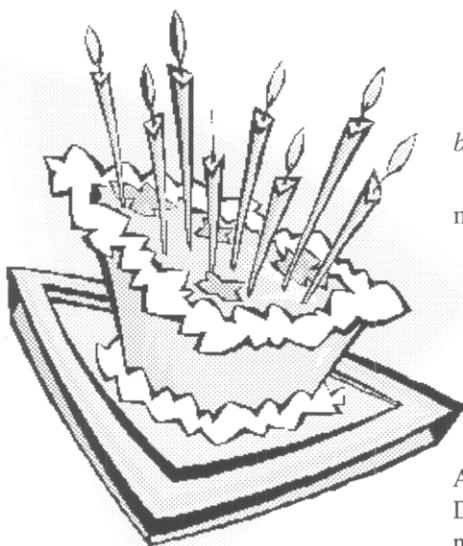


Women, Food & Agriculture Network

We're Five Years Old in Mid July Happy Birthday WFAN



by Betty Wells

This summer's mid-July meeting marks the five-year anniversary of the founding of Women, Food and Agriculture Network. Like the 1997 gathering, this two-day gathering will also be held at Springbrook State Park in west central Iowa. (see insert for more information and to register)

The name, Women, Food and Agriculture originated in 1994 when Denise O'Brien, current WFAN coordinator, and Kathy Lawrence of New York, formed a Women, Food and Agriculture working group in preparation for the United Nation's Fourth World Women's Conference in Beijing, China in order to remedy the neglect of food and agricultural issues. Shortly thereafter Kathy Lawrence began working with Just Foods as Executive Director building local food systems in New York City. (Lawrence is now Executive Director of The National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture and a member of WFAN.) In November 1996, under the name of Women, Food and Agriculture, O'Brien attended and helped in fund-raising, agenda construc-

tion, and identifying additional U.S. participants for the Rural Women's Workshop at the World Food Summit in Rome. As the work unfolded, however, she found the going difficult without a network.

The Network was Born

The needed network began to take shape in February 1997 at a Practical Farmers of Iowa's Women's Winter Gathering (also at Springbrook) when a few of us decided to create a women's network to act on our long-standing concerns about systemic rural, agricultural, and environmental problems and gender relations in these domains. We believed that women have valuable things to say about food, community and natural systems, and agriculture but are too rarely heard. One founder located the motivating force for organizing in "growing awareness of dissonance between public policy actions and our practical locally grounded knowledge and experiences emerging from our unique social locations, as women farmers, activists, professionals and mothers."

Birthday, continued on page 3)

Mission

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



Calendar

WFAN members hold field days and community days this summer:

August 3, 2002: Field Day at Angela Tedesco's Turtle Farm. 10743 NW 142nd St, Granger, IA 50109; 515-278-4522; atedesco@turtle-farm.com.

August 10, 2002: Community Day at Denise O'Brien/Larry Harris Rolling Acres Farm. 59624 Chicago Rd, Atlantic, IA 50022; 712-243-3264; hnob@metc.net

September 24-25, 2002: Community Days with Susan & Jeff Zacharakis-Jutz; 5025 120th St NE, Solon, IA 52333; 319-644-3052; zjfarm@ia.net

November 8-10, 2002: 3rd Annual Tristate Fall Harvest Women's Gathering. Camp Ewalu, Strawberry Point, Iowa (northeastern Iowa). (See story below.)

Events

3rd Annual Women's Tri-State Gathering

The 3rd Annual Women's Tri-State Gathering for women involved with sustainable agriculture will be held Nov. 8-10 at the beautiful Ewalu Retreat Center in Strawberry Point, Iowa. For more information about the new conference site, see www.ewalu.org. Anyone interested in helping out with the conference, or with ideas for speakers or workshops should contact WFAN coordinator Denise O'Brien, one of the members of the planning committee, at wfan@metc.net. Other committee members: JoAnn Pipkorn, Ginny Wideman, Mary Doerr, Jody Padgham, Betty Wells, Stacey Brown, Linda Nash, and Linda Noble

The theme for this year's event is "Rooted in Community." Carolyn Raffensperer, environmental activist, will be the keynote speaker on Saturday evening November 9. Possible workshops: farm fencing and gates, homeopathy for livestock, herb uses, farm-based businesses, yoga and other bodywork. Another regular conference feature will be the virtual farm tours of women's farms throughout the three states. There is also a "challenge course" at the retreat center for all to try.

