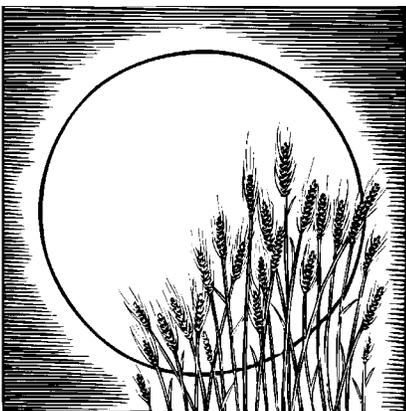


Women, Food & Agriculture Network

Who Called This a Retreat? It's Hard Work Planning for the Future



WFAN Coordinating Council members and staff met on July 28 and 29 at Prairiewoods Retreat Center near Cedar Rapids. Although the meeting was called the “Summer Retreat,” a name which suggests rest and relaxation, Council members and staff kept busy working on the organization’s mission, learning about fundraising, and planning for the coming year.

The retreat began with a session on organizational development, facilitated by Cheri Grauer of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. The main focus was WFAN’s mission statement. Some Council members felt that WFAN’s mission statement, “linking and amplifying women’s voices on issues of food systems, sustainable communities, and environmental integrity” didn’t effectively capture the work of the organization. After much deliberation and discussion about who WFAN is and who we serve, we refined the mission statement to reflect the spirit of WFAN and our work. We ratified the new mission statement one more time when we met in Ames in August.

We are pleased to unveil WFAN’s new mission statement, (drumroll please...): *Women, Food, and Agriculture Network links and empowers women to build food systems and communities that are healthy, just, sustainable and promote environmental integrity.*

Cheri also assisted the Council in developing a set of strategic goals for the coming year. These form the basis for a strategic plan, which staff members Denise and Cassi are refining for approval at the September Coordinating Council conference call.

This session was followed by a discussion of WFAN’s by-laws led by incoming Council member Sue Roberts. WFAN’s Coordinating Council is continuing to evaluate the by-laws, which are the procedures by which the organization operates. Stay tuned for more information about this process.

Thursday evening everyone took time to truly “retreat.” We were joined by several WFAN members and friends from the area. Susan Jutz and Kelsey Heeringa told the group about an exciting

(Retreat, continued on page 4)

Mission

The *Women, Food, and Agriculture Network* links and empowers women to build food systems and communities that are healthy, just, sustainable and promote environmental integrity.



Calendar

September 23-25, 2005: 27th Annual Land Institute Prairie Festival, Salinas, Kansas. Guest speakers will include Strachan Donnelley, Sue Halpern, Craig Holdrege, David Kline, Carl McDaniel and Bill McKibben, <www.landinstitute.org>.

October 6-9, 2005: Community Food Security Coalition's 2005 Annual Conference, Atlanta, Georgia. The conference will feature workshops, networking, field trips and skill-building sessions, local food, culture. For more information see: <www.foodsecurity.org>.

October 12-14, 2005: World Food Prize 2005 International Symposium, Des Moines, Iowa; <www.worldfoodprize.org>.

October 14-16, 2005: National Biodynamic Conference. Red Boiling Springs, Tennessee. Enjoy a peaceful weekend on a working farm, with plenty of time for personal discussions with workshop leaders gathered from across the country. Speakers will discuss the growing of all of the major fruit and vegetable crops, and offer workshops on raising cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens, and bees; <www.biodynamics.com/calendar.html#conference2005>.

October 21-23, 2005: Women in Sustainable Agriculture Conference 2005, A Celebration of Hope and Opportunity, Burlington, Vermont, <www.uvm.edu/wagn/womeninag.html>.

October 27-28, 2005: Midwest Rural Agricultural Safety and Health Forum, Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston, Iowa. Presented by I-CASH. <www.public-health.uiowa.edu/icash/>.

November 3-5, 2005: 13th National Small Farm Trade Show & Conference, Columbia, Missouri. For more information contact Small Farm Today, 800-633-2535; email: <smallfarm@socket.net>; <www.smallfarmtoday.com/tradeshows/>.

