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Cammie Harbottle, NFU Youth President, and Kalissa Regier, former NFU Youth President, carry the NFU flag in the "Thousands of Cancuns" march organized by La Via Campesina in Cancun, December 7th, 2010.

Message from the Editor...



Kevin Wipf I had the pleasure of experiencing my first ever NFU convention this past December 2-4. Although I have been undertaking preparations for it since early June when I started at the NFU, I had no idea what was in store once convention finally began. Or, perhaps I should say that I had no idea that an NFU convention could be that different from the other meetings and conferences that I've attended. But, over the course of the convention, three things stood out. First, I was amazed at how efficiently the entire proceedings ran. The convention was hardly ever behind schedule. Moreover, it ran so smoothly while still allowing people to participate and be heard. It was a big credit

to both the chairs and the members, who understood that only a certain amount of time was allotted to each segment. Secondly, I was struck at the attentiveness of the audience throughout the entire convention. It didn't seem to matter who was speaking, or what was being said. Throughout the entire convention, the audience was totally engaged. Usually you'd see people looking through their programs, whispering or talking with each other, or even falling asleep. But, from my vantage point there was none of that at the 41st NFU convention. Thirdly, I was impressed by the genuine interest of all in attendance. I realize this item is highly related to the previous two, but its importance bears a separate mention here. This convention and all of its content holds a lot of importance for NFU members. And looking back on it, I can see that it should. It's where policy gets developed and debated by members, it's where guests are invited to share their expertise on important issues, and it's where good friends come to meet once again to share stories about their families and activities from the past year.

—nfu—

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION 41st NATIONAL CONVENTION

December 2nd to 4th, 2010 – Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

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Session	Circle the session number you wish to order	# of CDs	# of MP-3s
1	Welcomes; Opening Address; <u>Reports:</u> Steering Committee Report, Board of Directors', Women's President, Youth President, National Farmers Foundation		
2	<u>Supply Management Panel:</u> Emerging Issues and Challenges		
3	<u>Public Event – Yann Martel:</u> Plowing Through Books: Farming and Reading		
4	<u>CETA Panel:</u> The Looming Threat to Farmers		
5	<u>Young Farmers in Canada Panel:</u> Exploring Alternatives; Beingessner Award Presentation		
7	<u>Reports:</u> Women's Caucus, Youth Caucus, International Program Committee; Closing Address		
8	<u>International Panel:</u> Alternatives Around the World		
9	<u>Address:</u> The Power of Food – An Alternative Approach		

DAY 1
Session 1 - 3
DAY 2
Session 4 - 5
DAY 3
Session 7 - 9



A message from the...



National President

—by Terry Boehm

Greetings and best wishes to everyone in the New Year!

We have just completed our 41st Convention, which was very successful in large part due to the efforts of Joan Lange and Kevin Wipf. The overall theme, *The Economics of Alternatives*, was broadly addressed through panels that looked at land tenure systems, small scale agricultural production for local markets and supply management.

I think what is most striking for us as a nation is the wealth of natural resources we have, including land, and the real lack of meaningful benefits accruing to ordinary citizens. The recent debate in Saskatchewan around the ownership of Potash Corporation is a telling example. Instead of asking who will own the company which extracts the resources and pollutes the countryside around the minerals, we need to ask why are we not benefiting from the resource that we all own directly. This applies to all of our resources across the country.

If we look at the alternative model presented by Norway we could be in a very different position. Norway, with the discovery of oil off its shores, understood that they had a one-time opportunity to benefit their people for generations to come. They decided that they would participate directly in the extraction of oil

with private companies. They created a system where they obtain 90% of the revenue from the oil for the country. They have created a fund of \$450 billion for their people. I would add that several Canadian oil companies are working with the Norwegians and find this arrangement suitable.

Here in Canada we have some of the lowest royalty rates in the world. When we try and raise them slightly the companies that extract our resources cry foul and say they will close up shop. I think it is time we bring the Norwegian model to Canada and let all of us benefit from the immense wealth this country has. This is a real alternative, just as supply management and orderly marketing through marketing boards, and the CWB, are real alternatives for farmers.

In solidarity,

Terry Boehm, National President



NFU Membership Fee Increase

**PLEASE SEE PAGE 7
FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION
REGARDING
MEMBERSHIP FEE INCREASE**



A message from the...



Women's President

— by Joan Brady

Thank you for another year's mandate as National Women's President. I truly enjoyed the past year as I became more familiar with my role on the National Executive and the potential of the Women's Advisory to work on farm family issues. I received a great deal of support and energy from the various regional advisors and our monthly teleconferences allowed us to stay up-to-date on various regional issues as well as to accomplish a number of concrete activities.

I am very proud of our "She's your Farmer" fundraising calendar that was released at this year's convention. Facilitated by NFU Women's Vice-President, Kathleen Charpentier, it features women farmers/members from across the country as well as recipes, and some great information on food sovereignty. Please consider supporting the NFU by purchasing a calendar from a regional women's advisor. They make great gifts for family and will increase NFU profile when used as speaker or politician gifts.

As I look forward to 2011, I am excited about the potential to continue to work for farm families. Currently the Women's Advisory is well-organized, well-supported and poised to develop a project to engage the leadership abilities of farmers and the interests of the food-consuming public for mutual benefit. It is becoming increasingly evident that food issues are on the radar of a wide range of interests. Municipalities, political parties, economists, various community based NGO's and others are developing food strategies, charters and visions. The various levels of governments are developing often

conflicting policies to organize and interpret the activity. More and more, health and environment are included in any discussion of food, its use and production. Often the true experts – the farmer and the eater – are not included in the discussion or considered in the development of overarching agri-food strategy and certainly a triple bottom line considering environmental and social considerations, is generally absent.

I look forward to continuing work with the NFU leaders that make up the National Executive and Board. There is a great deal of passion and perspective represented at all levels of the Union. Thanks to Kalissa Regier and Dave Lewington for their contributions in the past years, I know that they will stay connected in various ways. Congratulations to Colleen Ross as Vice-President, Cammie Harbottle as Youth President and Paul Slomp as Youth VP and to all other new officers. Finally a big thank you to our staff: Joan Lange is indispensable and should be proclaimed a "national treasure". Kevin Wipf has survived an extremely hectic and chaotic initiation period with good humor and skillful organization. As we continue to develop the National Office, I know that Kevin and Joan provide a solid and committed base on which to build our operations.

As I reflect on the New Year, I wish for you all a productive and safe year that rewards you richly in all the ways that matter. I commit to working with the NFU for a sustainable food system that is built on viable family farms and to continuously make sure the voice of farm families are heard at every level.

*Yours In Union,
Joan Brady*



A message from the...



Youth President

—by Cammie Harbottle

At national convention in Saskatoon, Kalissa Regier passed the reigns of Youth President over to me, after serving four fruitful years in NFU leadership. I want to officially thank Kalissa for all of the time, energy, and work that she has put in to build and organize the youth membership, and to mentor me through my first year on the Board. I look forward to continuing to work with and learn from Kalissa in many capacities (and after just spending 12 days non-stop with her in Saskatoon and Cancun, I can assure you the mentoring continues). I also want to welcome Paul Slomp as the new Youth Vice-President. Paul is a Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) beef farmer in Ottawa and he brings new energy, enthusiasm and ideas for the year to come.