The conference is always well attended by a wide variety of interesting, articulate women from all backgrounds, so make your plans now to attend in November. You won't regret it!

Opportunities

Sustainable Development Stories

The U.S. Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the National Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils (NARC&DC) has launched an interactive website that will collect and make available success stories on sustainable agriculture, sustainable community development and sustainable forest management projects. These success stories are being gathered to help share U.S. experiences in sustainable development with the rest of the world leading up to and during the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) that will take place in Johannesburg, South Africa August 26 - September 4, 2002.

Success stories are entered over the internet onto a searchable database by filling out a template on the Sustainable Development Success Story web site, <http://www.rcdsuccess.com>. Information on your project or community can be pasted from other sources into windows on the website. In addition to maintaining a searchable on-line database of these stories, stories will be selected for a special publication for distribution nationally and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

For further information, contact Jeri L. Berc, Ph.D., Special Assistant to the Deputy Chief, Soil Survey and Resource Assessment, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, P.O. Box 2890, Room 5234 S, Washington D.C. 20013; 202-690-4979; jeri.berc@usda.gov.

Johannesburg, South Africa

Any Iowan interested in going to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa during the end of August. The Iowa United Nations Association is sending a delegation. Contact Katy Hansen, 319-337-7290; unaiowa@inav.net.

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: August 15

December issue: November 15

Address: 59624 Chicago Road
Atlantic, IA 50022-9619
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It's Been Great Fun and We've Learned a Lot

(*Birthday, continued from page 1*)

The group—Rhonda Yoder, Betty Wells, Danielle Wirth, Virginia Wadsley, Shelly Gradwell, Denise O'Brien, and Mary Steinmaus—met in western Iowa in March 1997 to write grants. (See picture). We again, in May, to plan a three-day July workshop “Rural Women, the



Rhonda Yoder, Denise O'Brien, Shelly Gradwell, Virginia Wadsley, Danielle Wirth, and Betty Wells (photographed by Mary Steinmaus

Economy and the Environment.” (See second picture below) The turnout was great. The workshop is still remembered for the economic literacy training and the huge mural we collectively constructed under the tutelage of our facilitator, economist Pamela Sparr. We were on our way.

Mission Established

We established WFAN's mission by consensus at an October 28, 1997 retreat: to link and amplify women's voices on issues of food systems, sustainable communities and environmental integrity. (The meeting was close to Halloween and we had a fun night dressed in costume.) In December, a subgroup (including O'Brien, Wells, Wirth, Katy Hansen, and Steinmaus) convened in Ames to draft goals to guide the network. The following goals were ratified by consensus on March 27, 1998 at WFAN's spring meeting:

1. To promote sustainable agricultural and community structures;
2. To insist on social and ecological justice for current and future human and non-human communities;
3. To provide opportunities for education on economics and environment that articulate a holistic view of agriculture; instill a sense of place; and draw forward useful experiences from the past;
4. To create networks that support

communities of growers, consumers, workers and others who strive for sustainability; increase effective access to and use of existing resources; engage participants in experiential learning; provide safe places for self-expression; and respect the spirituality of the land and people; and

5. To advocate change by exploring alternatives and challenging the globalization of economies, cultures of domination and institutionalized discrimination, the disintegration of landscapes, and oppressive conceptual frameworks.

These goals have held up well and still guide us, but will be revisited this summer. WFAN continues to question the “conventional wisdom” about globalization, industrial agriculture, biotechnology, trade, and policies discordant with our knowledge and experiences. We challenge the assumptions of the status quo about what is realistic, reasonable, and ethical. We are committed to progressive social change.

