

# Women, Food & Agriculture Network

## Our Community Came Together at the Tri-State Women's Gathering



by Angela Tedesco

*By breath, by blood,  
by body, by spirit,  
we are all one.*

Breath, Sara Thomsen

Transported from our homes and farms to the beautiful rolling hills of eastern Iowa, the earthy voices of WFAN Iowa members joined with those of women from Minnesota (Women in Sustainable Agriculture, MN) and Wisconsin (Wisconsin Women's Sustainable Farming Network) to create community at the third Fall Harvest Tri-State Women's Gathering at Camp EWALU near Strawberry Point, Iowa. We brought with us symbols of the places from which we came, set them upon the mantle, and opened our hearts to the gathering.

From opening, to campfire, to closing, we were led in magical songs by Sara Thomsen. The songs she used touched us in many ways. We bonded immediately with Sara's great aunt Irene Marguerite.

*By the time I came along  
you were seventy and strong  
Like the corn in the fields,  
growin' gardens,  
makin' meals  
And I spent summers  
on your farm,  
like my mother  
when she was young*

Irene Marguerite, Sara Thomsen

We harvested the support and inspiration of our colleagues that included farmers of dairy—cows, goats, and sheep—farmers of plants—fruits, vegetables, prairie flowers, willow—farmers of meat—beef, sheep, goat, chicken, turkeys, eggs—plus students, musicians, photographers, mothers, activists, organizers, cooks, writers, massage therapists, artists, scientists. We were and are a richly woven group of agricultural interests. In this nurturing community

(Tristate, 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

**December 6-7, 2002: Local Food System Conference.** Ames. 8th annual featuring Kent Whealy of Seed Savers Exchange. Workshop focuses on the need to preserve and build a diverse plant gene pool, diverse soil life, and diverse local foods systems. Contact: Jan Libbey, 641-495-6367; <libland@frontiernet.net> or Gary Guthrie, 515-382-3117; <ghfguthrie@hotmail.com>.

**Through December 12, 2002: Smithsonian Exhibit on Grasslands, "Listening to the Prairie: Farming in Nature's Image,"** Downtown Des Moines Public Library. The exhibit explores the history of the vast grasslands of the North American prairie through the eyes of progressive farmers and ranchers who are reinventing their work in order to preserve their way of life, cultivate the prairie lands, and diversify their own output. Visit <www.desmoineslibrary.com> and click on the link for "Listening to the Prairie."

**December 5: Alternative Energy Rally,** Des Moines. Iowa Students Toward Environmental Protection (STEP) will raise awareness of Citigroup's continued funding support of practices that contribute to global warming. The action begins at 10 AM at Nollen Plaza. Contact <marquard@grinnell.edu>.

**Jan 10-12, 2003: "Leopold Legacy: Conservation Wisdom Past and Present,"** Guthrie Center. Environmental education workshop sponsored by the Iowa Conservation Education Council. Featured speakers include Nina Leopold Bradley, Curt Meine, Denise O'Brien, Joe Paulik, Fred Kirschenmann, and Paul Johnson. Pre-conference workshops are held Jan 10. Call Bremer County Extension Office at 319-882-4275, or email <DSiefken@iastate.edu> or visit <<http://www.iowaee.org/>>.

**Jan 24-25, 2003: Practical Farmers of Iowa Annual Meeting.** Ames. Special Friday afternoon in-depth, three-hour workshops. Workshops, all-Iowa meal, inspiring keynoters, entertainment and the opportunity to connect with like-minded people. Call 515-232-5661.

**January 26-27, 2003: MSAWG Winter Meeting.** Arbor Day Lodge, Nebraska City, NE. Meetings will discuss how to

best use policy and programs to get support for sustainable agriculture, what role should we take with energy issues, profiles that work, opportunities for non-profits. For more information, call Teresa Opheim at 515-270-2634 or email: <MSAWG@aol.com>.

**February 27-March 1, 2003: Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference** LaCrosse, WI. Theme: "Keeping the Circle Unbroken," reflecting how all things in life are connected. This is a unique, farmer-centered conference, bringing together a diverse group of over 1400 participants from all over the Upper Midwest and beyond. It has become renowned as the premier educational and networking event for farmers and others in the organic community. Registration is \$149 for Thursday evening, all day Friday and Saturday, including breakfast, lunches and breaks. On Thursday, the conference will again host the Organic University, all-day seminars at \$135 per course. To receive a conference flyer, with complete information, email <moses339@wwt.net> or call the UMOFC voice mail line at 715-772-6819 or write UMOFC P.O. Box 339 Spring Valley, WI 54767. Website: <www.mosesorganic.org>

## Opportunities

### Attend World Social Forum

WFAN is joining forces with Agricultural Missions, Inc. to organize a delegation of small farmers and farm workers to attend the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, Jan. 21-28, 2003.

