

# Women, Food & Agriculture Network

## Water Privatization: A Summary of the Issues

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*“All water flows into the ocean or into the purse of the rich.”*

*proverb from Denmark*

*“Dirty water cannot be washed.”*

*proverb from Togo*

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by Nancy Adams

Under the World Trade Organization (WTO), the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), and other international trade agreements, water is being defined as a commodity that can be bought and sold. Transnational corporations are using these trade agreements to gain control of the world's water and water delivery systems to reap enormous profits for themselves. They are doing this in three ways: (1) taking over public utilities that supply water and other services, (2) collecting and selling bulk quantities of water, and (3) extracting millions of gallons of groundwater a day to bottle and sell.

In cities where public utilities have been privatized, prices for water and services have soared, while services have deteriorated. In places where bottling plants are removing millions of gallons of water a year, aquifers are being depleted and wells are drying up. Citizens around the world are protesting against transnational corporations taking over their water and water delivery systems and reaping enormous profits for themselves.

The United Nations predicts that 2/3

of the world's people won't have adequate drinking water in 2050. We in the Midwest are blessed with wonderful water resources - rivers, lakes, and aquifers. In particular, the Great Lakes hold 95% of the surface waters in the U.S. and 22% of the world's fresh water. Our aquifers and the Great Lakes and their watersheds are under constant threat of being exploited, and this pressure will only intensify in the future. We need to be vigilant about protecting our water resources from being appropriated and exploited for profit so that future generations will have enough water to meet their basic needs.

There are three main issues regarding the privatization of water that we need to be concerned about and address:

(1) rejecting the definition of water as a commodity and defining it as a basic human right and commonly-held resource — like air — that can't be commodified and/or exploited for profit;

(2) stopping the transnational corporations from taking over public utilities and water delivery systems; and

(3) prohibiting the sale of permits to extract millions of gallons of publicly-held water to bottle and/or sell for enor-

*(Water, continued on page 6)*

### Mission

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



## Calendar

**March 17, 2004: Iowa Farmers Union Lobby Day.** Events scheduled 9 am-12 p.m. at the Capitol Building, Rm 116. Visit [www.iafu.org](http://www.iafu.org) or call 800-775-5277.

**March 20, 2004: Global Day of Action on the one-year anniversary of the Iraq War: The World Still Says No to War.** The theme in Iowa is "Lend a Hand for Peace." In Des Moines, gather at 11:00 am at the Bulldog Theatre at Drake University (28th and University) for speakers and music. A Peace Parade at 12:00 noon. For more information, see [www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org).

**March 25, 2004: Indicators for Women's and Girls' Well-Being.** Sponsored by Iowa Women's Foundation and Iowa United Nations Association. Holiday Inn & Conference Center, Coralville, IA. Setting goals for 2010 and 2050 and finding indicators to measure progress. \$15 for lunch and materials. For information, email [turner@iawf.org](mailto:turner@iawf.org) or call 888-488-iawf (4293)

**March 27, 2004: The Beginning Farmer & Rancher Conference: Realities and Opportunities.** Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Kearney Nebraska. Forum to help beginning farmers and ranchers better manage the risks experienced in the early stages of their careers. Beginning farmers and ranchers from Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas and Missouri will especially benefit from the conference. Materials applicable nationwide. For information, see <http://www.cfra.org/bfrc/default.htm>

**March 29, 2004: Environmental Health Impacts of CAFOs: Anticipating Hazards-Searching for solutions** followed by 2-day scientific workshop. Sheridan Hotel, Iowa City. Information & registration at [www.ehsrc.org](http://www.ehsrc.org).

**April 9-10, 2004: Women, Environment and Agriculture.** Iowa State University. For more information, contact Danielle Wirth, 515-438-2363; email: [ehorizon@netins.net](mailto:ehorizon@netins.net)

**July 23-24, 2004: WFAN Summer Meeting** near Kanawha, Iowa. More details in the next issue.

## Women, Land, and Legacy Workshop

by Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen, USDA-NRCS

The annual Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI) conference provided an opportunity for WFAN and its partners to conduct a Women, Land and Legacy workshop session. Denise O'Brien, with Mary Swalla-Holmes (Ecumenical Ministries of Iowa), Carol Smith (National Catholic Rural Life Conference), and Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service) provided a four-hour workshop for eleven women and five men.

