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FFD Mission

Family Farm Defenders is a tax-deductible non-profit activist organization made up of farmers and concerned consumers. We are seeking ways to bring fair prices back to farmers and to insure a safe and sustainably produced food for consumers.

FFD President's Message

BY JOEL GREENO

Dear Members and Friends of FFD:



*Family Farm Defenders
President Joel Greeno
Fighting for Fair Milk Prices*

Family Farm Defenders is a member run organization - where your issues are our issues. We have the best volunteer network that any organization could ever ask for and we take great pride in that.

Last March at UW Baraboo we held our Land + Water + Seed = Food conference and the John Kinsman Beginning Farmer Food Sovereignty Dinner and Prize. We had over twenty keynote speakers and workshop presenters at the three day event, plus well over a hundred participants from all across the country.

Our topics covered everything from milk pricing, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), fracking and sand mining, concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), local control, water rights, how to work with the media, and climate change. These issues certainly resonated with the people present.

Patty Lovera, who works with Food and Water and is also on the FFD board, mentioned that a successful gauge of a workshop or forum is the amount of discussion that takes place after it is over - and with every session the hallways were abuzz with conversation - into the breaks, at lunch, and later on that evening. A good sign that every grassroots organization likes to see.

The number of states, counties, and communities deciding this last election whether or not to be GMO-free speaks volumes about the importance of this issue, and FFD is on board to help drive this message home. People not only have the right to know what is in their food, but to also limit what is grown where they live - these are basic principles of food sovereignty.

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The coordinator of OFRANEH (*the National Fraternal Black Organization of Honduras*) was in the house, and made a cogent and morally centered appeal for respect for the land rights of indigenous people as one of the essential planks in any strategy to slow climate chaos.

OFRANEH has experience already in responding to climate displacement from storm surges on the northern coast of Honduras that have already displaced hundreds of Garifuna villagers, women farmers and men fishers and their children.

Roberto, the speaker from Black Mesa, Arizona, described the importance of the recovery of traditional food ways among the Navajo people, including the raising of sheep, and the growing of drought hardy varieties of corn and beans, within the spiritual understanding and practices of his people. Through such cultural rejuvenation, we can build the truly sustainable communities that will be able to adapt and mitigate climate change.

The first of more than one hundred arrests Sept 22, bring civil disobedience on climate change to New York...These are sign posts on the path we must take, I believe! This is where we must go! Cultural restoration and community autonomy at the local levels, accompanied by strategic and untiring stabs to sabotage and transform those harming Mother Earth. Messaging and advocacy to debunk and shame the latest false solutions being rolled out like so much corn syrup candy is on the to do list. Direct action, corporate campaigns, and mass civil disobedience have to be on the menu too at the Food Coop called Mother Earth!

**Will we go down sitting on our hands, or stand tall claiming
"Whose Power? Our Power!!"**

For complete blogs from NY, go to: <http://smallfarmerscoolplanet.wordpress.com>