We have been saddened to see some early members leave our circle (Mary Steinmaus and Jennifer Bryne who moved to Ohio, and Rhonda Yoder to

Indiana), but buoyed when joined by others (including Katy Hansen, an early joiner who has continued to produce our newsletter and who in a friendly fashion has forced us onto more firm financial footing; Stacey Brown, Mission Intern from the Methodist Church who has helped construct our webpage, write grants and newsletter articles, and launch our women landowners project and the Tri-State Fall Harvest Women's Gathering; and Linda Nash, our able treasurer and regular newsletter contributor). We receive guidance and inspiration from our executive coordinating committee which includes, in addition to many of the names already mentioned, Amy Miller, Laura Krouse (who served previously as our treasurer and hosted our 1998 summer meeting), and Virginia Moser.

We Have Gained Strength

Our contacts have expanded and the network has gained strength. WFAN has grown from a handful of founders to nearly 150 members. Although centered in Iowa, our members come from over 25 states and several other countries. We are diverse in terms of ages (ranging from teens to seventies) and backgrounds. We are farmers, urban gardeners, environmental educators, community activists, academics, and others who care about food and our environment.



Back row: Laura Krouse, Pam Sparr, Ann Baier, Cris Carusi, Denise O'Brien, Jean Eells, Deanna Notara, Margaret Kroma, Mary Steinmaus. Front row: Carol Smith, Danielle Wirth, Betty Wells, Virginia Wadsley, Shelly Gradwell, Katy Hansen.

Local and Sustainable: Making the Commitment

A Look at Our Personal Buying Habits

by Linda Nash

(from a program she presented at the Practical Farmers of Iowa Women's Winter Gathering, February 16, 2002)

I've learned that in the great scheme of things, good intentions don't always count for much. I go to a lot of meetings where there is a lot of talk - what my husband calls paralysis by analysis - but I don't always get to see if all this talk turns into anything concrete or not. Is there a tangible change people make after listening to new information, or do they just return to their old patterns after they leave the meeting?

It's my contention that the votes that count most in this world are the ones we make with our feet and with our dollars. Where we choose to go, what events we choose to attend, and where we choose to shop and/or spend our hard earned cash are the ways we declare our support for various organizations, much more than if we talk, talk, talk about where we might go or where we might shop. We all want to support our local economies and choose locally owned and produced products when possible - at least that's what we say. But are we really doing it?

Test Your Buying Habits

Sit down and take a short test about your buying habits. Be truthful and non-judgmental and just write down your answers:

1. Where did you last go shopping for food? Who owns that store?
2. What milk did you last buy? Who owns that company?
3. What toothpaste did you last buy? Who owns that company?
4. Where did you last go shopping for clothes? Who owns that store?
5. What clothes did you last buy? Who owns that company? Where were the items made?
6. What underwear did you last buy? Who owns that company? Where were the items made?

7. What gas station did you last go to? Who owns it?

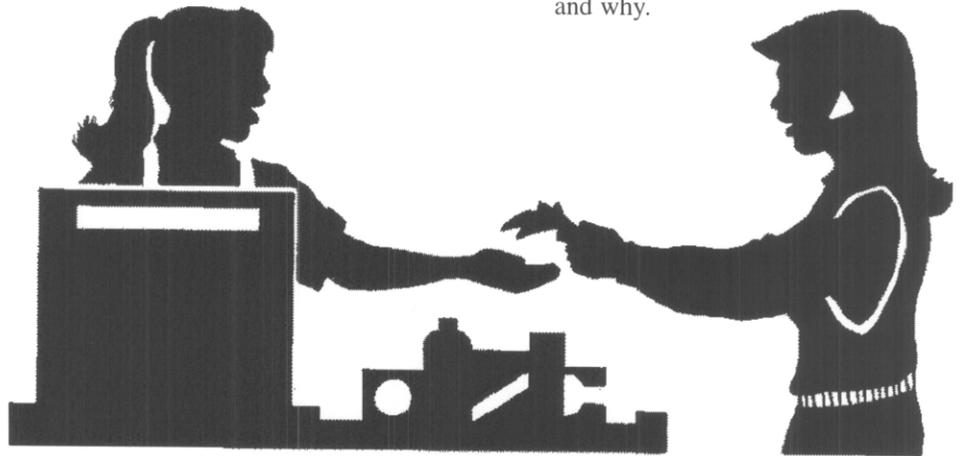
8. Where did you last get your car worked on? Who owns the garage?