### Small Group Dialogue

The small group dialogue and focused conversation model used in the workshop were developed by Carol Smith. These techniques were very effective in bringing out key themes related to Iowa women involved in agriculture. The session began with each participant sharing 3-5 words that describe their relationship or connection to land. Responses represented values, relationships, stories of the land, and sustainability of the land.

Issues that Iowa women in agriculture contend with include: women are not recognized as landowners; they are not presented with a range of options; how their relationships (including to the land) affect decision-making; and how women are not taken seriously in the role of farmer. It was determined that effective outreach and information methods are needed for women, methods that do not follow the traditional model.

### Dreams

Small groups had the opportunity to discuss dreams that women in agriculture have for the land. Most dreams painted a picture of community, legacy, responsibility, diversity, values, culture and respect. If these dreams could come true, the whole group envisioned that Iowa would then include: more people on the land, vibrant main streets, a good livestock economy, biological diversity, communal labor, more children, young people working on farms, and farm buildings painted nicely. Finally, the group came to the conclusion that if dreams could

## Women, Food and Agriculture Network

This newsletter is published by the **Women, Food and Agriculture Network**, a Tides Center Project. 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:

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

come true, we would have what we once had. Why can't we have it again?

## Strategies

Strategies needed to support women in achieving their dreams were determined to include: developing supportive policy, increasing media coverage, having diverse income farm models, changing the definition of a farmer, improving rural services and infrastructure, having more rural schools, and working across state lines. There was additional discussion of the difference between a livelihood and a job and the need for developing diverse strategies for income that includes several income "streams" on the farm.

At the end of the workshop, there was discussion about the Women, Land and Legacy statewide project that is to begin this year. The participants were asked to describe what they thought would be an ideal setting for similar dialogues and conversations. The participants envisioned a quiet, private, comfortable place such as around a kitchen table or at a retreat center. The location would include round tables, lots of windows and sunshine. Small groups are preferred and it was determined necessary to include time for storytelling. During the workshop it became clear that story telling was valuable and needed to be a part of the statewide project.

## And So We Begin

The Women, Land and Legacy project will begin in 2004 in Lyon, Howard, Wapello, Marshall, Cass and Adams counties. Activities similar to the PFI workshop will take place with women in these counties. This will eventually lead to a larger effort that will develop into regional education/information strategies to include women in all counties in Iowa.

**Looking for  
one or two hardy women  
to housesit  
our comfortable farmhouse  
and pets  
from Sept. 29, 2004,  
to Jan. 30, 2005.  
Details: [wisewomn@bright.net](mailto:wisewomn@bright.net)  
or 740-986-6945.**

# Environment Under Attack in Wisconsin

by Linda Warren

Recently the Republican leadership of the Wisconsin Legislature introduced a 114 page "Jobs Creation Bill" in response to calls for the Legislature to do something about the severe job loss Wisconsin has experienced over the last few years. The bill was introduced on November 11, 2003 and had its first public hearing less than 24 hours later. The main theme from those testifying and from the Democrats on the Joint Finance Committee, the group holding the hearing, was disbelief that a hearing on such a massive bill would be scheduled before those interested in the legislation would have any chance to review the bill. When it became apparent that the environmental community would not accept the bill in its current form, plans to quickly pass the bill through committee and schedule it for a vote were scuttled.