We had a great Youth caucus meeting at convention, with about 20 people in attendance. There were a range of faces, young and old: young farmers taking over their family farms, young farmers on their own farms, aspiring farmers, farm workers, and experienced farmers. The overarching theme that emerged was the need to build the youth membership and, thereby, NFU Youth capacity. The critical issue of getting more farmers on the land has been the focus of the NFU Campaign for New Farmers over the past year. The amount of media and mainstream attention given to young farmers is rising; governments are catching on to the fact that there is a crisis, and as a result programs are popping up across the country. Our job now is to reach out and connect all of these dots to strengthen the NFU Youth.

As part of this goal, we are in touch with a developing organization called the Young Agrarians Society of Canada. We plan to hold our NFU Youth meeting this March in British Columbia to both cooperate with folks involved with the Young Agrarians, and to reach out to established networks of young farmers in BC. We hope to use the meeting as both a planning session for the NFU Youth and as part of a membership drive to build the NFU presence in southern and coastal BC.

We also need *your* help in building the Youth this year. If you know of any youth in your region, please put them in contact with Paul or myself so we can include them in our growing list.

Reflecting the potential and importance of young farmers in Canada, we were also fortunate to have a vibrant panel of four young farmers share their stories with the plenary at convention. Tim and Carla Schultz from Green Ranch in Osage, Saskatchewan are a young couple who returned to the family farm in 2003. They started with 80 head of cattle and now calve out 200+ cows and operate a 1.5 acre market garden. They sell to restaurants, farmers markets, and via their online store – and run a 50 member CSA. They also market other locally grown products including meat, grain, flour, eggs, and more.

Reid Allaway and Daniel Brisebois are two of the five young farmers who, driven by a common interest in good food, social justice, and the environment, began Tourne Sol Cooperative Farm in Les Cedres, Quebec in 2004. Tourne Sol operates as a worker cooperative and produces certified organic vegetables, flowers, seeds, seedlings, and herbal teas on 12 acres of rented land. Their products are distributed through a 250 person CSA, a farmers market, and an online seed catalogue. Both Green Ranch and Cooperative Tourne Sol are examples of alternative and innovative models that enable farmers to live off the land.

(continued on page 23...)



Convention 2010 Overview

The CETA Campaign and Raw Milk Workshops

Two information/discussion workshops were held prior to the official start of convention on Thursday morning. One was on the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) currently being negotiated between Canada and the European Union. NFU President Terry Boehm was the main speaker, and focused his discussion on the ramifications of the most dangerous provisions of the CETA agreement for farmers. For more details see the article on the CETA panel. The other workshop was on the issue of raw milk, and featured Michael Schmidt owner of Glencolton Farms and a pioneer of the cowshare model, and Dr. Robert W. Buckingham Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Saskatchewan. Schmidt argued that

there is very significant consumer demand for raw milk and that it is imperative that raw milk be made available. He stressed that raw milk does need to be regulated in order to ensure its safe production and consumption. Dr. Buckingham expressed his conviction, based on scientific evidence, that there is less risk to public health posed by pasteurized milk than raw milk. Also, while admitting that there is a significant time lag with science due to the sheer amount of time that it takes to undertake proper experiments, he argued that the reason there are smaller numbers of health issues associated with raw milk is due to the fact that far less people consume it. Both workshops were very informative for convention goers eager to learn more about these two hot issues.

Supply Management Panel: Emerging Challenges and Issues

The speakers on the Supply Management Panel were: Barron Blois, who representing the Dairy Farmers of Canada; Ian Cumming, a journalist from the Ontario Farmer; and, Carrol Wade, who represented the National Farm Organization from the United States. Christie Young, who was to represent FarmStart from Ontario, was scheduled to speak on the panel but could not make the trip due to illness. Blois discussed the strengths of supply management, and stressed that farmers collectively working together is vitally important to their viability. While Blois admitted that barriers to entry are a problem with supply management, he explained that new entry and cap programs have been put in place to deal with the

problem. The next speaker, Ian Cumming, presented a thorough criticism of Canada's supply management system, and argued that he and his son had no choice but to move to the United States in order to expand their operation. He argued that Canadian dairy producers carry a huge debt load and that the costs of production are much lower in the United States. The final speaker, Carrol Wade, discussed the significant challenges facing dairy farmers in the United States, and that none of the advice given to farmers by economists has ever worked. Wade argued that tackling corporate domination requires farmers to work collectively. The panel definitely stirred a lively debate in the question and answer period that followed.

Yann Martel: Ploughing Through Books

Yann Martel was the invited speaker for the public event on Thursday evening. Martel provided a very entertaining presentation before a packed convention hall about some of the books that he has sent to Stephen Harper, for his project entitled "What is Stephen Harper Reading?" Martel was inspired to do the project by the fact that the Harper government has shown very little interest in supporting the arts.

A key point made by Martel was that novels play an important role in shaping dreams and visions. For that reason, Martel argues that novels should be very important for leaders such as Harper. During the question and answer session Martel was asked if Harper has ever responded to any of the 96 letters he has sent with each book, to which Martel's politely answered "no." *(continued on page 23...)*



National Farmers Union Raises Membership Fees

A Letter from National President, Terry Boehm

Dear NFU Member,

At our 41st Annual Convention, a constitutional amendment was passed whereby the **membership fees for the National Farmers Union are now \$195.00**. This is an increase of \$45.00, over the previous membership fee of \$150.00.

Our fees have not increased for many years, but as for all of us, costs have increased. We have always been an organization that is very lean, but in spite of that, we end up in a deficit position from time-to-time. Many officials take only partial or no wages in spite of the many hours they dedicate to the organization.

The work that the National Farmers Union does is essential and **we are often the only farm organization that tackles tough issues with depth and determination**. Whether it is CETA, BSE, lack of competition in the cattle sector, or the government trying to dismantle the Canadian Grain Commission, the Canadian Wheat Board, or farmer seed saving, the NFU is always out front defending the interests of farmers.

We ask that you continue to support us, and sincerely hope that you understand the need for a fee increase.

Thank you,



Terry Boehm
National President
National Farmers Union



Important victory for farmers: CWB Elections

The results of the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) Director elections were announced on Sunday December 12th. The Pro-CWB single desk side won four of the five positions, and lost the fifth by only 31 votes. The successful candidates were former NFU President Stewart Wells in District 3, Allen Oberg in District 5, Kyle Korneychuk in District 7, and John Sandborn in District 9. The election result preserves the status quo at the directors' table, with eight out of ten farmer-elected directors being strong single-desk supporters.

The election result was touted as an important victory by the National Farmers Union. "This is a very important victory for farmers," stated Region 6 Coordinator Glenn Tait. "This election maintains the precedent started in 1998 with 80% of the farmer directors supporting the marketing advantages of the CWB.

In 2007, Prime Minister Harper vowed to "walk over" any opposition to his plans to dismantle the CWB. It is very encouraging to see farmers standing up for their rights to get more money from the marketplace," added Tait.

The benefits of single desk marketing were also championed in the Saskatchewan potash debate this past fall. "It was encouraging to see the Premier of Saskatchewan talking about the benefits of single desk selling of potash. Those same benefits are even more important in the global grain trade," stated NFU President Terry Boehm.