The World Social Forum is becoming the global forum for building consensus on common strategies for progressive social forces. Last year 60,000 people from 131 countries gathered to learn, discuss, network and write common actions regarding economic globalization.

Denise O'Brien is on the board of Agricultural Missions, Inc. and has agreed to help them send one, preferably two people to the forum. Ag Missions is working with Via Campesina, an international movement that coordinates peasant organizations of small and middle-scale producers, agricultural workers, rural women, and indigenous communities

### 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:

March issue: February 15, 2003

June issue: May 15, 2003

September issue: August 15, 2003

December issue: November 15, 2003

Address: 59624 Chicago Road  
Atlantic, IA 50022-9619  
712-243-3264

Newsletter Production:  
Denise O'Brien  
([CoWfan@metc.net](mailto:CoWfan@metc.net))  
Katy Hansen  
([kwhansen@ia.net](mailto:kwhansen@ia.net))  
Betty Wells  
([bwells@iastate.edu](mailto:bwells@iastate.edu))

from Asia, Africa, America and Europe.

Any woman (not only those in Iowa) who is a member of WFAN and wishes to participate in this world event, contact Denise at 712-243-3264 or <CoWFAN@metc.net>. Funds will cover travel to and from Brazil, but women must help raise approximately \$400 to cover costs of visa, lodging and in country costs for seven days. This will be an opportunity to participate with people from around the world on the expanding effort to counter corporate globalization.

## Books

### WFAN Member Publishes Book

Cynthia Vagnetti has published, in collaboration with Jerry DeWitt, a book of photographs and text entitled *People Sustaining the Land, A Vision of Good Science and Art*.

Cynthia and Jerry traveled over 46,000 miles across the United States to document people's success on the land using sustainable agricultural practices.

Copies may be ordered for \$21.00 plus postage from Cynthia Vagnetti, 2215 Rowley Ave., Madison, Wisconsin 53726 or by emailing her at <cynthia.vagnetti@pressroom.com>

### Women in Charge

In a project begun several years ago, the Wisconsin Women's Sustainable Farming Network is happy to announce the self-publication of their 125+ page book *Women in Charge—Tales and Teachings from Our Farms*. This book was created by the women of WWSFN to tell their stories to each other.

This is a book that will make you laugh and make you cry. WWSFN members share personal experiences from their farms—from learning to put up a fence to how to assess the integrity of an old farm basement. Tales of animals gone astray, or lambs that won't leave the living room. And much, much more.

To purchase a copy, please send a check for \$15.00 (this also covers postage) to Jody Padgham, 2240 310th St, Boyd, WI 54726. Any questions can be directed to Jody at 715-667-5501 or jodypadgham@hotmail.com.

## Carolyn Raffensperger on Sustaining Communities

(A report on the Tri State Women's Gathering keynote talk by Diane Phillips)

The Third Annual Fall Harvest Women's Gathering for Women in Sustainable Agriculture—with locally and sustainably produced meals, informative and creative workshops, music, and community—is over for another year. Among the many highlights for me was the Saturday night keynote speaker, Carolyn Raffensperger, who spoke about sustaining community in the aftermath of the recent election. Raffensperger is currently executive director of the Science and Environmental Health Network and is actively involved in implementing the Precautionary Principle, in revising the judicial system, and in working on environmental medicine.

She gave her reaction to the election and the many judicial appointments that will affect the country for many years to come. Searching for a hopeful agenda that would be truthful, local, and based in community values and environmentally-sound principles, Raffensperger noted that:

"Humans are only one vote in a parliament of 30 million. The political agenda of the rest of the parliament—the gray whales, the ruby-throated hummingbirds, the crawfish, the German cockroach—must also be honored or they will guarantee that we will move ever faster on the suicide track. We cannot tax the ecosystem beyond its ability to regenerate. We cannot tax the ecosystem without representation. The vote isn't in yet! What do the wolves have to say about this election?"