You may be wondering why Wisconsin's environmental groups felt so strongly about a jobs bill. The answer is that the main ingredient of this so-called "jobs bill" is environmental deregulation, ostensibly in order to promote growth and investment in manufacturing in Wisconsin. However, read on for the Wisconsin State Attorney General's memo regarding this bill:

## Memo from Peg Lautenschlager, A.G., to Wisconsin Legislators:

*"The Department of Justice has a primary role in enforcing Wisconsin's environmental standards that is both statutorily and constitutionally based. Th(is) . . . analysis is intended to provide you with a description of the legal implications of the proposal before you on DOJ's ability to protect our natural resources. It . . . addresses the impact on our efforts to ensure the continued ability of the public to enjoy their natural surroundings and for private landowners to participate in key decision-making processes affecting the value of their property.*

*"On the whole, while the bill contains regulatory "streamlining" provisions, the bill contains significant changes in the law that represent substantial weakening of environmental standards that have*

*protected Wisconsin's waterways and air quality for decades, and violate the state's constitutional obligation to protect public rights in our navigable waters.*

*"As a general overview, the bill still belies its title as a "jobs" bill. A more appropriate title would be the "Wisconsin Waters Development Bill."*

*"The most significant general effect of the bill is to reverse decades of long-standing statutory standards and procedures which are intended and have been applied to protect state public waters, while allowing reasonable development that does not harm those waters.*

*"Any person familiar with any number of our lakes and rivers knows that development on our shorelines has not been halted by the administration of our current laws. In many cases such development can accurately be described as both prolific and accelerating. Still, many of the worst and most harmful of proposed developments have been prevented, or more often conditioned with reasonable limitations to protect basic public rights and interests in our public waters.*

*"An argument can easily be made that our existing laws, including with respect to the cumulative effects of allowing developments on our waterways, should be strengthened, not weakened, due to adverse effects being caused by existing and proposed developments and environmental pollution from them."*

This letter to legislators continues for seven pages, but the message is clear. Under the guise of "streamlining" regulations to promote job growth, environmental protections are being weakened and even discarded. Public hearings on the bill were purposefully limited, and the Wisconsin press have implied that it was in fact members of the Wisconsin business community who wrote most of the provisions of the bill.

The new Democratic Governor here is fond of saying "It is a new day in Wisconsin," but it looks like this new day will not necessarily be a good one for the environment in Wisconsin.

*(Linda Warren is on the staff of Wisconsin State Senator Russ Decker; D-Schofield, a member of the Joint Committee on Finance.)*

# Iowa Water Quality Summit - November 24, 2003

*(The following is edited from reports written by environmental science students (Biology 118) from Urban Campus, Des Moines Area Community College, who were invited guests of Governor Tom Vilsack during the Nov. 24th, 2003, Governor's Water Quality Summit.)*

## The Synthesis - Show Me the Money

*by Deb Riha and Kathleen Sanford*

In November 2003 Iowa took a step in the right direction when it held the first-ever Governor's Water Quality Summit to address Iowa's polluted waterways.

### Dirty Water

Look at the rivers,  
Look at the streams,  
Look at the tap water, nightmarish  
dreams.  
Dead fish rise, not good signs  
Drinking nitrates your health  
declines;  
What is important?  
Water I balance,  
Clean water is divine.

The focus of the Summit was to identify the various water pollutants and pollutants, develop strategies for improving Iowa's water quality, and increasing public awareness of the serious water quality problems. Some of the concerns that surfaced during the summit were:

- (1) Who will pay for the cleanup?
- (2) Where will the funding come from?
- (3) Should there be additional taxes on polluters and consumers who purchase products that involve pollution as a byproduct?

The Summit was not about finger pointing. It *did* focus on how Iowans can come together to find solutions for cleaning up the waterways. We are all guilty of polluting - urban dwellers, rural farming communities, agri-businesses, manufacturers, lawn care stewards, hospitals ...

the list goes on. It is imperative that everyone living or owning property in Iowa understand that they have a responsibility to protect water quality.

The good news is there is hope! According to the Water Summit attendees, Iowa citizens can play a positive role in Iowa's future. It will require better knowledge of Iowa's water quality challenges. Education is the key. Political leaders must also be brought on board at the local, state, and federal levels so that more relevance will be placed on water quality in current and future policies and programs. Finally, water quality programs will require a substantial increase in funding. Governor Vilsack challenged all Iowans to become leaders in solutions for clean water.