"The wishes of farmers are crystal clear, and it is now time for the federal government to start doing three things on behalf of prairie Canadian farmers: First, show farmers the respect they deserve, and remove the gag order which they are using to muzzle

the CWB; second, stop meddling with the voters' list; and third, stand up for the CWB at international trade talks, including the WTO and CETA," added Boehm.

"Prairie farmers stand united in their belief that the future of the CWB's single desk is a decision to be made by farmers and farmers alone, not the federal government. Farmers have, yet again, sent a clear message with this election result, and the Harper government must now respect that," Boehm said.

The election victory marks an important transition for former NFU President Stewart Wells. In remarking on his new position as Director for District 3 Wells stated, "The privilege of working with the NFU over the past 12 years gave me a much greater understanding of the advantages to farmers of having a strong Canadian Wheat Board. I did my best to represent NFU members at the NFU Board table over the years, and now I will do my best to represent

the farmers in CWB District 3 at the CWB Board table. There will again be a long and steep learning curve, but I am looking forward to the challenges."

The fight to maintain the CWB's single-desk advantage will certainly go on, but at least for a moment the pro-CWB single-desk side will take some time to reflect and enjoy their well deserved victory.

—nfu—

Prairie farmers stand united in their belief that the future of the CWB's single desk is a decision to be made by farmers and farmers alone, not the federal government.



The Power of Food

One of the most inspiring presentations at convention was that given by Wayne Roberts. Roberts holds a PhD in Social and Economic History from the University of Toronto, and has been extensively involved in food, health, justice, and environmental issues. He has played leading roles in such organizations as the Toronto Food Policy Council, the Coalition for a Green Economy, and Food Secure Canada. Roberts has also written seven books including *The No-Nonsense Guide to World Food* (2008) as well as articles for *Now* magazine. In 2002 Roberts received the Canadian Environment Award for sustainable living.

Roberts began his presentation by making a few interesting observations. First, he described how he spent time in Saskatoon in the early 1990s learning to campaign for Greenpeace. This experience, which served as his introduction to green-based food economics, included spending time on a combine with Nettie Wiebe. He followed that story up by making the very interesting point that he views the National Farmers Union as a “public health unit,” and encouraged NFU members to view it the same way. For instance, the NFU’s concern about social justice and the environment relates directly to the area of public health. Roberts concluded his introduction by making the point that our health system is much more oriented toward dealing with physical health issues, rather than social and psychological health.

Roberts’ presentation focused on seven points about food. Roberts spent a significant portion of his presentation on his first point: “food is big.” In order to underline his point, Roberts brought forth a plethora of statistics. For instance, he explained that 20 billion meals are eaten every day in the world, and 200 million food decisions are made every day in Saskatchewan. He also explained how intertwined food and garbage are, both in terms of food waste and packaging. Finally, he talked about how far food travels on average: between 1500-2000 miles.

Roberts’ second point was about empowerment. Given that food is so big, only small steps are required to have a significant impact. He suggested three half-steps:

- 1) the food system needs to be more efficient;
- 2) the focus should be on community gardens rather than food banks; and,



Wayne Roberts speaks to delegates at the NFU 41st Annual Convention, December 4, 2010.

- 3) some aspects of the food system could be redesigned. For instance, Roberts made the point that if every woman with children could swipe her health card in order to obtain free fruits and vegetables, the savings on the health care system would be \$3 for every \$1 spent on the program.

Roberts’ third point was that nothing happens in food without a lot of people being involved, and his fourth point was that food must be seen as a system. Roberts likened the food system to the solar system. Like a Rubik’s Cube, problems with the food system can only be resolved when one looks at all sides of it. Roberts also argued that you can’t plan a city without considering and using food.

The fifth point Roberts made was that when thinking about jobs, think food. One example he gave was that if half of all vegetables purchased in Saskatoon were supplied by local SPIN farmers, 1000 jobs would be created locally.

Roberts’ sixth point is the multi-functional aspect of food. Everything that one does with food, benefits someone else. When a person(s) starts working with food, there are multiple positive results.

He concluded with his final point: “Food is sacred, it is not just a commodity.” —nfu—



CETA

The looming threat to farmers and all Canadians

The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, known as the CETA, is really about government governing in corporations' interests, according to NFU President and farmer Terry Boehm. Boehm told the 41st Annual Convention of the NFU that the CETA is far more extensive than just a trade agreement, and involves the enclosure of government. He also pointed out that the negotiations are profoundly undemocratic, since they are mainly taking place behind closed doors with very little information provided to the public.

Boehm was speaking as part of a panel called "CETA: The Looming Threat to Farmers and All Canadians" along with health care expert and activist Michael McBane of the Canadian Health Coalition, and trade lawyer and activist Steve Shrybman of the Council of Canadians. In October 2010, the NFU launched its campaign against the proposed CETA between Canada and the European Union. The convention panel gave NFU members and friends the opportunity to hear more about the agreement and its potential impacts.

Boehm provided a blow-by-blow account of the central provisions of the CETA and what it would mean for farmers and citizens generally. He explained that under CETA, governments are to cede their ability to legislate freely in the public interest. Governments are forbidden from treating local businesses and suppliers more favourably than their European counterparts, essentially doing away with local procurement policies at every level of government.

Boehm also pointed out that under CETA, governments must carry out precautionary seizures in the protection of intellectual property rights, merely for "alleged infringement." Under this provision, farmers could be bankrupted for simply being *accused*

of infringement on intellectual property rights. Boehm concluded by proudly stating that "No other farm organization is critically examining the CETA, only the NFU is."

Michael McBane began his presentation by reminding the audience that the NFU was an original member of the precursor to the Canadian Health Coalition, and that farmers have always been very interested and concerned about the state of health care in Canada. The goal of the CETA is to eliminate barriers to trade and investment, which are in fact the mechanisms put in place by governments to protect citizens, the environment, local economies, and public services, McBane stated. He pointed out that the inherent purpose of public health care in Canada was to protect health services from the market.

McBane spoke about how some provinces, including Alberta and Quebec, are already looking into privatizing health care. This effectively allows private health care entities into Canada, and once inside they act like a virus, he contended. The CETA agreement includes provisions to privatize health care services and if agreements like CETA are signed, it will become very difficult for Canadian governments to curb, turn back, or resist privatization. Several corporations, including Monsanto and Bayer, have formed a round table to pressure governments into signing CETA. McBane warned that drug companies are trying to find ways to expand patent protection by delaying the use of generic drugs.

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(CETA, from page 10)

McBane argued that while the total costs of health care are rising, the biggest driver of rising costs is the increase in drug costs as a result of drug company monopolization. Drug company profits have been increasing by tens of millions of dollars, even during the recession. Canada is already paying among the highest prices on the planet for brand name drugs. Therefore, increasing privatization via the CETA would only enhance the power and control of the drug companies, he said. McBane concluded by arguing that intellectual property rights need to be reduced, not enhanced, and that what Canada really needs is a public Pharmacare plan.

Steve Shrybman began his speech by telling the convention that he was a Prairie hog farmer at one time, and that his family joined the NFU in 1969. In his presentation, Shrybman explained the genesis of CETA by contending that to fully comprehend it you have to go back to 1984, and the introduction of the Canada Health Act (CHA). Later that year, Jake Epp, who was then federal Minister of Health, wrote to the provinces and told them not to worry because the federal government had no intention of enforcing the CHA. Shrybman stated that this action was the beginning of a long descent towards privatization that continues today.