Raffensperger lives in Ames with her husband and runs a 3500-acre organic farm in North Dakota. She is a lawyer, was an archaeologist, and has worked for the Sierra Club on issues that include radioactive waste disposal, national forest management, and problems of organic pollutants in the Great Lakes.

Raffensperger shared thoughts on a political agenda that would sustain communities based on new ideas. These ideas would replace ones that underlie the present system based on corporate business structure and anti-environment themes. She would like to see a justice system

that not only "supports a living economy and a vibrant democracy" but one that unites lawyers with scientists in an understanding of "the rule of nature." Raffensperger called attention to the power of ideas:

"It's time the environmental and public health community devoted resources to vigorous debates about corporate rule of our market economy, about the political consequences of continuing to use scientific uncertainty as a scapegoat. It is time to give voice to viable alternatives, to a vision that focuses on economics as if the earth mattered, as if communities mattered, as if democracy mattered, as if justice mattered."

She claims that the place where hope and vision for such a future lies in the company of women, in the community of women who fully understand growing, healing, mending and weaving.

According to Raffensperger, current food decisions are based on two wrong assumptions: 1. food is about the free enterprise system and 2. problems with the system are managed through science. Results from these assumptions—a massive dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico, obesity as an epidemic, and farming as a dead-end profession.

Much of the speaker's work the last several years involves using the precautionary principle. The precautionary principle says simply: if we are faced with harm, even if we are scientifically uncertain about the magnitude or cause, take precautionary action to avoid that harm.

The task of developing ideas and strategies around a political agenda based in notions of food, local politics of place, community, the ecosystem—including the non-human voters and the big issues like health and the sacred—seems daunting. The energy and ideas presented by the keynote speaker suggest our own responsibility for action. Gathering together to share talents, gifts, and energy is one way of approaching the job. Raffensperger noted that while she may not be confident that we can affect the necessary changes, she is hopeful. That seemed a good message to carry away from the gathering.

# Gender Benders at Full Circle Farm

by Nan Bonfils

Who said, "You're either a masochist or a feminist?" I don't know who gets the credit, but those words are penned on a wee post-it on my refrigerator. Among all the reshuffled magnets, announcements, and lists, they never seem to wander. It's my standard response, though not always verbalized, whenever I hear women I know whining about the inequities of their situation. Do I have trouble reconciling that logic - if not a feminist, you must be a masochist - with the reality I live in? Often.

For years I have taken on tremendous tasks at Full Circle Farm, almost all of which fall to me by conventional gender split. My husband, Don Adams, cuts time from his farm duties to help as much as he can. I'd guess that he does so far more often than the average farm husband, if there is such a thing. But I am the chief cook, dish washer, grocery shopper, laundress, errand runner, and message manager. Did I mention house-cleaning? That's a deliberate omission. Here's another quote I keep over my sink: "Housework is a thing you do that nobody notices unless you don't do it."

I don't know how many customers would get an invoice from Full Circle Farm if I didn't send one. Don check email? I don't think so. I am the farm's social glue and the cash cow. I am also a dynamite hay maker, master composter, accomplished wood splitter and avid vegetable grower. Masochist or just multi-tasking?

Not that Don and Harold (Don's father) are sitting around watching Oprah. I live with two lean, hard-working men who perpetually need to refuel. Except for two of the farm's seven cats, a dozen or so hens, Kylie the wonder dog, and the cows and heifers, I have been the only consistent female spirit at Full Circle Farm for over seven years.

So when Elizabeth Blair, a.k.a. Eli, came our way as an intern sponsored by the Women, Food and Agriculture Network, I was most welcoming. And a tad wary. What would a savvy, independent woman thirty years my junior make of the gender lines at Full Circle Farm?

I suspected that she would have plenty to say on that subject and it might not all be exactly what I wanted to hear.

Eli was savvy, indeed. Way too savvy to presume to judge too quickly. In fact, Eli was too busy working to do much gender analysis. A trooper who was willing to join any one of us on any farm task, Eli made life a lot easier for everyone. Since her hands often replaced my hands - for fence repairs, wood splitting, weed pulling, washing buckets, digging potatoes, hay stacking - I actually found the remaining tasks that still fell to me (you know which ones, I reckon) a bit easier to bear.

Eli already had some training with dairy cows that paid off handling our Angus herd, especially those mischievous calves. She's a native Iowan so she was acclimatized to summer's heat, only whining when everybody else did. Being the only person at Full Circle Farm to wear a watch, Eli became our official time keeper!