We pass the challenge on to you.

### Wells of Madison County

When Bulletins are posted  
Madison County residents cry  
"Do not drink the water," means  
nitrate levels are high.  
When wells are contaminated, and  
health is denied;  
Residents ask questions like....  
"Why?"

## Goals

*by Kathleen Sanford*

The Iowa Water Summit consisted of representatives of state, federal, local and private entities familiar with funding sources to determine if Iowa is maximizing all funds and programs available and if not, why not?

All participants were asked to attempt to answer the following questions: Is the goal on target? Does it go far enough? Does it go too far? How can it be improved? Is there a 'sense of the group' regarding the desirability of this goal? Ideas and suggestions were encouraged from all participants.

I was part of the Non-point Source work group. The Non-point Source Management Program (NPSMP) identifies Iowa's water resources and non-point source pollution issues, including agriculture and urban influences.

My breakout group listed six goals after some arguing, discussion and compromise:

- (1) Educate children, starting at the grade school level.
- (2) Encourage groups and organizations such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to teach a water quality program.
- (3) Integrate a water quality program into existing science courses at private and public schools.
- (4) Educate and bring on board political leaders representing local, county and state levels.
- (5) Utilize the media to run local ads.
- (6) Include water safety brochures in consumers' water bills.

We discussed accountability, *who* is accountable, and how we can make polluters be accountable.

The final consensus in my breakout group was:

- (1) The environment needs to be put *higher on the priority list for all citizens*. That includes local, state and federal governments.
- (2) Make it economically palatable, feasible and desirable to protect and conserve our water.

(3) The United States Department of Agriculture should foster incentives for collective action, develop a "group incentive" to protect our water.

(4) The bottom line is: money is very critical to put programs in place to protect water.

## Vision and Goals

*by Debra Riha*

Vision: Make Iowa the national center of expertise for clean water and a recognized leader for watershed restoration.

Goals:

- (1) Identify and recommend multi-objective resources, which provide for

the implementation of water quality and improvement programs in Iowa's watersheds.

(2) Through a democratically based approach, build a politically supported framework for increased cooperation, coordination and collaboration that will enhance partnerships between federal, state and local governments, the private sector and the public.

These goals need to be met in order to:

(1) achieve and maintain water resources for drinking, business and industry, economic development, recreation and its aesthetic worth;

(2) maximize efficient use of existing and new resources; and

(3) assure progress towards no impaired waters in Iowa by 2010

#### Summit Breakout Sessions:

While attending the meeting our group of 20 people talked about four implementation steps:

- (1) Coordination,
- (2) Multi-state coalition pilot project,
- (3) Drainage infrastructure, and
- (4) Funding.

In the meeting I was very frustrated because I thought that everyone was being too polite. When someone mentioned taxing the polluter there were people who challenged that idea. Then someone said that we should cooperate and not challenge each other. Taxing the polluter makes sense to me, but, I could tell only a few people in the room agreed that this was a viable option.

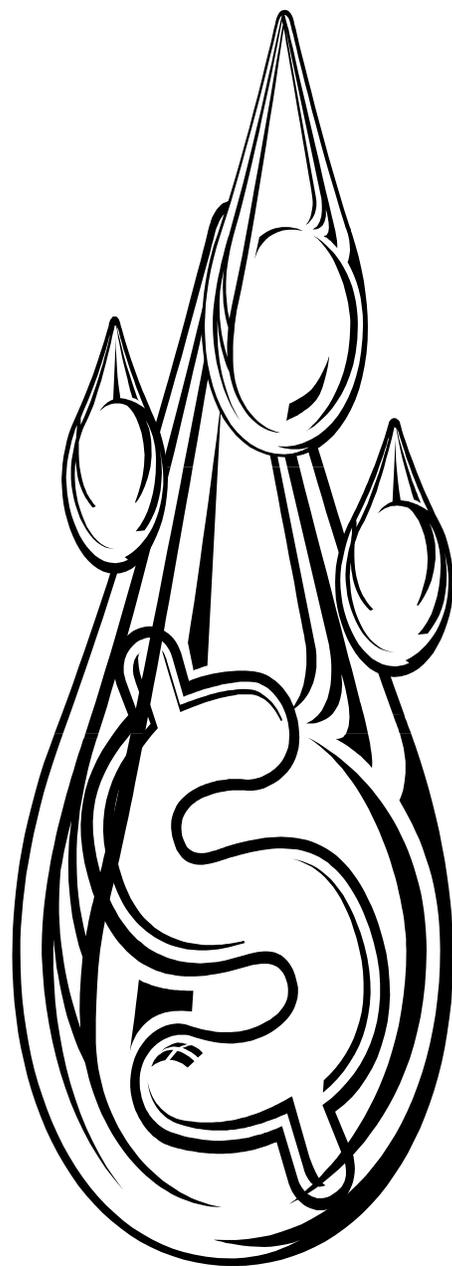
## Access to Adequate Clean Water is a Human Right

