

Women, Food & Agriculture Network

Mary Hendrickson: a Woman Working to Create a Just Society



Mission

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

Interview by Denise O'Brien

WFAN member Mary Hendrickson is an Extension Assistant Professor in the Department of Rural Sociology and Co-Director of the Food Circles Networking Project at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Her work emphasizes understanding the global nature of the dominant food system and how farmers, processors and consumers take part in it. With her colleague, Bill Heffernan, she has written two reports for National Farmers Union on the concentration in the global food system. Her research analyzing an alternative food group, the Kansas City Food Circle, led to a state-funded University of Missouri Outreach and Extension project called the Food Circles Networking Project. It seeks to create an alternative food system by building direct relationships between farmers and eaters, relationships that are embedded in local community.

Hendrickson currently serves as the Associate Director for the University of Missouri Community Food Systems and Sustainable Agriculture Program. She

serves as President of the Community Food Security Coalition, a national organization of community-based sustainable agriculture, hunger, and environmental groups.

Hendrickson is involved in several research and outreach activities that specifically focus on increasing knowledge and awareness of community food systems among agriculture professionals and community leaders, as well as providing research information to farmers seeking alternatives.

Hendrickson grew up in Nebraska where she took an active role in the various activities of her family's 500-acre grain and livestock farm and participated in 4-H and FFA at the local and state level. One brother has remained on the family farm where he strives to make his sister understand the complexities of farming today.

Mary was a part of WFAN's summer meeting and is working with other members on developing a plan for a women's

(Hendrickson, continued on page 7)



Calendar

March 22, 2003: Taking Action on Corporate Power in Agriculture, 12:00-5:30 pm, Best Western Starlite Village, I-35 & 13th Street, Ames, IA (see article at right below)

Brown Bag Lunches, Rm 116, Capitol Building, Des Moines, Iowa (see article below)

March 12: Iowa's Rural Women
Speaker: Denise O'Brien, WFAN Coordinator.

March 26: Women's Health Care
April 9: Iowa Women & Economics

July 25-27, 2003: Midwest Sustainable Agriculture Working Group summer meeting, Delaware, Ohio. Contact Teresa Ophem, 515-270-2634, <msawg@aol.com>.

May 1, 2003: An introduction to community-based social marketing, Ames, Iowa. (see story at right)

July 18-19, 2003: WFAN Summer Meeting, Northeast Iowa, location and program to be announced soon!

July 25-27, 2003: Midwest Sustainable Agriculture Working Group summer meeting, Delaware, Ohio. Contact Teresa Ophem, 515-270-2634, <msawg@aol.com>

November 7-9, 2003: The Fourth Annual Tri-state Gathering at Good Earth Village, Spring Valley, Minnesota

Events

Brown Bag Lunches: Issues Raised by Report from the Status of Women

A series of informative "bring your own" lunches will highlight the findings of a recently released report on The Status of Women in Iowa. Written by the Institute for Women's Policy Research with the help of an Iowa Advisory Committee, the report gives Iowa grades on a number of issues affecting women and compares us to the rest of the nation. All Brown Bags will be held on Wednesdays from 12 noon to 1 p.m., Capitol Building, Room 116 (1st floor, east side, Des Moines, Iowa). They are free and open to the public. Reports will be available at each event for \$10. For additional information, please contact Charlotte

Nelson, 515/281-4461, 800/558-4427, or <charlotte.nelson@dhr.state.ia.us>. (See dates in calendar to the left.)

Workshop on Community-based Social Marketing

May 1, Ames

A workshop by Dr. Doug McKenzie-Mohr, "Fostering sustainable behavior: An introduction to community-based social marketing," lays out the principles of his successful model for social change.

Community-based social marketing has been demonstrated to be very effective at facilitating changes in such activities as waste reduction, watershed protection, water and energy efficiency, reductions in cosmetic pesticide use, and transportation changes. For example, a recent anti-idling project in Toronto reduced idling frequency by 32% and duration by 72%. Similarly, an outdoor water efficiency pilot revealed that community-based social marketing was far more effective than conventional approaches in reducing summer lawn watering.

