FFD President’s Message

BY JOEL GREENO

Dear Members and Friends of FFD:

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 - 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.

(Continued on pg.3)

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