*(from Center for Economic and Social Rights, 162 Montague St., 2nd Floor , Brooklyn, NY 11201, tel: 718- 237-9145; website: <www.cesr.org>)*

Water is a basic element of all life. Over 70 percent of the human body is made up of water. While a human being may survive without food for several days, water deprivation can kill a person within a matter of hours. Water is also a requirement for the most basic activities vital to sustaining human life, including agriculture, cooking, and sanitation. Yet while water sustains life, it can also bring death if contaminated. Some of the deadliest diseases, which kill millions around the world each year, are carried in unclean water. Access to adequate amounts of clean water, for both consumption and sanitation, is a prerequisite for a healthy life. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares, "all human beings have the right to life"; this includes the right to water.

Although the international community recognized the right to water, as a component of the right to life, over fifty years ago, millions around the world are still denied access to adequate amounts of clean water. Violations of the right to water come in many forms: industrial pollution of water sources, failure to provide purification and sanitation for the urban poor, pricing of water delivery beyond the reach of the rural poor. In arid regions, states have regulated access to water as a way of controlling marginalized groups. Reclaiming water as a

human right reframes the terms of debate around water scarcity. While human actions or neglect cause most water shortages and contamination of water resources, the problems of water supply and sanitation are often portrayed as stemming only from natural phenomena such as drought, climate change, or seasonal weather patterns. Recognizing a human right to water is an important step toward holding decision-makers accountable and recognizing the social and political dimensions of water use and management.



#### Member Websites

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

If you would like your website on WFAN's website or newsletter, email <[cowfan@metc.net](mailto:cowfan@metc.net)>

# There Is Nothing Wrong with Wanting to Be a Farmer

by Heather Johnson

In 1997, I had a life changing epiphany - I realized there was nothing wrong with wanting to be a farmer. I hadn't consciously thought of objections to farming, but there was always the idea that becoming a farmer would be a waste of my college degree, an economically unstable career choice, and, maybe in a small dark corner of my mind, something only boys did. I remember telling a friend "in five years I am going to have my own place and will be farming." By the fall of 2002, I was working on my newly purchased acreage and helping my dad with harvest.

After my initial decision to farm, I realized I had to come up with a plan to make that happen. My goal was an island that I could see with near perfect clarity, but I had no idea how to reach. I couldn't even make a concrete determination of my first step. So I just stepped out in the direction that made the most sense to me at the time: I quit my corporate job and moved from the city to a smaller town, and let my family—and everyone else—know that I wanted to learn to farm.

When I actually faced the opportunity to farm, I got a little nervous. What if I didn't really like it? What if I felt just as restless and dissatisfied in agriculture as I had in every other career I had pursued? What if I made a fool of myself in front of the neighbors—all older, male farmers? Despite my decidedly un-fairy-tale-princess personality I even thought it would be nice if some guy would just come along and rescue me. I had grown up on a farm, but that was different than actually having the responsibilities of a farmer. I went ahead, and within days of moving to the farm I knew I had, in the words of the Shaker hymn Simple Gifts, "come down in the place I ought to be."