November 4-5, 2005: National Catholic Rural Life Conference: Campaigning for Justice. Holiday Inn, Des Moines, Iowa. Keynote by Alan Guebert: "Trade Agreements and Farm Bills: Whose Justice, Whose Values, Whose Economy?" Visit <www.ncrlc.com>.

November 11-13, 2005: Sixth annual Fall Harvest Gathering for Women in Sustainable Agriculture. Good Earth Village, Spring Valley, MN. See story next page.

November 14, 2005: 5th Annual Iowa Organic Conference, Scheman Building, Iowa State University, Ames. Contact: ISU Organic Agriculture Program, acmckern@iastate.edu, 515-294-5116; <www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/organic05/about.html>.

Practical Farmers of

Iowa Field Days

Grazing as Cost-Effective Conservation

Saturday, September 24, 2005, 1-4 pm
Linda and Ron Grice, PO Box 86, South English, Iowa, 319-667-2350.

Demonstrations: land use and stream-bank erosion study; long-term trends in Midwest soil quality; Green Lands, Blue Waters—getting perennials on the landscape; economic comparison of row crop, grazing, and grazing/organic systems; cost-effective grazing; pasture walk.

Breeding and Selecting Corn for Quality

Tuesday, September 27, 2005, 1pm
Mike Natvig and Amy Miller, 20074 Timber Ave., Cresco, IA; 563-569-8358.

Demonstrations and Discussions: Performance and protein level of experimental hybrids. Comparing variety crosses. Breeding crosses between elite inbred lines and high yielding exotic populations with good grain quality were crossed with each of three breeding crosses that have been the source of useful inbred lines. Amino acid levels in high-protein variety crosses in conventional and organic production systems. Repeat performance? Comparing the highest yielding materials from the 2004 evaluation trial.

Corn Harvest Festival, Alternative Swine

Saturday, October 1, 2005, 1-8:00 pm
Gary Laydon and Pat Mennenga, 1609

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:

Dec. 2005 issue: Nov. 15, 2005
March 2006 issue: Feb. 15, 2006

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130th St., Plainfield, Iowa, 319-276-4613.

1 p.m.: External, wood-fired heater for farrowing barn (with support from the SARE Farmer Rancher Grant Program); update on the SARE Research Alliance for Farrowing project.

2:30-3 p.m.: Horse-drawn wagon rides.

3 p.m.: Breeding corn for quality; corn variety trial. Pigs on pasture; hut designs.

3:30-6 p.m.: Hand corn picking “try-outs.” Pitch in and see how you do harvesting a corn variety that’s especially adapted to hand picking.

6-8 p.m.: Hog roast and bonfire.

A Creative Quiescence: Relax and Renew your Spirit While Building Community Connections

Save the date!

November 11-13, 2005

The 6th annual Fall Harvest Gathering for Women in Sustainable Agriculture will be held November 11-13, 2005, at Good Earth Village in Spring Valley, MN.

Join WFAN and Women in Sustainable Agriculture, Minnesota, for an unconventional convention, a working vacation, a time to wind down before winter in the company of other fabulous women in sustainable agriculture. Plenty of activities to keep your body and mind busy, and plenty of time to relax, meditate, and revive your soul.

- Keynote speaker Audrey Arner will reflect on her recent participation in two global gatherings,
- Bonnie Haugen and Denise O’Brien will share their expertise about the Conservation Security Program,
- Beth Waterhouse will lead us on a journey of creative writing and journaling.

Plus, nourishing locally-raised foods, uplifting music, exhilarating outdoor recreation, relaxing massage and natural beauty treatments, and more!

Registration information is included in this newsletter, or for more information, contact Cassi Johnson, cassi@wfan.org or 319-354-3760.

Conference: Women's Role in Agriculture

Farmers, ranchers, educators, agricultural service providers and activists will come together to explore ways to expand the success of women farmers at the 2005 Women in Sustainable Agriculture Conference: A Celebration of Hope & Opportunity. The conference will be held October 21-23, 2005 at the Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center in Burlington, Vermont.

Featured speakers include Frances Moore Lappe, whose 1971 bestseller *Diet for a Small Planet* awakened a generation to the human-made causes of hunger. Lappe and her daughter, Anna, will share stories and lessons of “Hope in Action,” providing models for how ordinary people can make important social change. Activist Pamela Kingfisher, whose mesmerizing story-telling is rooted in her Cherokee, agricultural heritage will provide the closing address.