Shrybman stated that while Neoliberalism had taken hold in Canada with the election of the Mulroney government and that the central premise of the ideology was to get governments out of the way. In fact, the corporate world wanted governments out except where they were “needed” such as in the area of intellectual property rights. The interests of the corporations always trumped the pure ideology of Neoliberalism.

Ever since the late 1980s the strategy has been to write rules favouring corporate interests into “superconstitutions” known as

The goal of the CETA is to eliminate barriers to trade and investment, which are in fact the mechanisms put in place by governments to protect citizens, the environment, local economies, and public services...

trade agreements, Shrybman said. The idea is to prevent future governments from departing from the corporate agenda. These trade agreements are the codification of the corporate agenda.

Shrybman noted, however, that while we are in the throes of this on-going assault against public institutions, Canadians have been remarkably successful at defending them. For instance, Medicare, the Canadian Wheat Board, Supply Management, and the CBC all remain. In fact, much of the framework that defends and protects citizens is still in place.

Shrybman’s final point was to remind the audience that they must keep fighting. He identified two fronts on which the struggle should be focused: ecological security and food security. He explained how our food system requires on average an investment of 10 calories to produce 1 calorie of food and 60% of the calories invested are in the areas of processing, packaging and distribution. All three are areas highly controlled by corporate interests. Focusing on fixing that equation would not only enhance food and ecological security, but wrest power and control away from corporate interests and redirect them to citizens’ interests, Shrybman concluded. —nfu—



Therefore Be It Resolved

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE NFU'S 41ST ANNUAL CONVENTION DECEMBER 2ND TO 4TH, 2010 - SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

FARMERS' LEGAL DEFENCE FUND

WHEREAS, for example, genetically modified contamination can threaten the livelihood of farm families,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Farmers Union investigate the establishment of a farmers' legal defence fund.

REFUNDABLE BEEF CHECK-OFF LEVY

WHEREAS the Alberta Government has introduced refundable beef check-off levy and the NFU represents and advocates for the interests of beef cattle producers, both members and non-members.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU launch a campaign to encourage cattle producers to redirect their check-off refunds to the NFU.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NFU sends a letter and/or email to all Alberta members with instruction to claim back ABP levies.

MANDATORY BIRTH REGISTRY

WHEREAS a mandatory birth registry will give the large processors the ability to predict the gender, volume and time period of animals coming to the marketplace, thereby allowing further manipulation of livestock prices, and

WHEREAS a mandatory birth registry will not facilitate trace back from fork to farm as the animal loses its identity once it has been cut up, and

WHEREAS it is in the processing facility, after the animal loses its identity, where the meat contamination occurs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU take a stand against the unnecessary and expensive burden to the cattle producer of a mandatory birth registry and its associated tagging system.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF SRMs

WHEREAS the Canadian government caused the BSE problem through negligence;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU demand that the Canadian government cover the full costs of the removal and disposal of SRMs.

ENVIROPIG

WHEREAS Environment Canada is set to publish in the Canada Gazette that the University of Guelph has satisfied the requirements of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act allowing the Enviropig TM to be produced using approved containment procedures, and

WHEREAS applications to other federal agencies to assess the safety of Enviropigs for human food and animal feed are under review in both the US and Canada, and

WHEREAS the Enviropig is a transgenic organism (developed to reduce phosphorus levels in its manure), and

WHEREAS NFU policy calls for a moratorium on the production, importation, distribution and sale of GM food until questions regarding consumer health, environmental implications, technology ownership and farmer profitability are answered to the satisfaction of the majority of Canadians,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU oppose the commercial production of the Enviropig in Canada and request that Ontario Pork and OMAFRA withdraw support for the Enviropig and U of Guelph shut down the project immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NFU request that these financial resources be redirected to research that fits the real needs of hog producers in Ontario and Canada.

(continued on page 13...)



GREEN ENERGY ACT (GEA) AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS the NFU advocates for the right of farmers and rural communities to have control over and to benefit from food production in their communities, and

WHEREAS the NFU supports efforts to move toward renewable, clean sources of energy such as wind and solar to help revitalize rural communities, and

WHEREAS in the past rural municipalities, like Wolfe Island and Melancthon, were able to negotiate amenities agreements with industrial wind developers, which acknowledged the impact on rural communities of industrial wind developments and provided some compensation to the full community, and

WHEREAS such amenity agreements are no longer possible under the GEA, because the GEA takes away all control over siting, land use planning and zoning related to industrial wind developments from municipalities and gives the control to the province alone, and

WHEREAS the community and municipal consultation required under the Renewable Energy Approval (REA) process for wind developments is intended to ‘help build local support’ for the project, and virtually eliminates any public or municipal say or input into industrial wind developments in rural communities, and

WHEREAS this type of pseudo consultation is demeaning and insulting to farmers and rural communities that will be impacted by industrial wind developments in their backyards, and

WHEREAS industrial wind developments have the potential to take the control and benefit of a rural resource, wind, away from farmers and rural communities,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU

- (1) (a) connect with other organizations and municipalities with concerns about industrial wind developments; and
 - (b) bring forward the shortcomings of the GEA to organizations like the urban-based environmental organizations that are allies of the NFU on other issues and to the government; and
- (2) commit research and communication resources to look at who controls and benefits from industrial wind developments - landowners and rural communities or outside, corporate and private interests.

PEAK OIL 2010

WHEREAS there is an increasing body of credible evidence that there will be a peak or plateau in the global production of petroleum and natural gas, and

WHEREAS our food production, processing & distribution system has become extremely dependent on oil & natural gas products;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU acknowledges that

1. there will be a peak or plateau in global oil & gas production at some point in time; and
2. this peak or plateau is generally expected to occur at some point between the present and 2030; and
3. there have been warning from many credible sources that the effects of peak oil will be serious and pervasive and that mitigation of these effects will require several decades of intense planning and action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NFU:

- A. call upon governments to acknowledge that peak oil concerns are credible and warrant extensive research and mitigation activities, and
- B. call upon universities, (especially departments of agriculture) to undertake research on the diverse effects of peak oil on the agri-food system (and to report on the establishment and progress of such research to the NFU), and
- C. engage with federal and provincial governments to ensure that they profoundly and completely re-orient Canadian food, agricultural, and trade policies in order to bring them fully in line with energy supply contraction on the Ontario, national and global food supply chains.

HYDRO

WHEREAS it was publicly owned hydro generation and distribution that allowed rural areas to receive electricity in the first place, and

WHEREAS almost all new large-scale generation including some distribution is now in privately held hands,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU reject the drive to privatize our electrical generation system for large-scale generation.

(continued on page 14...)



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NFU support individual generation for personal use and for sales back to the grid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NFU communicate to government, the general public and others that the NFU supports public hydro.

PROPOSED FOOD SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

WHEREAS Food Safety and Inspection is a concern to farmers and consumers alike, and

WHEREAS farmers are facing higher costs with traceability programs in the name of Food Safety, and

WHEREAS large scale processors and retailers are using Food Safety to denigrate small-scale food processors, farmers and organic markets.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the NFU conduct a seminar to investigate the Food Safety/Traceability and Government Inspection of food handling regulations from the view point of farmers producing food for people.

LINKING OF FARM REGISTRATION TO ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

WHEREAS mention has been made of linking mandatory farm registration to any assistance programs of the Department of Agriculture,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Farmers Union reject any proposal linking mandatory farm registration to any assistance programs of the Departments of Agriculture.

