

What Does Food Sovereignty Look Like?

Just Ask the Three Winners

Of the 2021 John Kinsman Beginning Farmer Food Sovereignty Prize!

by John E. Peck, executive director, Family Farm Defenders

On Sunday Dec 12th 2021,

Family Farm Defenders members, friends, and allies gathered in person at the Branding Iron Tavern in Lime Ridge, WI and online from across the country to share the legacy of FFD's founder, John Kinsman, and to celebrate the three winners of the prize now awarded in his name: Jenny Hoople and Raul Casique-Montes with Bountiful Beloit (Beloit, WI), Tacumba Turner with Oasis Farm and Fishery (Pittsburgh, PA) and Rachel "Nami" Kimura with Hinata Farms (Chicago, IL).

After a warm welcome from current FFD president, Joel Greeno (Kendall, WI), a brief history of the prize itself from FFD exec. Director John Peck (Madison WI) and a guided tour through a John Kinsman photo tribute courtesy of his daughter, Marilyn Kharbush (Reedsburg, WI), current FFD board member, Tyler Short (Louisville, KY), and former FFD board member, Amy Mall (Chicago, IL.) were the emcees for the evening.

Each of the winners had inspiring stories to share about their own journey as beginning farmers embracing Food Sovereignty, as well as, advice for others who may wish to embark on this path of building a just transition toward reclaiming our food/farm system.

The Three John Kinsman Beginning Farmer Food Sovereignty Prize Winners

Jenny Hoople and Raul Casique-Montes - Bountiful Beloit

Jenny and Raul opened up Bountiful Beloit in a long empty building in May 2020 with the explicit goal of getting fresh food to their neighbors in the midst of the global pandemic. They met while working for Angelic Organics in Caledonia, IL, and now deliver CSA boxes, as well as, offering produce, other eco-friendly products, and hand crafted pottery through their storefront market. Their hope is to help reclaim even more urban land for agri-culture, transforming Beloit into a more equitable farm to table community that supports everyone.

Tacumba Turner - Oasis Farm and Fishery

As a self-described "fearless urban horticulturalist," Tacumba Turner was exposed to farming at age fourteen through his Pittsburgh school's Student Conservation Association. One of his many projects through Oasis Farm and Fishery is called Better Food, Better Me, designed to teach food literacy to younger people through cultivating and cooking with healthy local produce. As Tacumba noted in his winning application, "I am standing on the shoulders of people like George Washington Carver...a long line of Afro-agrarians who understand how to grow in relationship with nature.

Rachel "Nami" Kimura - Hinata Farms

Rachel "Nami" Kimura started Hinata Farms in 2020 with the mission of providing culturally relevant produce for the Japanese and the broader Asian community. Rachel first got her hands dirty as a volunteer, helping reclaim a vacant lot in Logan Square as the Altgeld-Sawyer Corner Farm. Reading Masanobu Fukuoka's 1975 book, *The One-Straw Revolution*, led her to study more about sustainable urban horticulture and eventually she got a small incubator plot managed by the Chicago Botanic Garden. Besides CSA deliveries, Rachel nourishes (and educates) her community through pop-up markets.

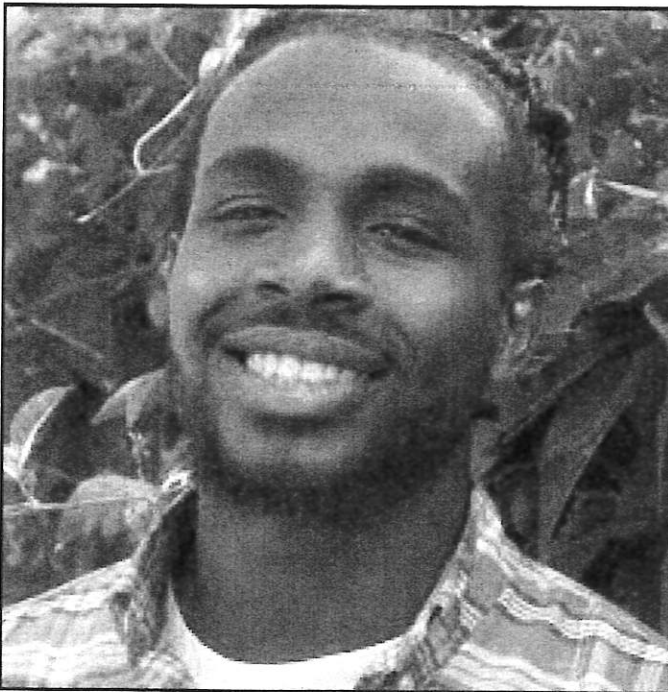
John Kinsman Beginning Farmer Food Sovereignty Is Ongoing!

Since 2011, when the John Kinsman Beginning Farmer Food Sovereignty Prize was first established, nearly 20 Winners have been recognized and over \$35,000 in grants awarded. FFD is planning to offer the prize again in 2022. So stay tuned for more details on how you can be a sponsor and/or nominate a Beginning Farmer for consideration!

**Winners of 2021 John Kinsman Beginning Farmer
Food Sovereignty Prize**



**Raul Casique-Montes and Jenny Hoople
Bountiful Beloit**



**Tacumba Turner
Oasis Farm and Fishery**



**Rachel "Nami" Kimura
Hinta Farms**