Participants will choose from 38 workshops offered during four concurrent sessions. Topics include production, marketing, and business planning and development information relevant to small-scale farming; advocacy and leadership skill-building sessions; and roundtable sessions where participants can share and learn from each other’s experiences. Exhibits will provide additional opportunities to gather information and learn from each other.

Meals throughout the conference will feature locally grown products from the surrounding area.

There will also be a series of small-group, pre-conference farm tours of some of Vermont’s innovative, sustainable farms. The half-day tours leave at noon on Friday, October 21 and will return by 4:45 pm. Traveling by 12-passenger van, each will visit one or two farms to learn innovative production, marketing and business approaches.

For attendees who want a more intensive learning experience, the conference offers a special, business development



and marketing track. This “Grow Your Business” (GYB) track is a “conference-within-the-conference,” designed to help farmers who have made it through start-up and now want to strengthen their business for long-term sustainability.

Participants who complete this track will be eligible for follow-up technical assistance and reimbursement for up to \$150 in professional services as part of a Northeast Center for Risk Management Education grant.

The conference is hosted by the Women’s Agricultural Network (WAgN), a program that assists women interested in farming and agriculture-related businesses. WFAN and WAgN are two organizations that started programming in the early 1990s to address the needs of women in agriculture.

Sponsors include: The Northeast Center for Risk Management Education, USDA Farm Service Agency, The Vermont Women’s Fund, The Northeast Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program, The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of Vermont Center for Sustainable Agriculture, University of Vermont Extension, Organic Valley/CROPP and the Ben & Jerry’s Foundation, the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development, the Pennsylvania Women’s Agricultural Network, the University of Arkansas, the Women, Food and Agriculture Network (Iowa), Heifer Project International.

Register on-line at www.regonline.com/womeninagconference, or contact the conference organizer at 802-223-2389 x15.

Coordinating Council Gathers at Retreat To Plan the Future

(Retreat, continued from page 1)

new educational program they are developing on ZJ Farm. Laura Krouse and Chris Taliga discussed a regional local foods/economic development initiative they are planning. After a hard day of working on WFAN's internal structure, it was refreshing and rewarding to connect with the valuable work of members, who are the backbone of our organization.

On Friday morning, Monique DiCarlo from the University of Iowa Women's Resource and Action Center facilitated a session on fundraising. Her session provided tools and encouragement for Coordinating Council members and staff to continue seeking the financial resources WFAN needs to do its important work.

After lunch, Danielle Wirth closed the retreat with a ceremony to help the Council focus the energy we gained during two days of hard work. As we came together in a circle and placed our hands just above, but not touching, one another's hands, we could feel the flow of energy between our bodies. We finished by focusing and sending that energy out into the universe.

This is a very exciting time in the his-



Coordination Council members and staff: (front row) Denise O'Brien, Amy Miller and Thea, Stacey Brown, Penny Brown Huber; (back row) Cassi Johnson, Katy Hansen, Sue Roberts, Danielle Wirth, Pernell Plath, and Sue Futrell. Not pictured: Linda Warren, LaVon Eblen.

tory of Women, Food, and Agriculture Network. For the first time, WFAN has two full-time staff. We are fortunate to have a strong Coordinating Council composed of several founding members who have a strong commitment to the organization and understand its history and philosophy. The four incoming members

bring fresh ideas, new skills, and enthusiasm to the organization. We are currently focused on developing a strong strategic program and fundraising plans to guide our work. We encourage you to stay tuned for further updates about this cess, and to expect positive change in the organization in the coming year!



Cassi Johnson Joins WFAN Staff

We welcome Cassi to the WFAN family!

Women, Food and Agriculture Network just hired a new program assistant, Cassi Johnson, thanks to a grant that is funding general support.

Cassi is a recent graduate of the Iowa State University Graduate Program in Sustainable Agriculture. Many of you know Cassi from her work as an intern and volunteer at WFAN from May 2004 to the present. She managed the summer intern program last year and has continued to work as a volunteer with grant writing

and other vital jobs that keep the organization going.