Take a look at your answers, and try to determine your personal criteria for buying decisions. Convenience? Price? Or something more?

Now take a look at what you would want your criteria to be, ideally, if it were possible to do: locally owned, locally produced, company ownership, company philosophy, certified organic, environ-

mentally sound packaging, quality of product, price and size of product, where product was produced, no animal testing, and on and on. What are your personal criteria, and in what order do you think they should count towards your buying decisions?

For your final assignment, take a look at your life-style, and how you could start turning the current criteria into your ideal list. Start finding out who owns those stores and those companies, and do the research to make solid, informed decisions about who you will support and why.



We Need Your Participation in the Discussions and at the Meetings that Affect All Our Lives

As WFAN has grown, we have become members of organizations such as the Iowa Environmental Council, the Midwest Sustainable Ag Working Group, Rural Advocacy, and Iowa Shares. This means meetings to attend and contact to maintain. We also have opportunities to represent women farmers working on sustainable development issues at meetings around the country and around the world.

We need others to become involved in the very important work of WFAN. If you are interested in learning about policy and advocacy, about fundraising and coordination with other groups, about international issues and process-

es, Denise, Betty and others would love to mentor you in the process of "learning the ropes."

This sharing of responsibility is the hands-on leadership development WFAN can help grow and develop.

Please volunteer if you are interested in working on the issues that will change our society so that it is a better place for our children and grandchildren. The range of work covers the gamut from local and state government commissions to regional working groups to national and international meetings where policy is being developed. Contact Denise O'Brien at 712-243-3264; wfan@metc.net

Reconnecting to the Farm As Natural Habitat

The Farm As Natural Habitat: Reconnecting Food Systems with Ecosystems, Dana L. Jackson and Laura L. Jackson. (Eds.), 2002, Island Press, Washington, D.C., Covelo, CA, London.
Reviewed by Danielle Wirth

In the early 90's, a group of environmental activists conceived the "Wildlands Project." This vision for the rewilding of the Americas advocated protecting current wilderness, restoring native plant communities, and re-establishing large carnivores and landscape-scale processes like fire and hydrology.

This process will take at least 200 years. As wildlands expand, human population will decline as people chose to have fewer offspring. But, I had reservations about the time frame. Currently human populations grow exponentially and nature contracts. How long can critically threatened animals and plants wait for space? How can people be fed until our species comprehends that we must reduce our numbers for healthy ecosystems to survive and become sustainable again?

Carrying Capacity

The number of creatures that an ecosystem can sustain without "crashing" is its "carrying capacity." Overpopulated animals run out of food and space. Members of that species either migrate or die. Humans are now migrating into habitats once held by only plants and other animals thereby restricting the migration of other animals.

For example, archaeologists calculated the carrying capacity of the central Iowa bioregion: 100 to 125 people needed an area of roughly 60 square miles. Deer and elk, in that range supplied the protein and other items such as clothing, tools and cordage.

With the industrial revolution, humans extended "carrying capacity" by extracting fossil fuels. More work was done with a few gallons of fuel. The results included a food surplus that promoted population growth. Green Revolution technology, heavily dependent upon heavy machinery, pesticides, and manufactured fertilizers, pushed carrying

capacity for certain regions higher. Once again, human population expanded—nature contracted.

It's the 21st Century. How do we rewild North America, feed people and ethically share this space with the rest of Gaia's creatures? *The Farm As Natural Habitat: Reconnecting Food Systems with Ecosystems* has some of the answers.

Farmers and Their Landscape

The non-farming public is sure to appreciate this book as well as people who are directly involved in agriculture. In the forward by Nina Leopold Bradley, readers learn that government policies rarely reward good farmers. Yet farming is one of the most intimate relationships that people have with landscapes.