ALEX ATAMANENKO PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL C-474

WHEREAS crops are produced largely for the purpose of realizing the best possible monetary return from marketing of same

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Farmers Union actively support the passage of the Atamanenko Private Members' Bill C-474 which proposes market impact assessment as a factor before any new GMO crop is allowed for registration.

RALPH GOODALE PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL C-548

WHEREAS the current regulations concerning the governance of the CWB lack clarity in certain areas

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU actively support Bill C-548 which would give farmers clear priority in control of the CWB.

INSPECTION OF FIELD CROPS

WHEREAS the removal of KVD has placed increased financial, legal and labor burdens on farmers and farmer seed-growers, and

WHEREAS field inspections of crops designated for seed is the first, best defense against the presence of illegal or inappropriate varieties causing producer expense and/or subsequent market disruption,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU lobby the Federal Government to abandon its plans to eliminate casual field inspectors for pedigreed crop production.

CWB DIRECTOR ELECTION VOTER CRITERIA

BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU urge the CWB and the federal government to adopt the following voting eligibility requirements for future CWB Director elections:

1. All producers (as currently defined in the CWB Act and regulations, i.e. actual producers and landlords entitled to a share of the grain produced) be automatically entitled to voting packages, only if they have delivered any CWB grains to the CWB within the 5 years prior to the election.
2. The only exception to Point 1 being new farmers with no history of any grain sales. These new farmers would be offered a declaration process to request a voting package.

ORGANIC GRAINS MARKETING POOL

BE IT RESOLVED the NFU support and encourage the Canadian Organic Certification Co-operative initiatives to encourage and facilitate the Canadian Wheat Board to establish a pool for Organic Grains providing the benefits currently available to conventional producers.

PLANNED GIVING AND LAND TRUSTS

BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU executive research both "planned giving" and land trusts, with a view to providing NFU members more ways to directly support their organization.

(continued on page 15...)



COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC AND TRADE AGREEMENT (CETA)

BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU engage in a significant campaign to fight the CETA (Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement) and the provisions of UPOV 91 (International Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties) that may be contained in this agreement.

FEED IN TARIFF POLICY

BE IT RESOLVED that the National Farmers Union encourage all levels of government in Canada to establish a Feed in Tariff Policy which would provide capital to encourage truly renewable and sustainable power generation that specifically excludes any new coal or nuclear power generation.

NFU POLICY ON CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS the NFU does not yet have a policy or position on climate change, and

WHEREAS farmers across Canada are increasingly feeling the effects of climate change, and

WHEREAS the political will to address climate change is wavering and insufficient, and

WHEREAS corporations are seeking to benefit from agricultural mitigation of climate change, and

WHEREAS climate change represents a major threat to the future of agriculture in Canada, and

WHEREAS our mother organization, La Via Campesina, has developed significant policy addressing climate change,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU board develops comprehensive policy addressing climate change proposals for the 2011 National Convention.

INVESTIGATION INTO NON-BOARD CONTRACTS

BE IT RESOLVED that the National Farmers Union undertake an investigation of non-board grain and delivery contracts in order to determine the contractual obligations of each party.

HOME MORTGAGE FINANCING RISK TRANSFER

WHEREAS the NFU has done good work on fighting back the neo-liberal agenda coming to us through Free Trade Agreements, WTO and now bilateral agreements like CETA, and

WHEREAS an action of possibly larger magnitude has happened that was almost unnoticed within Canada,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU reprint in the *Union Farmer Quarterly*, in whole or in part, the article printed in the *CCPA Monitor* about 20% of home mortgage financing risk being transferred from the five largest Canadian banks to the Canadian public in February 2009.

URBAN LOCALS

WHEREAS many NFU locals are shrinking across the country, and

WHEREAS urban farming has become a profitable and legitimate form of agriculture, and

WHEREAS the NFU is constantly looking for new members to join, and

WHEREAS many urban farmers are reading and willing to provide manpower on many of the campaigns on which the NFU needs the most support,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NFU investigate the idea of forming urban locals made up of urban farmers or bringing those farmers into existing locals, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NFU contact any groups that have already collected names of urban farmers in order to survey for interest.

ATLANTIC BEEF PRODUCTS PLANT

WHEREAS the Atlantic Beef Products plant in Borden-Carleton, P.E.I. was set up to slaughter 500 cattle per week, and

WHEREAS only 200-250 cattle are being slaughtered there each week, and

WHEREAS it is very difficult for some buyers to buy product from that plant, and

WHEREAS the Maritime region only produces 15% of the beef it consumes,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Farmers Union request a full inquiry be conducted into the operation of the Atlantic Beef Products plant.

(continued on page 16...)



NFU CONVENTION BANQUET

WHEREAS NFU policy states that the first step to building a healthy local food system is to eat food that we already produce enough of locally and to encourage the farming of foods that grow well in our particular area, and

WHEREAS NFU policy states that local food is part of a long term solution to pressing global problems such as those associated with climate change, fossil fuel depletion and increasing global pandemics, and

WHEREAS the membership of the NFU urges elected leaders and communities to support local food initiatives and recognizes the importance of local food initiatives as critical to Canadian Food Sovereignty;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that where possible all future NFU Convention banquets feature a menu based on locally grown food to celebrate, honor and showcase the host region's farmers and local food system.

HEMP REGULATIONS

WHEREAS during recent years farmers in Ontario and all of Canada have learned how to grow hemp and have expanded production acreage from 6,700 acres in 2003 to 20,000 acres in 2010; while at the same time markets for the "hemp" crop continue to grow, and

WHEREAS industrial hemp has the potential to offer a good rotation cash crop for Canada's family farms for years to come; similar to the production of hemp (for the manufacture of rope, textiles, paint and chicken feed) in earlier Canadian history 1606 – 1938, and

WHEREAS today the hemp fibre, the hemp seeds and their byproducts have the potential to replace some of Canada's dependency on imported oils (healthy oils in food production, biodiesel as fuel, as well as in the production of plastic, etc.) And in addition, hemp has the potential to lower energy needs when used in building products (especially in fiberboard, insulation, and hempcrete) and in auto manufacturing, and

WHEREAS after the passage of the 1998 hemp regulations, Health Canada noted that the hemp industry was emerging and promised to review these regulations with all interested parties within one year. And in addition, it must be noted that the

Ontario Hemp Alliance in co-operation with all interested parties compiled and submitted to Health Canada in March of 2009 a paper "The Canadian Hemp Industry Review Project" which included recommendations from the entire Canadian Hemp Industry for improving the regulations, and

WHEREAS:

1. To this date, Health Canada has not kept its promise to review the regulations with all interested parties.
2. The present out-dated hemp regulations are costing growers many dollars and lost time dealing with red tape.
3. And after eighteen months Health Canada has not responded to "The Canadian Hemp Industry Review Project"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Farmers Union inquire as to why there is no response by Health Canada to "The Canadian Hemp Industry Review Project"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NFU lobby the Government of Canada to include the following policies in new Canadian Hemp regulations:

- Faster processing of applications for licenses to grow hemp so approval comes before seeding time,
- Faster processing of applications for the research of hemp seed,
- Faster processing of licenses and permits to export hemp,
- Elimination of field crop sampling of Canada's approved hemp varieties,
- Expedited & funded research for making hemp seed products available as feed for livestock,
- Faster transparent process to have the addition of the "Jutta" hemp variety and other worthy new varieties onto the recommended/approved seeds list to avoid a shortage of appropriate seeds for certain areas, and
- Giving the Canadian Hemp industry a voice at the table with Health Canada to review and recommend regulations in respect to hemp.

