

Food and Community: Local to International

National Farmers Union 39th Annual Convention
November 20-22, 2008
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



Hilton Garden Inn
1st Avenue and 22nd Street, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

For Hotel Reservations, phone 1-306-244-2311 or
E-mail reservation to: reservations.saskatoon@hilton.com

The theme of our convention this year is Food and Community: Local to International. The concept of "community" is increasingly important in any discussion of food sovereignty, particularly in an era of declining energy reserves and growing concern over health problems due to industrialized food production and distribution systems. Globalization and free trade have concentrated control over the food system in the hands of a few, very large and very profitable corporations, at the expense of food security for hundreds of millions of people.

Keynote Speakers:

Raj Patel is the author of Stuffed and Starved: Markets, Power and the Hidden Battle for the World Food System. Raj Patel is a writer, activist and academic, currently a visiting scholar at the University of California at Berkeley's Center for African Studies.



Judy Rebick – Rebuilding the Food System for the Future. Judy Rebick is the CAW-Sam Gindin Chair in Social Justice and Democracy at Ryerson University in Toronto. Judy was the founding publisher of rabble.ca, Canada's most popular progressive online publication. She is currently completing a soon-to-be published book on the global food system and social justice. For most of the 1990s, Judy was the host of a national TV show on CBC Newsworld.

Bob Kingston – Agriculture Quality and Food Safety. Bob Kingston is President of the Agriculture Union of the Public Service Alliance of Canada. Bob has many years of experience as an Inspection Supervisor with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and has spoken out against the plans by the federal government to undermine food safety standards in Canada by deregulating inspection services.



Larry Hill - Strengthening Farmers' Market Power. Larry Hill is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB). He farms 4,200 acres near Swift Current, Saskatchewan.



Juana Ferrer – Food Sovereignty: Feeding the People. Juana Ferrer is a leader with the National Confederation of Rural Women of the Dominican Republic.



Paul Nicholson - Farmers and the Global Food Crisis. Paul Nicholson is the International Representative for the Basque Farmers and Ranchers Union, and a key leader of La Via Campesina in Europe.



Elwin Hermanson - Bill C-39 and Changes to the Canada Grain Act. Elwin Hermanson was appointed Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Grain Commission in January, 2008. He is a former Reform party MP and former leader of the Saskatchewan Party in the Saskatchewan Legislature.

Jacques Laforge – Supply-Management: A system that works for everyone. Jacques Laforge is President of the Dairy Farmers of Canada, which represents over 14,600 dairy farms across the country. Jacques Laforge operates a dairy farm near Grand Falls, New Brunswick.

Darrin Qualman is Director of Research for the National Farmers Union. He will be presenting the results of a major year-long research project on Building Solutions to the Livestock Crisis

Be sure to book your reservations before October 19th! The NFU has block-booked rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn. Single or double rate \$139 (plus applicable taxes).

Convention Registration Fees:
NFU members: \$150 – Registration fee for delegates and visitors (includes spouse and children) \$75 – Per day for those not planning on attending the entire convention
Free – Youth delegates and youth visitors only
Non-NFU members: \$150 – Registration fee (includes spouse and children) \$75 – Per day for those not planning on attending the entire convention \$15 – Per day for students (with valid Student ID)
Registration will take place at the convention beginning Wednesday, November 19 at 6 PM.

For further information, please contact the National Farmers Union office at 306-652-9465 or e-mail nfu@nfu.ca