For information or to register, visit <<http://www.iowarecycles.org/fsb-overview.htm>>. There is a special workshop rate of \$65 before April 1 (\$85 afterward) for members of the Iowa Environmental Council and its member organizations, including WFAN.

Taking Action for Family Farms

(from Campaign for Family Farms)

Family farmers and rural residents from across the Midwest will come together to take action on corporate concentration in agriculture. March 22, 2003; 12:00-5:30 pm, Best Western Starlite Village, I-35 & 13th Street, Ames, IA.

What it will take to win a packer ban? Update on the pork checkoff lawsuit. Several key issues facing family farmers and rural communities will be covered in break out sessions.

Registration is \$5.00. For information, call one of the following Campaign for Family Farms member groups:

Missouri Rural Crisis Ctr: 573-449-1336
MN Land Stewardship Project: 612-722-6377
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement: 515-282-0484
Illinois Stewardship Alliance: 217-498-9707
Citizens' Action Coalition of Indiana: 812-941-1170

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:

June issue: May 15, 2003
September issue: August 15, 2003
December issue: November 15, 2003

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Opportunities

AmeriCorps Community Garden Position

A position is available through the Des Moines Park and Recreation Department for a person to assist in recruiting, training and providing resources to community groups such as neighborhood associations, schools and community centers in the establishment and maintenance of community gardens. Salary is \$5.83/hr. with an educational award of \$4,725 upon successful completion of 1,700 hours within the first year of service for college, student loan, or trade school. May work fulltime or part-time, for one or two years. The successful candidate will have high school diploma or GED or will obtain such within the first year of service in AmeriCorps; be at least 17 years of age; have reliable means of transportation and a valid driver's license. Apply in person, go to Human Resources, Room 103, City Hall, 400 East First Street, Des Moines, IA 50309, or apply online at <<http://www.mycityhall.net/iowa/desmoines/jobs/applonline.cfm?ID=34>>. For more information contact <jobs@ci.des-moines.ia.us>

Position Available: Churches' Center for Land and People

The Churches' Center for Land and People (CCLP) has an opening for Executive Director, full time or shared halftime, to begin July 1, 2003. CCLP is a non-profit ecumenically-sponsored organization headquartered at Sinsinawa, Wisconsin, and serving rural life and concerns in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois.

Questions may be directed to Rev. Jerry Folk, Chair, 614 Division Street, Madison, WI 53705. 608-241-8661; jlfolk@tds.net Letters indicating why interested and resumes to the same by April 1, 2003.

Water Quality Grants Available

The 2003 applications process for water quality project funding through the Section 319 program begins in late February. This Federal program is administered in Iowa by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Iowa projects funded through this program must

address nonpoint source pollution problems that are adversely affecting water quality in Iowa, and must be consistent with the "State Nonpoint Source Management Program," dated September 2000. Full project applications will be due in April. For more information on the program visit: <<http://www.state.ia.us/epd/wtrq/npsource/npsintro.htm>> or contact Becky Schwiete at 515/242-6196.

Leopold Center Seeks Nominations

AMES, Iowa - Do you know a farmer who is truly top-notch in the field or at the farmers market? Do you know an educator or researcher whose work has helped Iowa's family farmers stay in business?

The Leopold Center is seeking nominations for the 2003 Spencer Award for Sustainable Agriculture. Nominations are due March 31, 2003.

The \$1,000 award recognizes a farmer, researcher or educator who has made a significant contribution toward the stability of mainstream family farms in Iowa. Contributions can be practical improvements in a family-owned farming operation, research projects, or educational activities and other work that have led to the ecological and economic sustainability of Iowa's family farms.

The first Spencer Award was presented in 2002 to farmers David and Amy Petersen of Blue Grass, Iowa. They own a dairy herd and operate a genetic seed-stock and replacement heifer business that supports their family and several part-time employees. They have increased yields and trimmed costs by using injectable manure from their dairy operation as fertilizer for crops.