From the introduction describing north central Iowa's CAFO's (Confined Animal Feeding Operations), aka - factory farms, the Jackson's are unrelenting in rejecting the dominant attitude that industrial agriculture is "inevitable." The contrast between family farms integrated with the landscape and mega-industrial agriculture's blight upon the landscape is clear. Their descriptions of contemporary practices guide the reader through a landscape of hope and potential.

The Farm as Natural Habitat is about "the connection between the grocery list and the endangered species list," claim Laura and Dana Jackson.

The book is divided into 4 sections.

Part 1 deals with the major problems associated with industrial agriculture and the notion that the American Midwest must "feed the world."

Part 2 celebrates contemporary farmers who are making a difference within their own bioregions as they farm with conscience and according to the principles of land stewardship.

Part 3 considers ecosystem management of agricultural landscapes and introduces the ecological concepts of ecosystem function, structure and composition.

Part 4 addresses landscape scale restoration as promoted by the Wildlands

Project but with important differences. Much of the land coveted by conservation biologists for the "rewilding" process is privately owned. Ecologists must include farmers who produce food for people and use their desire to engage in activities that heal the landscape and supply wildlife habitat.

Some of my favorite sections describe farmers actively engaged in biological monitoring to measure the positive impact their alternative farming practices have on wildlife, water quality and plant communities. Also, Laura Jackson, a prairie ecologist, explains in detail the unique qualities of prairie ecosystems and how farming might mimic these processes.

Tomorrow's Landscape

The authors admit that the market for organic/sustainable food is currently a "niche" market, but with organic agriculture expanding at 20% each year, it won't be long before today's "alternative" agriculture becomes tomorrow's mainstream food system. *The Farm as Natural Habitat* is both honest and hopeful. A great read for anyone interested in asparagus to zoology.

Books and journals of related interest:

Continental Conservation : Scientific Foundations of Regional Reserves. 1999. Soule, M. and J. Terborgh (Eds.) Island Press.

Conservation Biology: Research Priorities for the Next Decade. 2001. Soule' M. and G. H. Orians. (Eds.)

Ecological Restoration - A journal published by the University of Wisconsin. Vol. 20, no. 2 (June 2002) contains a paper by Dr. Laura Jackson on a related topic.

Wild Earth, a quarterly journal published by the Wildlands Project. P.O. Box 455, Richmond, VT 05477

Farming with the Wild. Reconnecting Food Systems with Ecosystems. Wild Farm Alliance 406 Main St., Suite 213 Watsonville, CA 95076; 831-761-8408; wildfarms@earthlink.net. Wild Farm Alliance is a non-profit group.

Newsletter Readers Speak Back to Us

by Betty Wells

Thirty-three readers returned the feedback form included in our February 2002 dues solicitation. Over 80 percent are dues-paying members. Among their reasons for membership:

- to be a part of a group of progressive women who care about the earth.
- to support women on the land.
- to keep connected, to support the work.
- to support the mission, help set the agenda.
- gotta support groups you think are important to have around.
- for political and social networking.
- I love the newsletters and the idea of women and ag working together.
- I believe in the organization - wish I could afford to contribute more!

Topics of Concern

Environmental quality (selected by 64%) tops the list of issues/topics about which respondents want to learn more, followed by multinational institutions, trade and globalization (61%); food safety issues such as genetic engineering, pesticide residues, and antibiotic resistance (58%); farm policy (54%); women's spirituality (42%); gender equity (39%); and political advocacy and lobbying (18%).

Other topics mentioned: the use of herbs and nutrition in women's health, economic literacy, household and community food security, soil fertility, biodynamics, farm animal welfare, organic husbandry, and specific on-farm practices.

Our Skills are Many

Respondents are willing to share their interests, skills, vocations, and hobbies: writing; research; poetry; horticulture therapy; human rights; quilting and soap making; sheep and wool; goats and goat cheeses; women's reproductive health; alternative health care choices; re-valuing women's bodies and sexuality; singing; facilitating discussion/sharing; grassroots networking, environmental science and ethics; political advocacy;

international topics; running a home-based business; vegetarian and organic cooking; and flower and vegetable gardening. One reader mentioned "doing things and living life close to nature," and several others expressed a related interest in native plants, rituals on the land, oak savannah restoration, and blue-bird nesting boxes.