—nfu—



The Beingessner Award for Excellence in Writing

The National Farmers Union (NFU) would like to congratulate Kathleen Skinner of Listowel, Ontario, who is the winner of the inaugural Paul Beingessner Award. Kathleen lives with her parents and two brothers on their family farm, called Stonaleen Farm, just outside of Listowel, Ontario. She attends Listowel District Secondary School in Grade 11, and besides farming she has interests in music and science. This is Kathleen's first ever entry into a writing contest. Below is Kathleen's essay.

The Beingessner Award is part of the NFU Youth's Campaign for New Farmers, and is given to the author (age 21 years or under) of the best 500-1000 word essay on agriculture and food issues in Canada. The value of the award is \$1,000. This year's theme was *The Importance of Family Farms in Canada*.

The Beingessner Award is named after Paul Beingessner of Truax Saskatchewan, who passed away in the spring of 2009 in a tragic farm accident. Paul was born on April 26, 1954, and returned to the family farm after obtaining his BA (Hon) in Psychology in 1976 and working with youth in Regina for a few years. Described as the "god-father of modern shortline railways" by former NFU President Stewart Wells, Paul was instrumental in the founding of Saskatchewan's first shortline railway, Southern Rails Co-operative, and served as general manager from 1991 to 1997. When he left Southern Rails, he stayed on as a board member, and worked with the Ministry of Highways Short Line Advisory Unit supporting other efforts of farmers to start shortline rail-ways. Since 1991, Paul wrote a weekly column on farming and transportation issues with a social justice focus featured in papers across Western Canada. After leaving the government in 1999, his expertise on transportation issues resulted in consulting work across Western Canada and the United States. Beingessner also served as a Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Delegate from 1996 to 1998, and was an ardent supporter of the CWB and ran for the position of director in 2008.

Importance of Family Farms in Canada

—by Kathleen Skinner

When my geography teacher posed a question along the lines of "why should we work to preserve our local farms when there will always be other places to get our food from", I had to make an argument. My one goal that day was to prove to my teacher, and others with a similar mind set, that family farms in rural communities *are* important.

One factor that often set family farms ahead of other food producers is their care for the environment. Small farms are more likely to work at being stewards of the land, with a common goal of sustaining the land for future generations. Farmers see their farm in a personal way, caring for it much like it was part of them. Family farms are closely connected with their communities and their neighbours; consequently they are more inclined to use sustainable farming techniques that preserve resources and the health of the community. On the flip side of this situation, industrial farms work to capitalize both cost and

products. As a result, the environment can be left to deal with excessive chemical sprays, fumes or manure.

Family farms are the centre of many rural communities and play a vital role in sustaining the local economy. Recently, we travelled to Newfoundland and saw a parallel to farming in the fishing industry. For over 400 years, the maritime provinces had booming fisheries. Many outport towns were developed and settled on the strength of the cod fishery. However, when the cod moratorium took effect in 1992, thousands were out of work, and the most prominent natural resource driving these small towns was immediately extinguished. When the fishermen lost work and had to travel elsewhere for employment, the merchants, teachers, and various other occupations felt the toll of their absence. Farming is not immune from similar effects. Family farms provide work for people in the community, in addition to spending money back into the local economy. I have watched my dad buy his feed from a local supplier, get his farm truck fixed by our neighbours, and locate local repairmen. Just one farmer provides business for multiple enterprises; in essence, they are the heart of a rural community. A large-scale farm covering thousands of acres is another option

(continued on page 18...)



for local food production, but very little money is put back into the local economy as a result of these farms employing few workers and purchasing their supplies from commercial sources. The final option for food production is importing, which supports no local development or economy whatsoever. Thus, family farms are the most optimal food production source for our country, and are vital to the economy of rural communities.

The diminishing number of family farms is having a slow, but obvious effect on the awareness of adults and children alike with respect to the food they eat. Years ago, a large majority of people lived on farms or in a farming area. In modern days, however, the population balance has tipped to city dwellers. When looking at a dinner plate, one may not make the connection between that pork chop and the work that was put into it at the farm, and many don't think that this connection is important. However, consider the mentality of many people eating this food. A vast number of people take the food they consume for granted; the super markets will always be stocked with every need. Recently, I have met new peers, who seem to have no concept of where their food comes from. I was shocked to find out that a fellow teenager was clueless to the fact that turkey farms exist! Where did that drumstick come from? The lack of connection between food and farm clouds respect for not only the farmers that produce the bounty, but the land that makes it all possible. In addition, many do not see the correlation between the land needed for farming and the food; the result being thousands of acres of prime farm land being transformed into cities and suburbs. Furthermore, the general public is incapable of supporting themselves. This may not be an issue at the present time, but it certainly would be if somehow our outside food supply was cut off. Imagine the chaos that would come when people could not find everything they needed in a store. The idea of being self-sufficient is slowly dwindling to extinction, especially in cities, and people have no idea how to create their own food supply. Family farming can aid in a person's ability to understand where the food comes from, and in turn support oneself, whether it be through gardening or raising animals or preserving fruits and vegetables. In conclusion, family farms can help to educate individuals and make people more aware of their food source.

Perhaps the most important aspect of family farming goes beyond the environment, supporting the local economy or enhancing knowledge about food. It is in the values learned by the family members



Kathleen Skinner being presented the Beingsner Award by George Stevers, Perth/Oxford Local president.

themselves. Take learning to work for example. Occasionally, I look with envy at the "town kids," who have never experienced waking up at seven to get the chores done before church. However, this work has taught me discipline and I can look at how far my skills in the barn have come over the years; each new duty I take on comes with a sense of accomplishment. Moreover, I have learned to work as a team member, to do my part so that the family succeeds. I have learned patience when tempers start to flare over stubborn animals that will not move. I have learned to pitch in and help when another family member is sick. Finally, working on my family farm has taught me that everything we do, whether it be a small job or big, is important to the function of the business as a whole. And, hopefully, when all play their part, there is success at the end to enjoy. To sum it all up, skills and values learned on the family farm are unquantifiable, and, as we have seen, these farms give beyond themselves to the environment, the economy and in education. What better model is there for successful agriculture in Canada? —nfu—



Reflections on the Global Forum for Life, Environmental and Social Justice

La Via Campesina in Cancun, Mexico, December 2010

—by Cammie Harbottle

Kalissa Regier and I arrived in Cancun the afternoon of Sunday, December 5th, partway through the second day of the alternative Global Forum for Life, Environmental and Social Justice. The Forum was organized by La Via Campesina (LVC) as a people's forum to parallel the official United Nations climate change conference called COP16. A large covered arena housed the plenary and there were several large tents for the camp and kitchen where we, along with the other 200 international delegates and approximately 2000 Mexican LVC members, would collect our beans, rice, salsa, and tortillas for the next five days.