The award was established in 2001 by the family of Norman and Margaretha Spencer who farmed near Sioux City for 40 years. The family asked that the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture administer the award to help ensure the future of Iowa's family farms.

For award guidelines and a nomination form, contact Laura Miller at the Leopold Center, (515) 294-3711, lwmler@iastate.edu. Nomination materials also are posted on the Center's web site, www.leopold.iastate.edu.

The Leopold Center, established by the 1987 Iowa Groundwater Protection Act, supports the development of profitable farming systems that conserve natural resources. The Center is named after Iowa-born conservationist Aldo Leopold and is located at Iowa State University.

Resources

New CAFO Rules Analysis

The Clean Water Network has posted detailed information on the EPA Final Rule for CAFO effluent guidelines and permits, including a side-by-side comparison of the Final Bush administration rule, the Clinton proposed rule, and the previous rule. The website is <www.cwn.org>. Click on "find out more" selection in the Action and News item for the CAFO rule.

EPA Guide

A Guide to Understanding a Sense of Place is available at: <<http://www.epa.gov/ecocommunity/tools/community.pdf>>. The Guide is designed for people involved in community-based initiatives, including those affiliated with community and watershed-based organizations, universities, and government agencies. To request a FREE copy of the Guide, visit <<http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom/index.htm>> or call 800-490-9198. The publication number is EPA 842-B-01-003.

Websites

I Want More Say in My Food Choices: <http://www.ag.iastate.edu/centers/leopold/pdfs/food_resource_guide.pdf>

Food, Fuel and Freeways: An Iowa perspective on how far food travels, fuel usage, and greenhouse gas emissions:

<<http://www.ag.iastate.edu/centers/leopold/pubinfo/papersspeeches/ppp/intro.html>>

Center for Rural Affairs: <www.cfra.org>

Rural Women's Products: <www.ruraldevelopment.org/prod.html>

Institute for Agriculture and Food Policy: <www.iatp.org>

Beyond Porto Alegre: The Girl With the Big Ears

by Nancy Dundatscheck

I left my relatively comfortable Midwestern corner of the world on a wintry morning anticipating an undefined positive change in my sojourn to a warmer place further south.

I woke to the mellow sweet voice of Bob Marley over the loudspeaker in my dorm room at 6:45 am, Porto Alegre time (2:45 am, Midwestern time!), a guest of the Casa Marista, a beautifully situated youth hostel at the edge of the city. This was the second official day of the Via Campesina (Way of the Peasant) Assembly, and delegates from all over the world were joyously greeted with music, fruit, and ceremony the previous day and evening. I was gripped by the spiritual power in the *Mistica*, or ritual, performed by members of the Landless Workers Movement, or MST. In the next days, I would learn more about agricultural movements and political organizing, and discover the importance of this ceremony in giving the MST the staying power to get through tougher times.

Following the Via Campesina Assembly, I was readying myself for a taste of the “Main Event.” The World Social Forum opened with a splash — thousands of people marched and con-



verged on the Porto Do Sol amphitheater that evening.

The Forum was gripping and at times overwhelming. My experience was enhanced by the other members of the U.S. Agrarian Delegation. I had many conversations with people from other countries. For the most part, they asked

about what life was like for me as an American person who lived “inside the belly of the beast.” I had a few negative encounters, but most by far were positive. What I sensed most from others was a desire to connect. I felt lucky . . . and connected.

So, how could I live the life according to the World Social Forum? I received clues from the workshops, and from the hostel where I was staying. I distinctly remember the cooks who provided the meals, in a no-nonsense and non-pretentious manner. But one woman—an Afro-Brazilian woman with a hearty laugh—made sure we had late afternoon espresso and cookies to fill our stomachs, especially if we missed dinner. The day I left Casa Marista, I thanked each of the cooks with signed black and white photographs that I had taken at home, but that one laughing woman, well—she got the Iowa honey.