There is something in me that needs to be a part of the seasons, instead of just watching them through the window. I craved the connectedness of farming, without realizing that is what I was missing in my pre-farm life. Now I have a wonderful sense of being connected to my family, my heritage, and the land. As for the work itself - I love the "jack-of-all-trades" quality of it. I love feeling competent and knowing that at the end of the day I have built something, or nourished something, or fed myself directly from my labor.

So, I have achieved my goal. Now I face the challenge of learning to farm from when to plant the corn to how to fix a combine. Growing up, my parents instilled in me the idea I could be anything I wanted to be, but there was always

someone older, more skilled, or more masculine to do jobs on the farm, so I came away with surprisingly few skills. The other challenge I contend with is explaining that yes, I am a single 30 year old woman farming, and by farming I do mean driving machinery, repairing my buildings, and caring for my livestock. Even some friends have a hard time understanding that this is my profession, I'm not looking for a man to take over the farm work.

Despite the sometimes daunting, sometimes frustrating ventures I face, I love what I'm doing. None of the challenges are insurmountable, and each skill mastered brings satisfaction, each skill yet to be learned brings anticipation. Farming is another in a long string of experiences that have taught me my limits are a lot farther out than I usually give myself credit for.

*(Heather Johnson is WFAN member. She first came to the Fall Harvest Gathering three years ago when she announced she was going to be a farmer.)*



## Water Privatization

*(Water, continued from page 1)*

mous profits for themselves.

In addition to being concerned about our aquifers being depleted by bottling companies, we also have to be concerned about the huge volume of plastic water bottles that are finding their way into our landfills. According to Public Citizen, plastics comprise more than 25% of the volume of materials sent to landfills every year and are the fastest growing sector of waste being generated. In California three million plastic bottles are going into the trash every day, over a billion bottles a year. Most of these bottles could be recycled.

Many local, national and international organizations are working to stop the privatization of water. Some of the national organizations include Public Citizen and its Right To Water Campaign ([www.citizen.org/cmep/water](http://www.citizen.org/cmep/water)), the Sierra Club ([www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)), National Wildlife ([www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org)), and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy ([www.IATP.org](http://www.IATP.org)).

Groups working in Minnesota include Our Waters in the Twin Cities: contact Darcy L. Rowe ([charndar@scc.net](mailto:charndar@scc.net)). In Duluth - EAGLE (the Environmental Association of Great Lakes Education)

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*"You never miss the water until the well has run dry."*

*proverb from Ireland*

*"Water always finds a way out."*

*proverb from Cameroon*

*"A coconut shell full of water is a sea to an ant."*

*proverb from India*

*"You never miss the water until the well has run dry."*

*proverb from Ireland*

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([www.EAGLE-ecosource.org](http://www.EAGLE-ecosource.org)). is working to protect the Great Lakes from being privatized.

(Nancy Adams is an organic farmer, environmentalist and futurist residing on a 120 acre diversified farm in southern Minnesota. She's planting thousands of trees and perennial plants in various agroforestry schemes to establish a permanent agriculture system on her farm. The main crops are hazelnuts and chestnuts.)

## Resources on Water

### Books

**Blue Gold: The Fight to Stop the Corporate Theft of the World's Water** by Maude Barlow and Tony Clark

**Cadillac Desert - The American West and Its Disappearing Water** by Marc Reisner

**Last Oasis - Facing Water Scarcity** by Sandra Postel

**Tapped Out** by Paul Simons

**The World's Water: The Biennial Report on Freshwater Resources 2002-2003** by Peter Gleick

**Water - The Fate of Our Most Precious Resource** by Marq de Villiers

**Water Follies: Groundwater Pumping and the Fate of America's Fresh Water** by Robert Jerome Glennon

**Water Wars: Drought, Flood, Folly and the Politics of Thirst** by Diane Raines Ward

**Water Wars: Privatization, Pollution and Profit** by Vandana Shiva

**You Can Prevent Global Warming, and Save Money** by Jeffrey Langholz and Kelly Turner

### Articles

"A Price on Every Drop", *Mother Jones*, November/December 2002

"Who Owns Water?" *The Nation*, September 2, 2002, Maude Barlow and Tony Clarke

"Stop the Corporate Takeover of Our Water", *The Hightower Lowdown*, July 24, 2002.