When it was time to host the July WFAN picnic, we all bantered a bit about who would drive the tractor for the farm hayrack tour. Again, I second guessed my own good sense, worrying aloud that my feminist guests would see me as somehow weak if Don drove. While I was busy overanalyzing, Don wasn't. It never occurred to Don not to drive. He wanted me to be able to sit and talk with my friends while he watched the ruts. He said it had nothing to do with gender; it was just about getting the job done in a sensible manner.

And that's what Eli and I have pretty much concluded. It's about getting the jobs done - all of the jobs. Making dinner is one of the jobs. And, mercy, we eat well around here!

The folks at Full Circle are grateful to WFAN for offering to sponsor the internship that, in turn, paid Eli. (We miss Eli; she's back at Grinnell.). Thanks, Eli. For not judging and for just pitching in. I think of you often and wish you another bit of refrigerator post-it wisdom. I wish you a strong back, an open mind, and a loving heart.

**Laura Krause. WFAN Member,  
Makes the News**

*(edited from The Nation, October 28, 2002)*

"...Laura Krause is standing amid her fields of corn, which sway with a refreshing summer breeze. Krause is one of Iowa's 500 organic farmers. Wearing a straw hat, with a sun-reddened face and lively eyes, Krause appears the very icon of the American farmer from the last century. Her farm is tiny; she farms a hundred acres of corn, broccoli, potatoes, kale and carrots, all of them certified organic.

"...Krause bought this farm here ten years ago, and has kept growing her home-grown seed, a variety developed by the owner of this land a century ago, by replanting it every year. She sells the seed to other organic farmers.

"But not this year. In February, she sent her seed to a local lab for routine tests: Because she's certified organic, her customers want to know if there are transgenes in her corn. And sure enough, she discovered that genetically modified genes were in there. ...She lost her certification, and the price she received for her corn dropped by half-from \$3.50 a bushel to \$1.75 a bushel."

## Member Websites

Cynthia Vagnetti, The Digital Journalist:  
<[http://dirckhalstead.org/issue9907/gift\\_into.htm](http://dirckhalstead.org/issue9907/gift_into.htm)>

Abi Hutchinson:  
<[www.prairiefiber.com](http://www.prairiefiber.com)>

Maggie and Donna: <[www.prairieland-herbs.com](http://www.prairieland-herbs.com)>

Rural Womyn Zone: <[www.ruralwomyn.net/](http://www.ruralwomyn.net/)>

Rural Womyn Zone Sustainable Ag/Susan Houghton: <[www.ruralwomyn.net/sustain.html](http://www.ruralwomyn.net/sustain.html)>

Liz Garst: <[www.farmresort.com](http://www.farmresort.com)>

Angela Tedesco: <[www.turtle-farm.com](http://www.turtle-farm.com)>

Nancy Dundatscheck:  
<[www.showcase.netins.net/web/sacred-naturephoto/](http://www.showcase.netins.net/web/sacred-naturephoto/)>

LaVon Griffieon: <[www.kfoi.org](http://www.kfoi.org)>

# The Next Green Revolution

## Report

### Book Review

**The Next Green Revolution: Essential Steps to a Healthy, Sustainable Agriculture,** by

James E. Horne and Maura McDermott,

Haworth Press, Binghamton, NY, 2001.

*Review copyrighted by Dorene Pasekoff, Coordinator St. John's United Church of Christ Organic Community Garden Phoenixville, PA*

"What is a healthy, enduring agriculture? Once you have an idea of what it is, how do you practice it? And once you have some success at it, how do you convince others to change—to try something new?"

These questions from the preface of "The Next Green Revolution" are the ones all of us in sustainable agriculture struggle with — not only to define what sustainable agriculture is, but to explain to others how we practice it without getting lost in tangents. (Especially since ecosystems are all about tangents!)

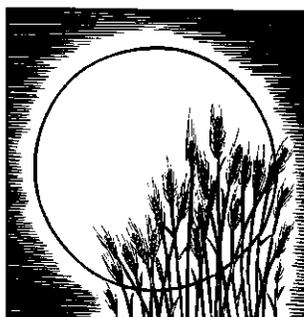
Horne, President of the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture in Oklahoma, and McDermott, the Center's Communications Director, have put together a readable and practical overview of what sustainable agriculture is, how it is practiced and probably of most interest to farmers, why this style of farming can preserve both their farm and their profits, both now and in the future.