The biggest part of the answer was waiting for me in the countryside, towards the end of my stay. We visited a settlement and participated in the Campaign of the Seeds Celebration. A settlement is a living example of the successful efforts of MST members working toward permanent title on the land.

An encampment is more preliminary and is much more tentative and vulnerable than a settlement. A large number of framed timbers covered in black plastic, the encampment was a congregation of individuals who decided to take a stand for integrity based on community. They were proud and determined individuals—men, women, children (and a few dogs!), with a desire to right themselves. to create something from ideas, mud and dust, sweat, water, and blood. The encampment contained a large wooden cross and a crudely constructed altar. This is the part of the revolution that is not so glamorous, but per-

haps the most beautiful.

The quality of life for MST members was enviable in terms of social and agrarian reforms, living standards, and self-sufficiency. The graciousness displayed by our hosts, in the way of symbolically rich ceremony, joyously shared food, and generously offered gifts, left me speechless. I had never encountered so much warmth from a group who had



known us for such a short time.

Elizabeth Smith, a delegate from Northeast Organic Farming Association, reached out to the children in the encampment, showing them how to needle together pieces of plastic straw, jute, and colored paper. The first child she taught was a 9-year-old girl with big ears and an even bigger heart. She immediately shared her new skill and materials with another, younger girl sitting next to her.

It was time to leave, and I was elated, relieved, and saddened. My eyes connected several times with those of the children waving good-bye, especially those of that big-eared girl. “She will grow into those ears and become a beautiful woman,” I thought.

I had found the missing piece in the smile of the little girl. That piece was the connection we had as members of the human family, of which she was just a distant relative. Her struggle was my struggle, and the decisions I made each day of my life would affect her. At that moment I knew I was no longer alienated from the rest of the world in my com-

(Porto Alegre, continued on page 7)

Book Review



When Water, a Fundamental Heritage, Becomes a Private Commodity for Sale

Blue Gold: The Fight to Stop the

Corporate Theft of the World's Water
by Maude Barlow and Tony Clark, The
New Press, New York (2002)

Review by Jayne Breckenridge

The authors enlighten the reader about impending threats facing fresh water systems globally: population, pollution, diversion and depletion. Availability on a per capita basis is decreasing steadily. Massive pollution from agricultural run-off, industrial waste, landfills, and municipal waste facilities lacking proper treatment systems are leading to extensive ecosystem breakdown. Lakes and streams in various parts of the world become breeding grounds for water-borne pathogens, gravely endangering human health. In addition, the number of significant dams has increased from 5,000 in 1950 to over 40,000 today. Meanwhile, reservoirs built primarily for irrigation and hydro-electricity, such as the Three Gorges Dam in China, are displacing millions of people and reducing the long-term dependable, continuous flow of fresh water, and in some instances stopping it altogether. Dependent communities of users downstream are completely separated from their traditional water sources. The merciless mining of aquifers, lakes, and streams for intensifying commercial agriculture, industry, and domestic usage is, in a growing number of places, depleting watersheds of fresh water faster than nature can replenish it. The results, the authors point out, are nothing short of devastating: sinking cities, desolate land, and desiccated water basins. Yet another perilous threat to water availability is on the horizon, just now starting to encroach: privatization of the world's fresh water.

In March 2000, at the World Water Forum in The Hague, the adopted criteria designated water a commodity. With backers like the World Bank and the United Nations, water is now regarded a marketable human need, rather than a simple common heritage, like the air

(will that be next?). Poor governments unable to meet the strict standards decreed for water safety, or unable to repay their International Monetary Fund (IMF) development debts, have been compelled to sign away control of their water resources to transnational corporations such as Bechtel, Vivendi, and Suez. These large private conglomerates are supported in assuming control over water supplies by global trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and institutions such as the World Trade Organization (WTO). In countries where privatization has taken place, rates have increased. The poor, living in isolated areas or areas where the water delivery infrastructure has had to be entirely rebuilt, tend to be charged higher rates.