"Whose Water?" *Yes! Magazine*, A Journal of Positive Futures, Winter 2004.

## Coordinator's Corner

by Denise O'Brien

Winter has shroud us with a deep whiteness that hasn't been seen in this part of Iowa since the 1960's. Even though the depth of snow translates only to approximately an inch of moisture, it is welcome moisture following the dry summer and fall. Remembering back to late summer and fall, I recall my dismay in having to make the decision to keep watering the garden or to give up and wait until another growing season. Because I am not making a living at raising crops for income, I had that choice. I gave up watering and the consequence is I do not have the bounty of the garden to nourish me in this cold, snowy season.

Those of you who make a living by what you raise do not have the choice I had. Customers depend on you to give them the foods they have come to expect. It is necessary to hook up the irrigation or sprinkling system to provide the moisture your crops demand. It is times like these that make us understand the importance of water.

Water is the focus of this issue. In this

### Websites

**www.IATP.org:** IATP has two listservs that send out timely alerts about water — sign up at <[www.IATP.org](http://www.IATP.org)> for "right-to-water" and "US Water Network."

**www.canadians.org/blueplanet:** Information on the Blue Planet Project with many good links.

**www.challengeglobalization.org:** The Citizens Network on Essential Services has many different kinds on information on the privatization struggle. It has information on the role of the IMF and the World Bank.

**www.citizen.org/cmep/Water/:** Public Cityzen site for Water for All Campaign.

**www.cleanwateraction.org:** Site Clean Water Action, a national citizens' organization working for clean, safe, and affordable water.

**EnergyNet** includes reports, fact sheets, testimony, and educational materials by Union of Concerned Scientists. To join EnergyNet online, visit <[www.ucsusa.org/form/Energynetjoin.php](http://www.ucsusa.org/form/Energynetjoin.php)>

century human beings will be faced with dwindling access to water. According to Yes! Magazine, per capita water consumption is doubling every 20 years, more than twice the rate of human population growth. Earth has a closed hydrologic system; water is continually being recycled through rain and evaporation and none of it leaves the planet.

There is a move afoot to privatize water. Nancy Adams has written in this issue about how there is a global effort by transnational corporations to privatize water. In the midst of global trade agreements, water is a very hot topic. Water, like food, will be treated as a commodity to buy and sell and will be taken out of the realm of something that has been available "for the public good."

As citizens of the world we need to keep informed about what is being negotiated in the trade agreements, be they the North American Free Trade Agreement, the Free Trade Area of the Americas, or the Central American Free Trade Agreement. It is imperative that we inform our lawmakers of our opinions about what is being negotiated away under the guise of free enterprise. We must continually ask the question "free market for whom?"

May the warm breezes of spring bring us a renewal in our commitment to justice. There is much work to be done to create a just and fair world. There are those among us who have committed their lives to changing the injustice that exists. Please keep these people in your hearts and minds and try to support them in whatever way possible.

In Peace, Denise

### Some interesting facts:

- 1.2 billion people worldwide do not have access to clean water. Source: National Wild and Scenic River Systems, "River and Water Facts," <[www.nps.gov/rivers/waterfacts.html](http://www.nps.gov/rivers/waterfacts.html)>.
- You can drink over 4,000 glasses of tap water for the same price as a six-pack of soda. Source: Brita, "Water Facts," [www.brita.com/index.html](http://www.brita.com/index.html)>.

**Women, Food  
& Agriculture  
Network**

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

**Women, Food, & Agriculture Network**

links and amplifies women's voices  
on issues of food systems,  
sustainable communities  
and environmental integrity.

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit #218  
Atlantic, IA 50022

Address Service Requested



**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 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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c/o Linda Warren

PO Box 1611

Madison, WI 53701-1611

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