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national farmers union

In Union Is Strength

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 27, 2009

NFU HOSTS INTERNATIONAL FARM LEADERS TOUR IN MARITIMES

The National Farmers Union (NFU) is hosting a series of public events in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick featuring international farm leaders from Mexico. The events will examine the global hunger crisis and focus on food sovereignty as the best solution to that crisis. The farm leaders' tour is also designed to call attention to April 17, a day commemorating the ongoing efforts of family farmers around the world to achieve economic and social justice.

The Mexican farm leaders include Ubali Guerrero and Celerino Tlacotempa. Ubali Guerrero is the North American representative on La Vía Campesina's International Food Sovereignty Commission. She is a farmer from the state of Guerrero in southern Mexico and has been a farm leader for the last 18 years. Celerino Tlacotempa is the General Coordinator of UNORCA (the National Union of Autonomous Regional Campesino Organizations) in the state of Guerrero and also farms.

La Vía Campesina is an international rural movement made up of small and medium-scale farmers, indigenous people, rural women and youth and agricultural workers from Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas. The National Farmers Union is a founding member of La Vía Campesina, which was formed in 1993. April 17 has been designated International Day of Farmer Struggle by La Via Campesina. For more information, log on to www.viacampesina.org.

The NFU points out that Canadian family farmers face similar problems as their Mexican counterparts. The tour is aimed at strengthening relations with the Mexican family farm organizations, and also building stronger links with urban people who are concerned about the food system.

The events planned for Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick include:

Tuesday, March 31st (Prince Edward Island)*

- 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Food Security Forum (organized by local Food Security Network)
Murchison Centre: 15-17 St. Pius X Avenue, Charlottetown, PE
- 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM Fair Trade discussion
Murchison Centre: 15-17 St. Pius X Avenue, Charlottetown, PE

- 7:00 PM NFU Food Sovereignty Dinner (**RSVP** by Saturday, March 28)
Howard Johnson Dutch Inn: TransCanada, Cornwall, PE

Wednesday, April 1st (New Brunswick)

- 7:00 PM Discussion with Falls Brook Centre
Falls Brook Centre: 125 South Knowlesville Road, Knowlesville, NB

Thursday, April 2nd (New Brunswick)

- 8:30AM NFU Breakfast and tour of maple syrup operation
Sugar Moon Cookhouse: Argyle, NB
- 3:00 PM NFU meeting at Rogersville
Contact: Jean-Eudes Chiasson, NFU in New Brunswick District Director,
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Contact for scheduling interviews or to RSVP to dinner event:

Martha Robbins, NFU International Coordinator (306) 229-2949 (cell)

For information about events in PEI:

Reg Phelan, NFU International Program Committee (902) 961-2428

For information about events in New Brunswick:

Barb Somerville, NFU in New Brunswick Secretary, 1-888-246-5583