Cassi brings energy and enthusiasm to WFAN. Her experience includes being the Project Coordinator for the Southwest Iowa Entrepreneurship Initiative and the Market Manager for the Iowa State University Student Organic Farm.

Cassi has recently moved from Ames to Iowa City where she resides with her fiancé Patrick and her Blue Heeler, Jango.

New Coordinating Council Members Join WFAN

LaVon Eblen

LaVonn Eblen grew up on farms in northwest Iowa and graduated from Primghar High School. The now popular flax is one of the crops her father tried. She remembers loving to run her hands through the silky feeling seeds.

LaVonn graduated from ISU...twice - BS and MS in Home Economics Education. She was an Extension Home Economist for over 30 years in Audubon and Cass Counties then Extension Education Director in Audubon County. There was never a dull moment working with 4-H, homemakers and families including community development. She facilitated the beginning of Meals on Wheels, a shelter for abused women and children and community networking groups.

Audubon County is where LaVonn worked with Vic and Cindy Madsen. They started a pasture rotation series visiting various farms. Cindy introduced LaVon to the importance of local food.

After "retirement" LaVonn worked in a fabric/wedding gown store and began hosting a week day radio program, Backyard and Beyond...still rolling after 2000 programs.

Currently LaVonn is working with Harrisdale Homestead. It became a project in November of 2003 that has grown from serving a few meals (emphasis on local foods) to a bed and breakfast, rural retreat, a mini conference center and an education and research center. Owner, co-founder and partner is Ardyth Harris Gillespie, a Community Nutrition Professor at Cornell University.

Susan Futrell

Susan Futrell is a writer and consultant, specializing in marketing and sustainable food systems through her company, One Backyard. She has over 25 years experience in the natural and organic food industry as Director of Marketing for Blooming Prairie Cooperative Warehouse. Current projects include work for the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at ISU and writing about heirloom apples.

Sue has served on the Board of Directors for the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives, National Cooperative Business Association, Iowa Organic Growers and Buyers Association, and Englert Civic Theatre, and is part of the Leopold Center Regional Food Systems Working Group.

She holds a B.S. degree in Geography and a Masters of Fine Arts in Nonfiction Writing from the University of Iowa.

Susan was born in Ames, Iowa, and comes from a family with roots in farming on both sides. She lives in Iowa City, Iowa, with her husband Will Jennings, two cats, and a small garden.

Penny Brown Huber

Penny Brown Huber has been an advocate for sustainable food and farming systems from multiple perspectives, including farming, policy, program development and implementation, and fundraising.

Penny received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Business Administration from St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa and her Masters of Public Administration from Drake University, in Des Moines.

Currently, Penny is co-owner of Fundraising Solutions, LLC, a full-service fundraising business that works for non-profits in Iowa. She also serves as an independent consultant in agricultural and environmental projects for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and is the Program Administrator of "Growing Your Small Market Farm" - A Business Planning Program for Small Niche Market Producers since 2001.

In addition to her involvement with Women, Food, and Agriculture Network, Penny serves on the board of Iowa Network for Community Agriculture, Marshalltown Community College Sustainable and Entrepreneurial Agriculture, and the Iowa Food Policy Council.

Pernell Plath

Pernell Plath is originally from the Quad Cities area in eastern Iowa. She attended Scott Community College for a

degree in biology before transferring to Iowa State University for her bachelor's in environmental studies and anthropology. In 2004 she received a master's degree from the graduate program in sustainable agriculture, also at Iowa State. Between degrees she traveled abroad doing volunteer work on farms and for an international development organization in India. Now settled in southeast Minnesota, she is starting a small fruit and perennial farm with her partner and three cats.

Susan Lynn Roberts, JD, MS, RD

Susan Roberts is committed to developing strategies for healthier, safer, more sustainable food systems catalyzing greater health among individuals, environments, and nations. She seeks to integrate extensive professional expertise and education of food, agriculture, health, and law through a variety of avenues with institutes, NGO's, public health and law firms.

Susan received her Bachelor of Science degree in Dietetics, Food and Nutrition from Iowa State University, her Dietetic Internship and Master of Science degree in Preventive Medicine and Environmental Health from the University of Iowa College of Medicine, and her Juris Doctorate of Law with honors from Drake University School of Law with special certificates in both Food & Agricultural Law and Legislative Practice.