While of interest to anyone concerned about how their food is grown, this is primarily a book by a farmer for other farmers. Horne, an Oklahoma farmer from a family of conventional farmers, speaks plainly about his preconceptions growing up about what a farmer should be. Like many western farmers, he didn't trust the Rodales and their methods on first hearing because "what did a couple of Pennsylvanians know about farming in Oklahoma?" As an agricultural agent fresh out of school, he advised other farmers as the university and agribusiness companies suggested. Over time, however, he saw that these input-inten-

sive methods were degrading the soil and bankrupting the farming communities he had grown up with. Slowly and to much local ridicule, he and the Kerr Center began investigating low-input sustainable agriculture.

Horne didn't become an organic grower overnight and he doesn't expect the current generation of conventional farmers to transform instantly either. So, he puts aside rhetoric and lays out sustainable agriculture in eight chapters that any farmer can pick and choose from to improve their farm immediately: create and conserve healthy soil; conserve water and protect its quality; manage organic wastes to avoid pollution; select plants and animals adapted to the environment; encourage biodiversity; manage pests with minimal environmental impact; conserve nonrenewable energy resource; and finally, increase profitability and reduce risk.

Personally, I haven't seen a book that lays out the practices of sustainable agriculture as clearly and concisely as "The Next Green Revolution." This book is especially relevant as the 2002 version of the Farm Bill, with its proposed Conservation Programs, would pay most farmers, regardless of certification, to implement many of the soil and water conservation methods Horne describes. If your tongue trips up trying to explain sustainable agriculture or the current conservation amendments to the 2002 Farm Bill to local farmers who wonder what the heck you're doing on your farm or why all these food activists are making such a fuss about "organics," hand them this book. They'll no longer wonder - and they just might start practicing these techniques on their own farms.



### Shared Leadership

In mid-October, Stacey Brown, Denise O'Brien and Betty Wells participated in a Shared Leadership workshop at the Nature Place in Florissant, Colorado. It was part of Cultivating Leadership for a Changing Agriculture, a three-year program funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and sponsored by the Institute for Conservation Leadership and the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST), to build and strengthen the leadership capacity.

The purpose of the program is to help leaders build effective organizations in a changing world, engage new people with diverse perspectives, create new and successful partnerships across disciplinary lines, and strengthen the ability of participating board members and staff to effectively lead and govern their groups.

The WFAN team was one of eight selected to participate: Rural Roots: The Inland Northwest Community Food Systems Association, the International Indian Tribal Treaty Council, University of Wisconsin's Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems, the American Forage and Grassland Council, the American Phytopathological Society, Society for Range Management, and Tri-Societies.

We outlined several leadership challenges facing WFAN: increasing member diversity, maintaining a place-centered core while expanding geographical reach, increased formalization and creating culturally appropriate models of change. During the final day of the workshop we developed three organizational action plans now under consideration by the other members of the coordinating council (Katy Hansen, Amy Miller, Virginia Moser, Linda Nash, and Danielle Wirth). These plans for board development, organizational formalization, and a reachable fundraising plan will be further developed in subsequent weeks and at a dedicated board retreat February 21 and 22. If you would like to join us at the retreat (cost approximately \$35) and are willing to commit to the full 24 hours and follow-through, please contact Betty Wells, <bwells@iastate.edu>, or 515-294-1104.

# Baling Hay

by Janette Ryan-Busch

Feather light, and supple as autumn leaves.

The green blanket of mown hay  
has lain out to sun and sky  
for two full days.

Morning dew burned to vapor.

Purring tractor and constant clicking rake  
combed perfuming hay  
into long, straight, windrows.

The whole length of field  
striped green on green.

A wide whale corduroy  
tossed over three rising hills.

In one fluid muscular movement  
hay hook catches bale,  
and the freshly pressed 80 pounds  
is pulled across the yawning gap

from baler to rack.

Gloved hands grab  
dual strands of golden twine.

Knee lifting the bale  
into the rising rolling stack  
a shower of green chaff  
sifts down

into sweat soaked clothes.

The swaying rack holds 85 bales.

stacked tight

like a wooden blocked fortress of childhood.

We pull to barn, welcome cool water,  
and begin the unloading.

102 August degrees

We stand to sun

knees bent surfing

the dip and sway of rolling hay rack

trailing tractor and baler over curve and swell of hills.