On-Farm Tour Opportunities

They expressed interest in tours or learning, including home-based business featuring locally grown/produced products (39%); pastured poultry (36%); orchards, community supported agriculture, herbs (33%, respectively); fruits and vegetables and goats and goat cheeses (each mentioned by 30%); large livestock (6%); and "other:" permaculture, seed sharing, native plants, and spinning and carding wool.

A quarter of the respondents are willing to host a visit to their farm to show, for example, interplantings in a fenced orchard of flowers, vegetables, and small fruits on a sustainable renewable energy homestead; a native plant farm where seed is collected and seedlings grown for restoration projects; a work in progress... vegetable garden, flower gardens, fruit and nut trees, and sustainable forest management; and a CSA with direct market forage fed beef, food waste composting, savanna restoration, open-pollinated corn, and hog reclamation.

The Meaning of WFAN

What does WFAN mean to you? Here's a sampling of the answers:

- A great starting point for women to feel out how their experience, priorities, skills, analysis are different from the mainstream. So good to hear women speak without interruption.
- Empowerment for women/advocacy for the land, community, and women.
- An enriching network of common women doing uncommon things that supports me and my work . . . a great resource to lean on when needed.
- A networking opportunity . . . allows me to connect with women who have similar interests.

- Support for sustainable agriculture to support human and environmental health.
- Good source of information; support for women activists in food and ag, national and international.
- A group of smart women who are committed to making some critical changes in agriculture
- New friends.
- A chance to mentor and be mentored by other women farmers.
- Amazing positive energy . . . when surrounded by like-minded caring, active, articulate women!
- Connection with creative, innovative women. The fall 2001 gathering, the newsletter, advocacy.
- Strong women, companionship on a sometimes lonely path (women in agriculture), knowledge about policy.
- Women who care enough about family, friends, neighbors, animals, and the environment to devote their energy to their preservation.
- My best source of information on the issues . . .
- It means my life!

Involvement Potential

Over a third (36%) indicated they would like to be more involved in WFAN, 25% by presenting educational workshops (on community, sustaining our spirits, bioregionalism, earth-based spirituality, organic agriculture, buying/eating habits, nutrition/preventive medicine, agricultural law, sheep raising and endangered livestock, urban agriculture, and food waste composting); 18% by contributing to the newsletter (on food/cooking; how women's reproductive health relates to food, natural environment, and consumer choices; how farming can bring families closer; community; spirituality; and links to allied organizations); 12% by writing grant and funding proposals, helping with publicity; or participating in strategic planning; and 9% by fund-raising, recruiting new WFAN members, organizing or attending WFAN events, and joining/starting a WFAN.

First Time on the Farm

by Kristen Garrett

When I was younger, the term “farm” seemed like such a vague concept to me. I was taught about the machinery, the cows, the hogs, the silo...but throughout school, no one ever taught me what living on a farm was really like. How could someone ever teach me what life on a farm would be like if I have never lived or worked on a farm myself? That is why I chose to come live with Denise O’Brien this summer - so that I could learn what life on a farm in Iowa really entailed.

This summer, I am serving as an intern for the Women, Food, and Agriculture Network. Since I have just completed my sophomore year at Iowa State University as a double major in psychology and environmental studies, the WFAN serves as a perfect opportunity for me to find out about the details of sustainable agriculture and life on the farm in Iowa. I found out about the WFAN through a program at Iowa State University called the “Life in Iowa” program. In this program, I took a class called, “Living Well in Place” in which our class learned about issues in Iowa, ranging from agriculture to the decline of Iowa’s population. Along with this class, I also needed to have an internship and a service project for the summer. I wanted to find an internship where I could really make a difference in the life of at least one Iowan. Through this program, I ended up in Denise’s beautiful farmhouse, and I am also working with the Cass County naturalist to set up a summer camp for children.