Sue is the Director of the Food and Society Policy Fellowship funded by WK Kellogg Foundation through the Thomas Jefferson Agricultural Institute and Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy. She also works on staff at the Drake University Law School Agricultural Law Center analyzing food policy as it relates to food security, sustainable agriculture, and health. Roberts is the principle in Roberts Law Firm, PLC and in Sue Roberts Health Concepts, a health and wellness consulting firm specializing in obesity policy.

WFAN Members Give Testimony

On August 11th, the United States Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns stopped at the Iowa State Fair continuing his nationwide listening tour on the farm bill. He had previously been to North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Deb Ryun, a farmer from Lucas County and Executive Director of the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI), and Amy Miller, farmer from Howard County, gave testimony along with forty five other Iowans. Both women are members of WFAN.

Amy, who held her 2-month-old daughter, Thea, as she spoke, expressed her frustration with the implementation of the Conservation Security Program (CSP). "To be honest, Mr. Secretary, farm programs are kind of a mystery to my husband and I. We go in every year to the FSA office, answer their questions, sign a bunch of paperwork and eventually money is deposited in our account. What we do know is that our farm program payments don't amount to much, maybe a few thousand dollars a year. The reason for this is that approximately half of our farm is in hay or pasture as part of our seven year crop rotation. Compared to other farms with acres in corn and soybeans, our payments are pretty small. We are fortunate to be in one of the watersheds selected for CSP this year,

and those payments will help us to keep farming using conservation measures."

Deb told Secretary Johanns that conservation payments should be the centerpiece of the next farm bill. The farm bill should include a simplification and merging of existing conservation programs into a few basic ones aimed at setting aside some land, providing cost-share money and other incentives for private land improvements, and providing research and technical help for farmers.

She went on to state that CDI supported the concepts of CSP for many reasons; 1) Farmers and the conservation community developed it; 2) It allowed for the one-stop approach for conservation; 3) All producers were to have been eligible and payments were expected to reward good stewardship practices, on an ongoing basis; 4) CSP was to foster innovation; and 5) it is WTO compatible. CSP is supposed to be an uncapped, entitlement program and is intended to be a full national program and the CDI believes it should be implemented that way.

Thank you Amy, Thea and Deb for giving your input on agriculture to the USDA. It is because you are willing and able to speak out at public hearings like this that women's voices will go on record at these official proceedings.

Celebrate Women's Right to Vote

Women won the right to vote 85 years ago—144 years after white male landowners gained democracy in America. In 85 years since women won the right to vote, here's where we stand today:

Women hold only 81 of 315 statewide elective executive offices in the United States (26%).

Iowa Women hold only two of seven statewide elective executive offices (28%).

Women hold only 1,662 of 7,382 state legislative seats in the United States (22%).

Iowa women hold only 30 of 150 seats in the Iowa legislature (20%).

Women hold only 80 of the 535 seats in the U.S. Congress (15%).

Iowa women hold NONE of Iowa's seven seats in the U.S. Congress and never have.

Twenty-nine States have NEVER sent a woman to the Governor's Office, including Iowa.

Five States have NEVER sent a woman to the U.S. Congress, including Iowa (Others are DE, MS, NH, VT).

And only two states have never sent a woman to either the governor's office or to the United States Congress: IOWA and MISSISSIPPI.

National Hotline for the Conservation Security Program

The Conservation Security Program (CSP) is a 2002 Farm Bill initiative written by Congress to provide financial assistance to farmers and ranchers who are solving key natural resource and environmental problems by adopting sustainable practices and systems. The CSP was designed by Congress to provide support to farmers and ranchers who are already engaged in strong conservation systems to protect soil, water, air, and wildlife or who will adopt more sustainable systems as part of the program.

The Hotline is important for farmers and ranchers truly committed to improving stewardship, according to Traci Bruckner, policy analyst. "We want to ensure that the farmers and ranchers this

program was intended to reward are able to fully access the program."

The Hotline is designed to assist farmers and ranchers with questions regarding how to apply and program eligibility. Eligibility questions will center around the self-assessment that farmers and ranchers will need to complete. This self-assessment can serve as the first hurdle to cross in accessing the CSP and the Hotline will be there to assist farmers and ranchers with this process.