A sea of hay.

The barn is dark

the air inside hangs hot and sweltering  
thick with green chaff swirling.

Rack after rack

hour after hour

the field is cleaned  
and barns bulge with winter fattening hay.

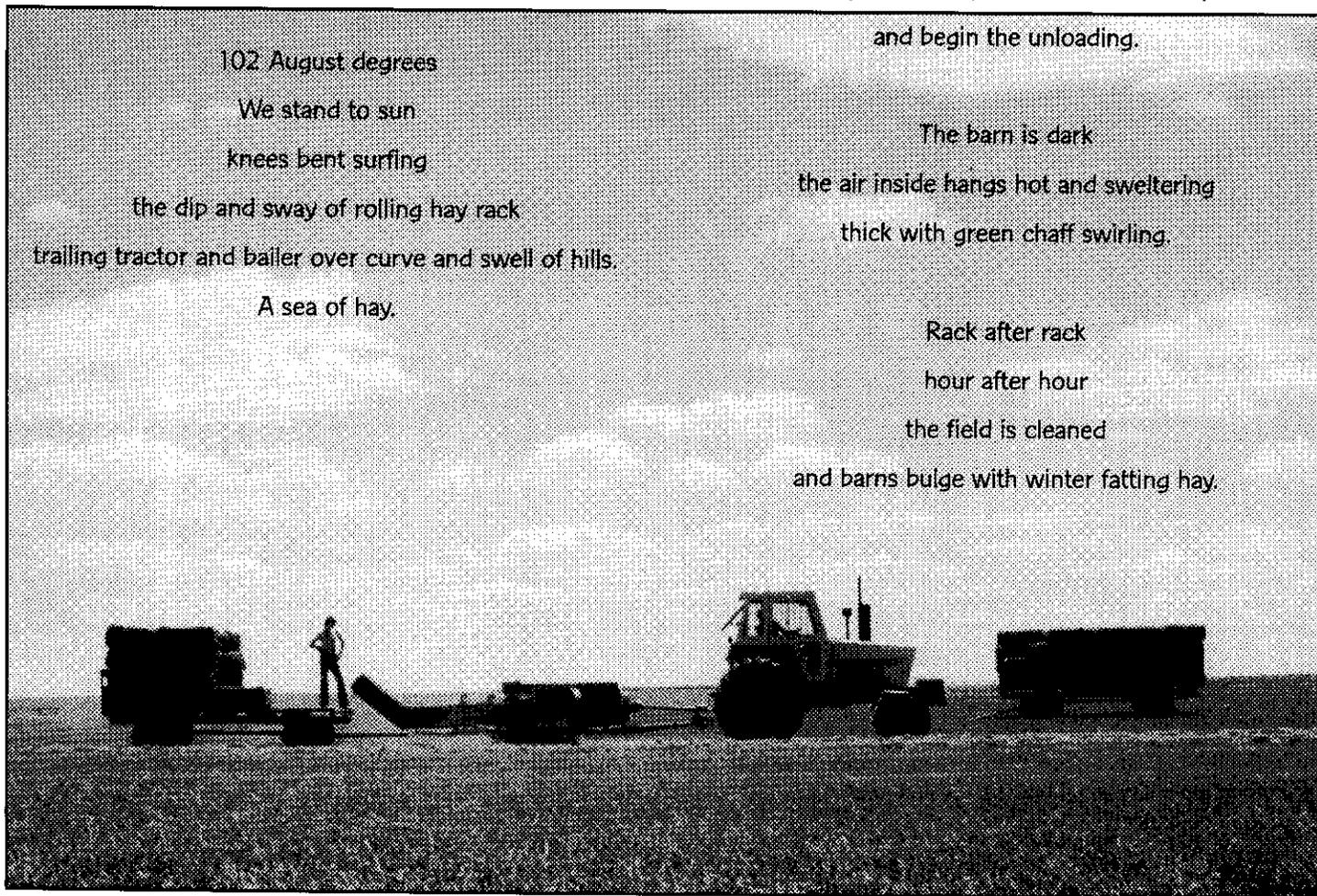


photo by Katy Hansen

## Our Community Came Together

*(Tristate, continued from page 1)*

we shared stories of how we at times feel different in our home communities; sometimes standing alone, but with much conviction, trying to educate as we swim upstream, dismantling stereotypes along the way.