COP15, held in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009, proved unsuccessful at reaching any real solutions to the climate crisis. At the last minute, the “Copenhagen Accord” was passed as a watered down



La Via Campesina leads the "Thousands of Cancuns" march on December 7th toward the official UN climate change meetings in Cancun, Mexico. (photo by Peter Rosset)



Cammie Harbottle and Kalissa Regier with the NFU banner in the December 7th Cancun march for climate justice. (photo by Jesus Andrade)

agreement based on voluntary emission reductions and market solutions. La Via Campesina denounces the “false solutions” being pushed by governments around the world, including carbon trading, agrofuels, genetically modified crops and trees, and geoengineering. Instead, peasants, farmers, and indigenous peoples from around the world gathered in Cancun to propose thousands of “true” solutions to climate change. These true solutions are based on food sovereignty and small-scale sustainable agriculture as key to providing livelihoods and cooling the planet. La Via Campesina organized the Cancun alternative forum as a means to “unite the force and resistance of peasant peoples of the world, who are already cooling the planet”.

On December 7th, La Via Campesina called on social movements, popular organizations and people around the world to participate in the “Thousands of Cancuns”. Actions were held around the world including a Peoples’ Assembly in Saskatoon

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Notes from the Road:

La Via Campesina's Caravans of Resistance against Environmental Destruction

—by Alvaro Venturelli

LVC's Caravans visited Mexican communities severely affected by environmental degradation and the climate crisis. Participants met with organizations and communities that are responding to the climate crisis devastation. The following are excerpts from Alvaro Venturelli's Notes from the Road. The entire piece will be posted on the NFU website: www.nfu.ca. For more information on the caravans see LVC's website: www.viacampesina.org.

It's not often you get an opportunity like my recent experience as a delegate for the NFU on La Via Campesina's Caravans of Resistance against Environmental Destruction. Caravan #2 went from Guadalajara to Mexico City and then to Cancun, where we were joined by the other caravans on our way to the Global Forum for Life, Environmental and Social Justice. A 4000 km road trip!

Mexico has a very strong agricultural history, being recognized as the birth place of Zea Mays (maize or corn). Corn is the center of Mexican culture - Mexican society grew in relation to its corn. Until 30 years ago, Mexico was self-sufficient in food but since Free Trade, its only 30% self-sufficient... Thanks to the United States dumping corn into Mexico which has killed their local production capacity.

We went to Toluca, which used to have over 30 000 hectares of wetlands that fed the Rio Santiago as well as provided water for the crops of thousands of small farmers. The insane growth of Mexico City, with over 21 million people, has led to a pipeline which diverts this wetland treasure to the capital. Half of the water is lost on the way as the pipes aren't fixed and what isn't consumed by the people in Mexico City is used by industry and also pumped under ground as a hydraulic pressure to keep Mexico City from caving into the central valley sands.

Wherever we went in Mexico, the main plan of action was to use our international presence as a sort of shield to help allow local communities and organizations share information with their own citizens about the scale of the environmental collapse underway. I was named Speaker for the International Caravans and we shared much of what is happening in Canada and elsewhere, as well as what civil society's response has been. In Mexico City, we had a march along Reforma (a main avenue) and to the Zocalo (the main plaza) where many of the affected communities managed to share their stories.

(Reflections on the Global Forum, from page 19)

co-sponsored by the NFU, while in Cancun approximately 10,000 people led by LVC marched to the Moon Palace where the official meetings were being held. It was a highly organized and beautiful march. Bolivians led the way with a chorus of flutes, flags, singing, and dancing and later on we were joined by the Bolivian Ambassador, the Presidential Advisor of Paraguay, and indigenous leaders from around the world.

On the final day, Bolivian President Evo Morales participated in a People's Assembly within La Via Campesina's Forum. President Morales spoke eloquently about food sovereignty, indigenous rights and his country's declaration on the Rights of Mother Earth. He denounced the climate "business" that was being discussed within the UN conference and the marginalization of Bolivia and other sympathetic countries in the official negotiations and he supported the efforts of La Via Campesina and other people's movements.

Overall, the Forum was an energetic, beautiful, and positive expression of hope in the face of a serious crisis. The farmers, indigenous peoples, and women of La Via Campesina are some of those most affected by climate change. Crop losses, flooding, drought, deforestation, industry-pushed GMO's, and increasingly large plantations are but a few of the effects devastating these peoples and their communities, yet they remain full of joy and determination. In solidarity with La Via Campesina and the peoples of the Earth,

Globalize the struggle, globalize hope!

—nfu—



National Farmers Foundation Report to Donors

NFU members are part of a unique charitable foundation which was granted a federal charter in 1986, but did not receive tax-exempt status until 1996. Since that time, we have been able to issue full charitable receipts on member donations, memorial donations, receipts from will and estates, stocks, bonds or life insurance policies. We have been able to fund over \$80,000 in NFU educational and organizational projects, and establish a reserve fund of investments of \$105,000. The Canada Revenue Agency requires us to spend 80% of annual member donations on projects while interest earnings can be reinvested or used for literature, postage, projects or board expenses. The Foundation board consists of five voluntary members operating at arm's length to the National Executive.

We should all consider our Foundation as a "charity of choice" to keep the Union growing. Since our last report, the following are donations received up to September 30, the end of our operating year.

Donations: *B. Gombay, Toronto, ON; Raymond Morris, Salmon Arm, BC; Cheryl Buchwald, Toronto, ON; Lyle Hall, London, ON; Georgian Brunette, Vancouver, BC; John Thomas, Quenell, BC; Ed Pedersen, Cut Knife, SK; J. King, Tatla Lake, BC; Valdis Macins, Kenora, ON; Westdale United Church Board of Trustees, Hamilton, ON; Siefried Kleinau, Lions Head, ON; David James, Balderson, ON; Allen Bloom, Toronto, ON; Dr. Charles Ross Green, Thorndale, ON; Shirley Farlinger, Toronto, ON; Sr. Catherine Fairbairn, Ottawa, ON; Dennis Ganann, Hamilton, ON; Katalin Englert, Oshawa, ON; Graham Jackson, Toronto, ON; Linda Makuch, Lasalle, ON; Elizabeth Peters, Thunder Bay, ON; Randy Weekes, Lanark, ON; Jean Smith, Loretto, ON; Donald Thomas, Nelson House, MB; Raymond Morris, Salmon Arm, BC; Helen E. McRae, Orillia, ON; Tibor Kiss, St. Catharines, ON; Richard Frank, Rockwood, ON; Henry and Joyce Neufeld, Waldeck, SK; Tessa Rogers, Barrie, ON; Alan B. Tanenbaum, Toronto, ON; Urban and Mary Laughlin, Summerside, PE; Manitoba All Charities Campaign, Winnipeg, MB; Ritvars Bregzis, Toronto, ON; G.M. Gamache, Coquitlam, BC.*

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We thank all donors for their support for the programs we have helped fund.

By including the National Farmers Foundation among your "charities of choice", you are taking a positive action in supporting its educational and organizational programs in the rural community.

As a charitable foundation (Registered Number 882622368RR) all donations are income-tax deductible.

Our donation envelope is included in this issue of *Union Farmer*.

We look forward to your valued support! Thank you!

**National Farmers Foundation
2717 Wentz Avenue, Saskatoon, SK, S7K 4B6**



We Remember ...

JOHN ALEXANDER CALVIN

John Alexander Calvin, lifetime farmer of Mankota, Saskatchewan, passed away on October 21, 2010, at the age of 82 at the Cypress Regional Hospital in Swift Current, Saskatchewan. He was a long-time member of the National Farmers Union, having joined on August 30, 1970.