For in-depth information on the Conservation Security Program or the Hotline, contact Traci Bruckner at 402.687.2100 or email tracib@cfra.org. Website: www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/.

Women and Water: An Ethical Issue

(UNESCO, 2004) This essay, one in a series on Water and Ethics published under the International Hydrological Programme, is concerned with the ethical issues arising from the special role of women in water use and from related social and environmental problems. It discusses both the nature of some of the key problems and the efforts in recent decades by both intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to overcome these problems. Full document at <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0013/001363/136357e.pdf>.

Women's Equality Day August 26

In 1971, at the behest of Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY), the U.S. Congress designated August 26 as "Women's Equality Day."

The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. This was the culmination of a massive, peaceful civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848 at the world's first women's rights convention, in Seneca Falls, New York.

The observance of Women's Equality Day not only commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, but also calls attention to women's continuing efforts toward full equality.

Joint Resolution of Congress, 1971

Designating August 26 of each year as Women's Equality Day

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have been treated as second-class citizens and have not been entitled the full rights and privileges, public or private, legal or institutional, which are available to male citizens of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have united to assure that these rights and privileges are available to all citizens equally regardless of sex; and

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have designated August 26, the anniversary date of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, as symbol of the continued fight for equal rights: and

WHEREAS, the women of United States are to be commended and supported in their organizations and activities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that August 26th of each year is designated as Women's Equality Day, and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation annually in commemoration of that day in 1920, on which the women of America were first given the right to vote, and that day in 1970, on which a nationwide demonstration for women's rights took place.

Coordinator's Corner

by Denise O'Brien

My, this summer has flown by! My husband and I are currently canning tomato juice. As we can our garden's harvest, we listen to a song "Summer in a Jar" by Iowa folksinger Greg Brown. This song captures the essence of why we do food preservation. In southwest Iowa we have had a wonderfully moist summer, unlike WFAN members and friends in eastern Iowa, western Illinois and parts of Minnesota and Wisconsin. Usually western Iowa is on the edge of the ever encroaching drought that has been growing from Colorado into Nebraska. This year we have a reprieve and are enjoying it tremendously!

Things are on the move at WFAN. We have added a staff person for the first time since we organized in 1997 (see article page 3). Cassi Johnson brings a freshness of youth and energy to this middle aged woman.

The WFAN board has been expanded by four more individuals; Penny Brown, Sue Futrell, Sue Roberts and LaVon Eblen. We welcome their energy and commitment to making WFAN a strong

organization that will raise the awareness of women in agriculture as well as work to build women's leadership. Our board members, many of them founding members, Linda Warren, Katy Hansen, Amy Miller, Danielle Wirth and Stacey Brown have worked hard over the years to make me accountable to the organization. They have provided guidance to bring WFAN to where we are today. A huge thank you to all of you!

Women, Food and Agriculture Network links and empowers women to build food systems and communities that are healthy, just, sustainable and promote environmental integrity. I like the sound of our revised mission statement. I believe it projects the active approach that WFAN uses in our work with women.

The WFAN board and staff are working to build our membership. I urge all of you who have received this newsletter over the past years at no cost to please sit down, write a check and become a member of this vibrant and vital organization that moves women to the front and center of agriculture!

Social Watch News

The Advance Social Watch Report 2005 titled "Unkept Promises. What the numbers say about poverty and gender" is now available at the website <www.socialwatch.org>.

The Advance Social Watch Report 2005 will be launched during the Informal Interactive Hearings of the UN General Assembly with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector which took place in New York, USA, from June 23 to 24, 2005. This event was a lead-up event to the Millennium Summit+5, to be held 14-16 September 2005 in New York.

Social Watch International, Jackson 1136, Montevideo 11200, Uruguay.

Did You Know?
Environmental groups estimate that 500 billion to 1 trillion plastic bags are used worldwide every year. Americans use about 14 billion of the bags or about 425 bags for every American. Plastic bags take 10 to 20 years to decompose.

**Women, Food
& Agriculture
Network**

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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.

Enclosed is \$30 for my yearly membership.

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