

**Family Farm Defenders • P.O. Box 1772 • Madison, WI 53701**  
**Phone or Fax: 608-260-0900 [familyfarmdefenders@yahoo.com](mailto:familyfarmdefenders@yahoo.com)**

Thanksgiving, 2015

Dear Friend of Family Farm Defenders,

We are pleased to announce that our 5th Annual John Kinsman Beginning Farmer Food Sovereignty Prize Award and Luncheon Ceremony will be occurring on Sat. March 12<sup>th</sup> in Madison, WI. This year's invited keynote speaker is John Ikerd, emeritus professor at the Univ. of – Columbia, MO and well known author and food/farm justice advocate.

The rest of the day will include panel discussions and strategy workshops as well as the FFD annual meeting. The public is most welcome to attend. More details can be found on our "Save the Date" poster or by visiting our website.

The Beginning Farmer Food Sovereignty Prize is named after FFD founder and longtime president, John Kinsman, who dedicated his life to advocating for family farming and to promoting food sovereignty. Sadly, John passed away in Jan. 2014, which is why we are proud to continue this award in his honor and to further his legacy.

We hope you will consider sponsoring this year's Beginning Farmer Food Sovereignty Prize. Your tax deductible gift will go directly towards the cash prize for the two award winners and also support FFD's vital work.

Any sponsor of the 2016 prize at the \$100 level or more will be recognized in the program and also receive two complimentary tickets to the luncheon award ceremony.

In previous years we have received many excellent applications and expect this year's nominees to be equally impressive. Whether or not you are sponsor of this year's award, we hope you will still share our enclosed call for beginning farmer nominations with your colleagues.

The deadline for submitting nominations for the award is Jan. 15, 2016

If you have further questions about award sponsorship, the nomination process, or the ceremony itself, please contact us 608-260-0900 or [familyfarmdefenders@yahoo.com](mailto:familyfarmdefenders@yahoo.com)

We look forward to your support of beginning farmers and food sovereignty!

Sincerely,

John E. Peck  
executive director

Save the Date!

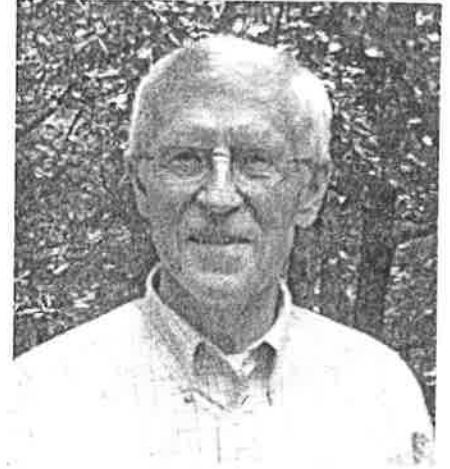
Save the Date!

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# John Kinsman Beginning Farmer Food Sovereignty Prize Award Luncheon & Ceremony!

## With Invited Keynote Speaker: John Ikerd!

Professor emeritus, Univ. of Colombia – MO, food sovereignty advocate, and author of many books such as Small Farms Are Real Farms, Return to Common Sense, and Revolution of the Middle.



## Sat. March 12<sup>th</sup> Noon – Madison, WI

Plus strategy workshops and panel discussions on such topics as factory farming, combining food and faith, climate justice, working with the media, and more - as well as the FFD Annual Membership Meeting! The public is welcome to attend!



Sponsorships for the 2016 John Kinsman Beginning Farmer Food Sovereignty Prize, as well as farmer nominations, are also being sought. Any sponsor of the prize at the level of \$100 or more will receive two complimentary tickets to the luncheon ceremony, as well as recognition in the program.