Bottled water companies such as Perrier and Evian have become part of a growing craze, and even PepsiCo and Coca-Cola are tapping into the water business for new profits. The consequences for the consumer are, increasingly, less-stringent standards of quality at a higher fee. Consequences for the world are ever-more-severe water shortages and mountains of plastic landfill.

The final chapters of this alarming book focus on advocacy and action to combat the problems highlighted. Water should not become a commodity for the highest bidder, but recognized as a fun-

damental human right; people have a right to debate the public vs. privatization issue; and our communities need to learn to become wise and responsible stewards of our common and invaluable fresh water.

The worth of this timely book is enhanced by its sprightly presentation, with subtitles such as *Endangered Planet* and *Red Alert*. Barlow and Clark have created a much-needed eye-opener for those with little knowledge of these enormous problems, challenging all of humanity to become "keepers" of the land. I highly recommend the book, but caution that it is not an easy read. The authors' in-depth research is to be applauded, as is their bringing to the forefront other voices such as the Worldwatch Institute, Friends of the Earth International, Greenpeace, Sierra Club, United Nations Environment Program, World Resources Institute, International Rivers Network, and Clean Water Network.

The 3rd World Water Forum will be held in Kyoto, Shiga, and Osaka, Japan, March 16-23, 2003.

(Jayne Breckenridge is an undergraduate student and beginning writer on a personal journey to becoming a classroom teacher and role-model.)

Member Websites

Cynthia Vagnetti:	< http://dirckhalstead.org/issue9907/gift_into.htm >
Abi Hutchinson:	< www.prairiefiber.com >
Maggie and Donna:	< www.prairielandherbs.com >
Rural Womyn Zone:	< www.ruralwomyn.net/ >
Susan Houghton:	< www.ruralwomyn.net/sustain.html >
Liz Garst:	< www.farmresort.com >
Angela Tedesco:	< www.turtle-farm.com >
Linda Nash:	< www.sunflower-fields.com/ >
Nancy Dundatscheck:	< www.showcase.netins.net/web/sacrednaturephoto/ >
LaVon Griffieon:	< www.kfoi.org >
Kathleen Lane:	< www.KathleenLane.com >

Catherine Sneed and the Garden Project

by Dorene Pasekoff, Coordinator St. John's United Church of Christ Organic Community Garden, Phoenixville, PA; from keynote address, Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture Conference, February 9, 2002; State College, PA.)

Standing in a welfare line with two children in San Francisco, Catherine Sneed wondered how someone like herself could make the world a better place. Over two decades, Sneed appears to have found her answer through the process of reconnection. First, by creating the Garden Project to help released prisoners re-connect to themselves and their communities by growing food for those who have none. Second, by harnessing the accolades from The Garden Project and connecting those on the "outside" to those who languish in and out of our nation's prison system.

We Are All Connected

"We are all connected," says Sneed. "What happens to people in jail affects us. We're paying for them to be there." Only 8 percent of the population of San Francisco is African-American, yet this group makes up 85% of its prison population. Most of these prisoners are poor, very angry, and/or very sad people. Sneed admits some of them scare her, but "they are all going to be released sometime." It behooves us all to help them deal with their addictions and give them job skills so they can become productive members of society, rather than "lifers on the installment plan."

While The Garden Project only hires the recently released, Sneed visits San Francisco's jails to teach inmates, "they are very smart and they can learn." Once they are released, she tells them, The Garden Project can give them "a different place to put what you know."

When the inmates are released, the Garden Project formally hires them at \$11/hour to grow produce. They then distribute it for free at senior and family centers. They grow and plant street trees around San Francisco. They "give back" by cleaning up the backyards of senior citizens. Everyone must report to their

Sneed believes "dissipates the addiction and anger so that they can change."

Sneed's proudest moments of connection and reconnection are probably the free food distribution days. The Garden Project participants grow the food, local police transport food and participants in

"We don't just grow plants, we grow people, too."