Since I am originally from Fort Dodge, Iowa, I grew up in a town where very little attention was paid to farming or agriculture. It was not until I came to Iowa State University that I fully understood the importance of agriculture to Iowa’s economy. Because I have been interested in environmental issues and problems throughout my entire life, I thought that it would be a good idea for me if I could get a job or an internship that would teach me about problems that Iowans face everyday.

I always feel, in some sense, that the

state of Iowa’s problems and concerns are overlooked by our government. I feel that people tend to forget the importance of this state and how much it contributes to the economy of the United States as a whole. It is very important for me to help get Iowa’s issues noticed by the government by helping in any way that I can. This is why I am so happy to be working with the WFAN this summer. Not only does this network provide good opportunities for me to learn about agriculture and the issues concerning it, the WFAN also allows me to work with other women who are trying to learn as well. To me, it is such a good feeling to know that there are so many other women out there who are working just as hard as I wish to in order to get Iowa’s issues and problems recognized.

It is an honor for me to work with the Women, Food, and Agriculture Network this summer. I hope to meet all of you soon!

Coordinator's Corner

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

Spring has arrived and summer will be well on its way when you read this. It looks like my strawberry crop will be quite large this year, but my blossom set on the apples was not much to talk about. Ah, Mother Nature! She is the one who determines so much in our lives!

March and April were full of travel for me and several WFAN members: Solveigh Hanson, Marilyn Clement, and Briana Harris. We attended a study session by Agriculture Missions in Belize. Its purpose was to better understand the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA) (see Vol. 4, #2, June 2001). Visits were made to talk to the people about the impact of free trade on their lives.

In April, I was in Denver at the Kellogg-sponsored Food and Society Conference. The following week I was in Philadelphia conducting a workshop on “Feeding the World” at the United Methodist Women’s Assembly. Approximately 100 women attended the workshop I co-facilitated with Ellen Kirby of the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. Marilyn Clement, WFAN member, was an organizer of the Assembly attended by about 10,000 women.

On the national front, the farm bill passed and the verdict is the bill is not the best but there are some good features for those of us in sustainable agriculture. This is the first bill that spends considerable dollars on the environment, rural development support is increased, and there may be openings for local food systems networks. The farm bill did not address the issue of huge payments to huge farms. Nor did it address the issue of parity, the issue of fair pay for products raised by farmers. Animal welfare advocates were also extremely disappointed.

On the state front in Iowa as well as many other states, the budget shortages are phenomenal. Tax cuts that were made in the past are now catching up as the axe falls on areas of education, elderly/childcare and services. The hog factory fight still rages and the leadership (or lack of) seems to back off any resolution to this issue. The second special session of the Iowa legislature slashed the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture’s budget by 86%. There will be no grants program next year.

But, we must continue to move forward. I have a new intern working with me this summer from the “Life in Iowa” program at Iowa State University. (see article this page). Kristen Garrett is a junior at ISU and will assist me with the work of WFAN.

WFAN has a five year celebration coming up in July (see article page 1). We are going back to the place where we first met, the Conservation Education Center at Springbrook State Recreation Area. July 16th to the 18th will be two days of education, strategic planning, and of course, fun. Laura and Dana Jackson will discuss their new book, “The Farm as Natural Habitat: Reconnecting Food Systems with Ecosystems” (see review page 5) and then lead a discussion on action. WFAN received funding from the Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation and the Leopold Center to bring women from around the country to help us plan the next 5 to 10 years.

So, here we are at a crossroads of our 5th anniversary. I am excited about our summer meeting so we can plot out the future of WFAN and celebrate how far we have come.

**Women, Food
& Agriculture
Network**

A Tides Center Project
59624 Chicago Road
Atlantic, IA 50022-9619

Women, Food, & Agriculture Network

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Women, Food and Agriculture Network

Membership is either \$30 or \$10 (your choice). Fill out this form and make your check payable to WFAN-Tides. 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.

Enclosed is \$30 as a gift subscription for:

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City/State/Zip _____

Address _____

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Women, Food & Agriculture

Email (print clearly): _____

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