Carolyn Raffensperger, our keynote speaker, challenged us to take our knowledge and experience to create a vision of a sustaining community that can be translated into policy. This vision would be based on truth, beneficial relationships, and local community values rather than the current system based more on the free enterprise system that assumes science will find and solve its problems. "The unreasonable woman invites the world to conform to her."

*How could anyone  
ever tell you,  
You were anything  
less than beautiful.*

*Libby Roderick*

With our networking juices flowing, we checked out appealing workshops that included fun ideas such as working with willow-value-added to crops we probably already have. Other topics were the "shocking" art of fencing on your farm, sampling and learning more about soils, tools to add to our stockpiles and creative uses for the ones on hand, the ups and downs and legal issues of finding, matching, and training interns for our farm jobs, listening to success stories of running a farm business, understanding the new farm bill, and living simply in community.

And while it was great to have all our meals prepared for us by the camp staff from local foods (thank you GROWN Locally Grower's Cooperative), the slow food workshop participants got their hands gooey making gnocchi for our dinner. YUMM!

Three among us took us on an intimate visit to their farms. Bonnie Haugen of Springside Farm, Clinton, Minnesota,

showed us what a "normal" day on her farm might include. She exemplified two important farming characteristics—problem solving and a sense of humor. It was obvious she loved her dairy cows and her grass-covered hills almost as much as her family. Amy Miller from Cresco, Iowa had slides of her third farm in five years, joining with new husband Mike Natvig and his cow-calf, pig, and grain farming to add to her own organic vegetable production. A video of Alice Antoniewicz's Oregon, Wisconsin farm gave us interesting images of lambs being born, sheep being shorn, animals visiting a nursing home, and many different kinds of wools and their characteristics.

*Hidden Seed  
deep in the dark soil  
of the earth,  
Fertile Ground,  
womb of the Night,  
bring us new birth.*

*Darkness Cover Me, Sara Thomsen*

We planted the seeds of coming together again in community from the results of our silent auction. Over seven hundred dollars was raised toward scholarships and speakers for next year's conference. Thanks to all who made this year's retreat happen. Now we have dispersed back to our individual communities, singing our own songs—solos, duets, choirs—until next time!

### Coordinator's Corner

The long, cold winter nights will soon be with us. I appreciate living in a cold climate, it gives me time to slow down, to catch my breath, and to spend some time on reading and doing winter projects in preparation for the next growing season.

The women from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa once again had a wonderful time at the Third Annual Tri-State Women's Gathering. I attended workshops on soils, willow furniture making, small hand tool use, and safety, to mention a few. Sara Thomsen of northern Minnesota captivated us with her musical talent. She sang songs about self esteem and honoring women who came before us as well as thoughtful provoca-

tive songs addressing consumerism and political issues. One of my favorite memories of this weekend is the night around the gloriously snapping campfire singing old Joni Mitchell, Chris Williamson, Holly Near and Greg Brown songs.

The silent auction this year was quite competitive. I bid over and over again on items that I would have loved to bring home, but I kept getting outbid. The purpose of the auction was to raise additional money for giving honorariums to the presenters as well as give the planning committee a head start on next years gathering. I believe I can safely say that the Tri-State Gathering is here to stay!

It is always enjoyable to talk to women from other places to get a glimpse of what their lives are like. I am amazed at the capacity that women have to do so many things with so little time and usually with so few resources. I brought home the Wisconsin women's book *Women In Charge, Tales and Teachings from Our Farms*. From glancing through the pages, I know great women will fill hours of good reading.

This winter will be filled with meetings where we will meet each other and catch up on things that have happened during the past year. There never seems to be enough time to share what is happening in our lives.

WFAN's annual membership dues reminder will be coming out early next year. A part of my work is to raise money for our organization, not an easy task, but part of the work. It is made easier by you who pay dues. WFAN has over 150 dues paying members, and it is our wish that the organization keep increasing our numbers. Consider giving a gift membership to someone for Christmas. The dues are \$10 or \$30 a year. Members may decide their own level. Many give over \$30, and we are appreciative of those who are able to be generous.

Stay warm and have lovely holiday gatherings. Think and work towards peace in this ever-changing world.

# Women, Food & Agriculture Network

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



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on issues of food systems,  
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and environmental integrity.

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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 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:

Enclosed is \$10 for my yearly membership.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form to:

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

**Women, Food & Agriculture**

Email (print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

c/o Linda Nash  
2215 Rowley Avenue  
Madison, WI 53726