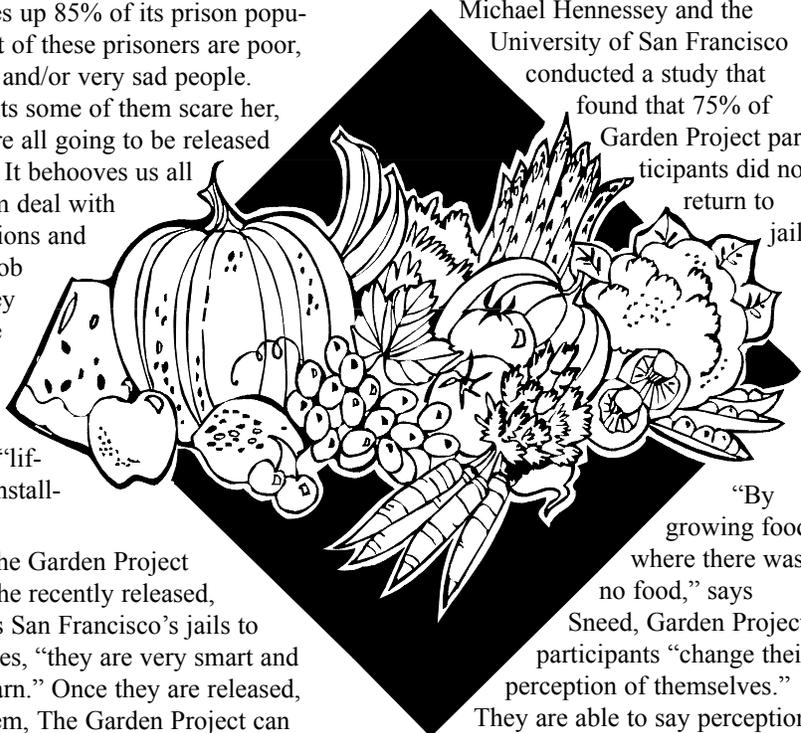
counselor and/or parole officer, and parents must attend parenting classes after work. Otherwise Sneed will not release their paycheck.

3,500 Former Offenders Have Gone Through the Program

According to the Garden Project's website <http://www.gardenproject.org/>, more than 3,500 former offenders have gone through the program since it began in 1992. In 1996, San Francisco Sheriff

Michael Hennessey and the University of San Francisco

conducted a study that found that 75% of Garden Project participants did not return to jail.



"By growing food where there was no food," says

Sneed, Garden Project participants "change their perception of themselves."

They are able to say perception of themselves." They are able to say, "I'm worth something," which

their vehicles to the participants' neighborhoods where, together, they set up a free farmer's markets where residents (usually children) can pick out produce to take home to their families. For the children, it's the first time many of them have seen fresh food. For the participants, it's a way to give back to their neighborhood. For the police, it's often the first positive interaction they've had with the neighborhood. For neighborhood residents, it's their first positive interaction with the participants and the police.

When She Has to Turn Inmates Away

Sneed's saddest moments are when she has to turn released inmates away—thousands every day—because she does not have the funds to hire them. "They go to the street, then back to jail or they die," Sneed says. "We need more programs like The Garden Project in our cities." Even at 6 million dollars, The Garden Project is cheaper than jail. To connect with a national audience and provide details about her program's success, Sneed has set up a website at [http://www.gardenproject.org.](http://www.gardenproject.org/) "Let your legislators know that The Garden Project is a model for healthy communities." Sneed urged in closing. "We are all connected."

Mary Hendrickson

Coordinator's Corner

(Hendrickson, continued from page 1)

leadership initiative.

Why do you do the work you do?

Mary: I want my life to be meaningful in the Judeo/Christian ethical sense. Working on issues of food and agriculture is a way to achieve a better society, better for urban and rural people. I want to do good while I am on this earth. I am drawn to food because I grew up on a farm and still have relatives farming. Food and shelter are basic. I believe there is no better way to transform society than through food. My work is about working to create a just society.

Where do you think it will lead?