To sponsor this year's prize, reserve your ticket for the luncheon, and for more details on the nomination process and the event schedule, please visit the Family Farm Defenders website: [www.familyfarmdefenders.org](http://www.familyfarmdefenders.org) call #608-260-0900 or email: [familyfarmdefenders@yahoo.com](mailto:familyfarmdefenders@yahoo.com)

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**Wanted!**

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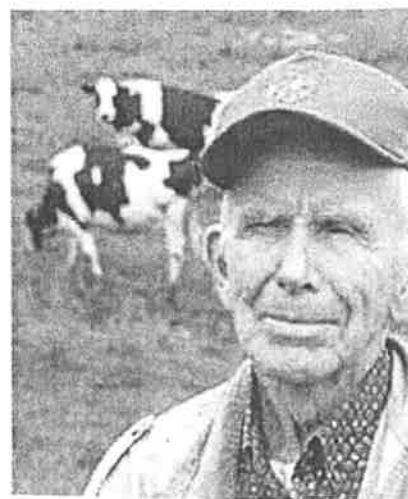
## **Beginning Farmers for Food Sovereignty!**

**Family Farm Defenders is urgently seeking  
nominations for the 2016**

# **John Kinsman Beginning Farmer Food Sovereignty Prize!**

The criteria to be nominated include:

- Engaged in own farm for less than 5 years
- Small scale livestock and/or vegetable and/or fruit production
- Market products locally
- Practice sustainable management of natural resources
- Promote healthy soil
- Conserve biodiversity
- Support food sovereignty principles (see list on reverse)



**Winners of the prize will be honored at a luncheon banquet in Madison on Sat. March 14<sup>th</sup> with keynote speaker, John Ikerd, and receive a cash award of \$2000, as well as travel/lodging expenses to attend the event.**

Please send name(s) and complete contact information of your nominee(s) by **Jan. 15th, 2016** to:

**Family Farm Defenders PO Box 1772 Madison, WI 53701**

**Fax. 608-260-0900 or email: [familyfarmdefenders@yahoo.com](mailto:familyfarmdefenders@yahoo.com)**

We are also seeking sponsors of this unique farmer award – all gifts to FFD are tax deductible!

For further information, please contact John E. Peck, FFD executive director  
#608-260-0900 or visit our website at: [www.familyfarmdefenders.org](http://www.familyfarmdefenders.org)

**Thank you for your support of food sovereignty!**

# Via Campesina's Food Sovereignty Principles

## 1. Food: A Basic Human Right

Everyone must have access to safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food in sufficient quantity and quality to sustain a healthy life with full human dignity. Each nation should declare that access to food is a constitutional right and guarantee the development of the primary sector to ensure the concrete realization of this fundamental right.

## 2. Agrarian Reform

A genuine agrarian reform is necessary which gives landless and farming people—especially women—ownership and control of the land they work and returns territories to indigenous peoples. The right to land must be free of discrimination on the basis of gender, religion, race, social class or ideology; the land belongs to those who work it.

## 3. Protecting Natural Resources

Food Sovereignty entails the sustainable care and use of natural resources, especially land, water, and seeds and livestock breeds. The people who work the land must have the right to practice sustainable management of natural resources and to conserve biodiversity free of restrictive intellectual property rights. This can only be done from a sound economic basis with security of tenure, healthy soils and reduced use of agrochemicals.

## 4. Reorganizing Food Trade

Food is first and foremost a source of nutrition and only secondarily an item of trade. National agricultural policies must prioritize production for domestic consumption and food self-sufficiency. Food imports must not displace local production nor depress prices.

## 5. Ending the Globalization of Hunger

Food Sovereignty is undermined by multilateral institutions and by speculative capital. The growing control of multinational corporations over agricultural policies has been facilitated by the economic policies of multilateral organizations such as the WTO, World Bank and the IMF. Regulation and taxation of speculative capital and a strictly enforced Code of Conduct for TNCs is therefore needed.

## 6. Social Peace

Everyone has the right to be free from violence. Food must not be used as a weapon. Increasing levels of poverty and marginalization in the countryside, along with the growing oppression of ethnic minorities and indigenous populations, aggravate situations of injustice and hopelessness. The ongoing displacement, forced urbanization, repression and increasing incidence of racism of smallholder farmers cannot be tolerated.

## 7. Democratic Control

Smallholder farmers must have direct input into formulating agricultural policies at all levels. The United Nations and related organizations will have to undergo a process of democratization to enable this to become a reality. Everyone has the right to honest, accurate information and open and democratic decision-making. These rights form the basis of good governance, accountability and equal participation in economic, political and social life, free from all forms of discrimination. Rural women, in particular, must be granted direct and active decision-making on food and rural issues.

