

At the Saturday press conference and during the concert itself Neil Young was extremely vocal that only small farmers would feed people and cool the planet, referring to the threat of global warming. Dave Matthews was also pleased with himself by saying that if anyone there thought fracking was necessary, well maybe you should just go "frack yourself"!

At the Concert's Home Grown Village the four foot by five foot Land O Fakes postcard was rolled out and Jim Hightower was the first to sign it followed by our friend, Will Allen, author of the *War on Bugs*. Hundreds of signatures were gathered on the postcard, asking Land O'Lakes to be a responsible cooperative and pay farmers a fair and living wage - \$30/100# for their milk. John Peck and I then delivered the postcard to the Land O'Lakes booth at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, WI on Fri. Oct. 4th. I think the man at the booth wanted to crawl under the table when John took pictures of him with the postcard, and he quickly rolled it up and hid it behind their curtain.

Let's keep the pressure on Land O'Lakes! They need to be held accountable, just as our heroes at the Coalition of Immokalee Workers did with Taco Bell.

**On to victory!**

## Save the Date!

### Next FFD Annual Meeting

**Land + Water + Seed = Food Conference**

**John Kinsman Food Sovereignty Prize Award Dinner:**

**Held in Baraboo, WI March 14th - 16th,**

**Keynote speaker: Raj Patel!**

Family Farm Defenders (FFD) is pleased to announce its 3rd Annual John Kinsman Beginning Farmer Food Sovereignty Prize Award Dinner. The event will be held at the University of Wisconsin-Baraboo in Baraboo, WI on the evening of Sat. March 15, 2014.

Prior to the award dinner there will also be a daylong conference titled "Land + Water + Seed = Food," with leading experts and grassroots activists exploring such issues as frac sand mining, stopping factory farms, land grabbing, life patenting, and reclaiming the media. Our keynote speaker will be Raj Patel, well known writer and food sovereignty activist who has written such books as *Stuffed and Starved* and the *Value of Nothing*. Farm tours will precede the conference and dinner on Fri. March 13th and the annual meeting of Family Farm Defenders will follow on Sun. March 16th.

The Beginning Farmer Food Sovereignty Prize is named after John Kinsman who has dedicated his life to the betterment of the family farmer and to the promotion of food sovereignty. The FFD board can think of no better way to honor John's lifelong work and inspirational accomplishments than by presenting this award.

In previous years we received excellent applications from beginning farmers who met our criteria for food sovereignty and FFD has given four awards to date. Our 2011 awardees were Lindsey Morris Carpenter, who runs Grassroots Farm, a 40-member Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) operation near Monroe, WI, and Daniel and Hannah Miller, who operate Easy Yoke Farm, a CSA near Millville MN. Our 2012 awardees were Nancy and Jeff Kirstein of Good Earth Farm, Lennox SD and Tracy and Dick Vinz with Olden Produce near Ripon, WI. If you know of a beginning farmer who should be nominated for the 2014 award please let us know by Dec. 15th. We hope you will join us at next spring's conference, award dinner, and annual meeting!

Even if you can not attend, you can still support this effort by sponsoring the award with a tax deductible gift to FFD. Sponsorship is available in the following levels: Campesino \$5000 or more; Yeoman \$2000-\$5000, Cultivator \$1000-\$2000, Seed Saver \$500-\$1000, and Grower \$100-\$500. Sponsors of the event also receive two complimentary tickets to the award dinner itself. If you have any further questions please contact Hiroshi Kanno at 608-253-7266 or John Peck at 608-260-0900. We look forward to seeing you in Baraboo, WI March 14th - 16th, 2014!

## Haiti Solidarity Tour Visits Chicago

By: Amy Mall, FFD board member

"During the darkest nights of American bondage, millions of Africans, in America, in Brazil, in Cuba, and beyond, could look to Haiti, and dream." ~Mumia Abu Jamal.

Upon hearing the news of the Haiti Food Sovereignty tour coming through Chicago, I had the great privilege on behalf of Family Farm Defenders to create a two-day tour. Many wonderful volunteers joined together in the planning including Friends of the MST, the Brazilian Landless Peasants Movement and individuals that had been part of a group called R.I.S.A., Rising in Solidarity with Ayiti. Hosting Rose Edith and Flavio in Chicago strengthened a sense of connection beyond our geographical distance, and brought Chicagoans together. With tremendous patience and care, they shared stories, lessons, and hopes through the dedicated translation efforts that sometimes spanned three or four languages. Stephen Bartlett did a tremendous job translating and we are thankful for the fruitful and inspirational meetings that he initiated. Experiences of Solidarity such as these enhance our sense of connection, power and potential.

The Tour began at The Black Oaks Center for Sustainability where Dr. Jifunza Wright Carter and Fred Carter shared their vital work as farmers, educators, organizers and healers based in Pembroke, IL and serving the Chicago area through the Healthy Food Hub and countless educational and community



### Haitian Tour Solidarity Tour Visits Chicago

On left: Speaking Rose Edith Germain leader of MPNKP and FONDAMA

building events, classes, and gatherings. Noelle Barber, and urban gardener and Food Justice activist, made this comment about her experience: "When I met Rose Edith and Flavio at Black Oaks Sustainability Center, I was disarmed by their warmth and friendliness. They were not inaccessible people's representatives, visiting the U.S. to collect a prestigious prize. It hit me that I was standing and talking with two incredibly genuine and devoted people, one elder and a youth, from two different countries involved in the same fight.

One powerful moment occurred just before lunch, where one of the farm apprentices directed a question to Rose Edith: "Where do you find inspiration and the drive to move forward despite the great obstacles facing you?" That question may have addressed the struggles of being

a small farmer, or perhaps a woman in leadership, and Rose Edith caught this question from the air of generality and gave it body, concreteness: "First," she said, "we organize into small planting groups of ten to fifteen, where we work the land together. While we work we are always talking and planning. In that space our enemies cannot control us. We say powerful things when we use our culture, our music, our dance to enliven our marches, and together we do advocacy at local regional and national levels." I felt empowered by her words, hearing traditional wisdom spoken so eloquently to awaken rural and urban America from its dream of individualism and personal achievement. Work together, work in groups, keep each other accountable, participate and in your small way change the course of history" (Continued on pg. 6)