Mary: I want my work to lead to the transformation of society. Sometimes my work is about protecting spaces for action so that people can participate in the food system. I work to protect farmers markets, family farmers, and rural communities by researching what consolidation does in order for others to use my research for action. I don't want everything turning into a "Wal-Mart." The work I do helps protect and create opportunities for people to transform our society to a just society.

How do you feel about the future of sustainable/organic agriculture?

Mary: The future is bright because being sustainable is the only future we have. Doesn't mean we don't have challenges. If I want to be truly pessimistic, I believe we might ruin humankind and the environment before we create a sustainable society. We have almost ruined things to the point of no return and if we don't act now it will be too late. There are multiple ways to be sustainable and organic and we must work hard to protect our future.

How important are women to the sustainable agriculture movement?

Mary: I think a lot of questions about sustainability originated with women. Some of the questions being raised about the current agriculture are being raised by women. Women help create new solutions with new ideas. They are responsible for food and so bring up questions that develop around their responsibilities. They feel called to action.

As I sit and write, Mother Nature is demonstrating her remarkable ability to bring humankind to its knees. The last 24 hours has brought sun, rain, sleet, snow and incredible gusts of wind. It is winter in Iowa. Before we know it we will be turning the soil, preparing the seed beds and planting our first crops of spring.

I have been to a number of winter farm meetings where once again I can catch up with folks whom I see once or twice a year. It is always a dilemma to choose between participating in a workshop or hanging out in the halls catching up on the lives of my friends and colleagues. I usually manage to get both done and always go home feeling energized and positive about the future of local food systems, organic agriculture and the people who are doing the work.

Unfortunately my positive feelings vanish quickly as I see the work we are doing being undermined by forces larger than us. All the work that has gone into the Conservation Security Program is being undone by lack of appropriations at the Congressional level. The latest news indicates that the organic standards are being undermined by allowing livestock to be labeled organic even though they are fed non-organic feed.

The work we all do is more important than ever in this time of economic instability with the ever increasing beating of

war drums. It is up to us to respond to action alerts that we receive about farm, rural and environmental policy. Call congresspersons, state legislators and local officials and let them know how you feel about the work they are doing - both positive and negative.

In this issue you will read about the World Social Forum recently attended by Nancy Dundatscheck, WFAN member from Boone, Iowa. The theme of the Forum was Another World is Possible. All of us know this is true, we just have to work hard to make it possible.

Another member, Mary Henderickson, is keeping track of the ever increasing consolidation of the food industry. Her knowledge will help us better understand why the work we do is so important.

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership and contributed to Women, Food and Agriculture Network. To those of you who have the membership form at the bottom of your pile or to-do list, please dig it out, fill it in and send it off. We truly appreciate the support that you as members give us to do the work we do.

As spring begins to draw us back outside with work and recreation, let us hope that our nation is not at war and that innocent lives are not being lost. I will be working hard for peace in our world and I hope you will also.

Porto Alegre

(Porto Alegre, continued from page 4)

fortable, yet sometimes troubled, American life. I had a new responsibility, one that I could treat as a burden, or one that I could accept as a gift. For in receiving the gift, we are given the ability to give. My actions in community could help create a new world, for the girl, for myself, and for all others in between. My lack of action, or my call to action, can make a big difference to the global community. It is my choice, my voice, and I am thankful.

(Nancy Dundatscheck lives in the Des Moines River Valley of Boone County, Iowa.)

How is it for you within a land-grant college?

Mary: Challenging. Males have dominated for so long in the land-grant system that they have created particular ways of doing things that aren't always friendly to women. My colleagues are not "bad," they just don't understand how a male dominated system doesn't always welcome women. Land-grants have their own set of issues with sustainability - they have incredible resources that need to be redirected to sustainable/organic. Women have to choose their battles - "every time an administrator calls you honey, you don't get mad about it." Sometimes you do, but you pick your battles.

**Women, Food
& Agriculture
Network**

A Tides Center Project
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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 Tides-WFAN. 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.

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Madison, WI 53726

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