John was born to David and Elsie Calvin (nee Harris) on June 8, 1928 on their homestead near Hazenmore, Saskatchewan. On November 7, 1958, John married Esther Hall. He is survived by his loving wife Esther and their four children: Leslie (Donette and their three children), Linda, Rosalie Davis (Scott and their two boys), and Ruth Carr (Trent and their boys); his sister Betty Lefebvre of Gravelbourg, Saskatchewan; brothers George of New Norway, and David of Hazenmore, Saskatchewan; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In 2009, John and his family proudly received the Family Farm Century Award for the Calvin family farm near Hazenmore, which his father homesteaded in 1909.

John was loved by all his family and will be sadly missed.



JEANETTE DELTA SKUTNITSKY

Jeanette Skutnitsky, known as Janet to family and friends, passed away suddenly on November 18, 2010 at the age of 76. Janet had recently moved to Regina, Saskatchewan to be near her family.

Janet was born in Calder, Saskatchewan, the eldest of six children born to George and Katie Balabuck. As a young woman, Janet wanted to be a nurse, but had to give up the dream to help out on the family farm.

Janet met Anton Skutnitsky at a Calder dance and were married a year later on August 2, 1953. After spending the winter in Toronto, they returned to take over the family farm near Stornoway, where they spent the next 36 years and raised five children. They moved to Yorkton in 1990 after an accident left Anton permanently disabled and unable to continue farming.

Janet had a big heart and was known for her love of her children and grandchildren. Janet absolutely shone when surrounded by her grandchildren, for whom her energy was boundless.

Janet was very active as Women's Advisor of the National Farmers Union. Her travels within the Farmers Union led her to far away places such as Christchurch, New Zealand and Prince Edward Island. She would host visitors associated with the Farmers Union from as far away as Central America.

Janet was predeceased by her husband, Anton, her parents and her infant daughter Diane. She leaves to mourn daughters Cheryl (Ian) McKinnon, Linda Corner, Carol (Gary) Kraft; sons, Robert (Pam) Skotnitsky, and Kelly (Paula) Skotnitsky; as well as numerous friends and family.



(Youth President Report, from page 5)

After convention, the Board struck a task force to work on a policy proposal and action plan to address the resolution on developing an NFU policy on climate change. As climate change represents a significant threat to agriculture in Canada and farmers across the country are increasingly feeling its effects, I am keen to move this ahead in the coming months.

In the same vein, immediately following convention, Kalissa and I flew to Cancun, Mexico to participate in the Global Forum on Life, Environmental and

Social Justice organized by La Via Campesina as an alternate forum to the United Nations climate change negotiations (COP16). It was a great experience- you can read more about it in a report from Cancun in this edition of the *Union Farmer*.

And so begins my first year as Youth President...

*In solidarity,
Cammie Harbottle, Youth President*

(Convention 2010 Overview, from page 6)

Young Farmers in Canada Panel: Exploring Alternatives

The Youth Panel featured Reid Allaway and Dan Brisebois representing Tourne-Sol Cooperative Farm near Montreal Quebec, and Tim and Carla Shultz of The Green Ranch near Regina Saskatchewan. Brisebois started off by describing Tourne-Sol's production and marketing approach. A key point he made was that they never negotiate prices at farmers markets in order to avoid taking losses, and that they make use of all of their produce. Allaway explained how all of the members of the Tourne-Sol Cooperative Farm met in University, and how exactly they divide up work duties. His main point was that they invest significant amounts of time into planning, their largest segment being the entire month of

November. They also maintain very strong historical records, which they use to make key production and marketing decisions. Next, Tim Shultz explained the genesis of he and his wife's operation, and how they got into SPIN (Small Plot Intensive) farming. Shultz then went on to explain their Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) model, and their plans for creating a Sask Harvest CSA. Shultz explained that the most enjoyable aspect of running the Green Ranch is their relationships with customers. All in all, the Youth Panel was very inspiring for the audience members, and provided very interesting and valuable insights into direct marketing practices in Canada.

International Panel: Alternatives Around the World

The International Panel featured Hannah Wittman from the Simon Fraser University, and Naomi Beingessner from the University of Regina. The third speaker, Renwick Rose from the Winward Islands Farmers Association (WINFA), was unable to attend because a hurricane swept through the Caribbean just prior to the start of convention causing significant damage to the banana crops. Consequently, Rose was forced to travel to Europe instead, in order to secure emergency funding. Beingessner started off by providing a comparative analysis of the property ownership regimes in Norway, Scotland, and Vermont. She also described the different forms of land reform that have taken

place in these places, and that each of these examples possess some important elements of food sovereignty. Next, Wittman argued that the same pressures are bearing upon all of the world's farmers. She also argued that a key response to social, political, economic, and environmental crises, has been land reform. She went on to describe the land reform taking place in Mato Grosso, Brazil. The result has been the creation of a "solidarity economy," which has increased sustainable agricultural production and employment. Both presentations were very informative and reminded the audience of farmers' important relationship to the land.

—nfu—



NFU BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICES

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Region 3: RR 5, 5420 Hwy #6 N., Suite 229, Guelph, ON N1H 6J2 Ph: 1-888-832-9638; Email: office@nfontario.ca

Region 5: Newdale Shopping Centre, 2999B Pembina Hwy., Winnipeg, MB R3T 2H5 Ph: (204) 261-0500

Region 6: 2717 Wentz Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7K 4B6 Ph: (306) 652-9465

National Officers and Directors:

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Youth Advisory Committee: *Farrah Carter*, Sackville, NB; *Caitlin Hall*, Palmerston, ON; *Annalisa Schoppe*, Poplar Point, MB; *Brenda Bakken*, Archerwill, SK; *Lara Smith*, Rycroft, AB.



NATIONAL FARMERS UNION FINANCIAL SERVICES

NEWDALÉ SHOPPING CENTRE, 2999B PEMBINA HIGHWAY, WINNIPEG, MB R3T 2H5

PHONE: (204) 261-0500 - FAX: (204) 275-5396

NFU INCOME TAX SERVICE

2011 MANITOBA RURAL VISIT SCHEDULE

<u>TOWN</u>	<u>HOTEL</u>	<u>DATES</u>
SWAN RIVER	SUPER 8 MOTOR HOTEL	FEBRUARY 15 TH & 16 TH
ROBLIN	ROBLIN MOTOR INN	FEBRUARY 17 TH TO 24 TH
MELITA	---	FEBRUARY 28 TH
KILLARNEY	---	MARCH 1 ST AND 2 ND
MORDEN	MORDEN MOTOR INN	MARCH 3 RD TO 10 TH
ARBORG	ZANS FAMILY INN	MARCH 14 TH TO 16 TH
SHOAL LAKE	---	MARCH 21 ST
RUSSELL	RUSSELL INN	MARCH 22 ND TO 24 TH
TREHERNE	CREEKSIDE HIDEAWAY MOTEL	MARCH 28 TH TO 31 ST
PORTAGE	CANAD INNS	APRIL 4 TH TO 8 TH
FISHER BRANCH	FISHER BRANCH MOTOR HOTEL	APRIL 11 TH AND 12 TH
MINNEDOSA	GATEWAY MOTEL	APRIL 13 TH & 14 TH
CYPRESS RIVER	---	APRIL 11 TH TO 13 TH