

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

FARM POLICY IS *FOOD* POLICY: Capitalizing on our Common Interests to Build a Better Farm Bill

By Aimee Witteman, Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

Over the last forty years or so the federal Farm Bill has become the intellectual amusement park of policy wonks, agribusiness lobbyists, legislative staffers, and other such extreme thrill seekers. Its pages of obscure definitions and federal provisions have seemed of little relevance to most people. There are signs, however, that this storyline is changing.

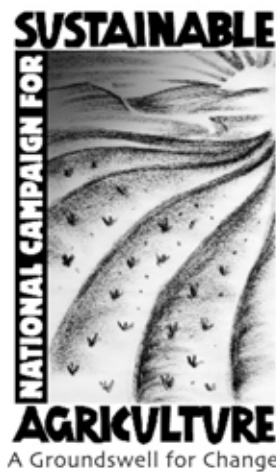
There are several guesses as to why federal farm policy might be gaining some purchase in the public sphere. The growing demand for local and regional food, as demonstrated by a proliferation of farmers' markets and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares, and mainstream magazine articles, has prompted discussion about the role of the Farm Bill in encouraging these markets. There has also been the tremendous media attention around the multiple impacts of the ethanol boom. Finally, within environmental, social justice, and public health movements, a heightened understanding of the relevance of food production, processing, and distribution has lifted the Farm Bill's prominence as a grassroots advocacy tool for leveraging power.

Whatever the angle, increased public awareness of food system issues has helped open a critical window for our movement to act within this year's Farm Bill campaign. How can we, who represent a diversity of backgrounds and interests, use this opportunity to advance our goals? I submit that while the longevity of our movement relies on the diversity of our perspectives, our power to win will come from emphasizing the places where our interests overlap.

Both organizations and individuals have the opportunity to meet at this intersection by promoting policies that are clear steps to growing a healthy,

Continued on Page 6

OUR NEW LOGO:



POSITIONING OURSELVES FOR THE FUTURE

What the National Campaign *is* hasn't changed, but how we do it has. As a small organization with a big mission we are always trying to target our work for the greatest focus and impact. Thanks to a year of self-evaluation by staff, board and many partners, we've completed our first-ever five-year Strategic Plan, re-focused our issue committees, and hired a new coordinator for our policy work. We've even developed a logo—no easy feat for an organization that deals with so many issues!

So what stays the same? We are still a nationwide partnership of people and organizations working together to build sustainable federal policies for food and farming. For folks who care about food, health and the land, our email Action Alerts let you know when your voice can make a difference. For organizations and for people who want to get involved at a

Continued on Page 4

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN LAUNCHES ISSUE COMMITTEES: Consider Joining!

Renewable Energy

By Mike McGrath, Minnesota Project

When it comes to renewable energy, the train has left the station and is barreling down the track at full speed. Fired up by a costly dependence on foreign oil and widespread concern about global climate change, American business is making commitments to produce up to 25% of our nation's energy needs from renewable, low-carbon sources within the next 20 years. This is a huge challenge, one that will not be accomplished without big changes upon the landscape.

Recognizing that this is a period of great transition, the National Campaign has formed a new Renewable Energy Committee to focus on policy initiatives that can advance the sustainable production of perennial plants for energy feedstock. In this committee, full consideration of sustainability principals, decentralization, and

Continued on Page 6

Sustainable Livestock

By Sheilah Davidson, National Campaign

There is growing public awareness of the serious dangers to society posed by inhumane and unsustainable livestock practices. With dangers ranging from mad cow disease to avian flu to the many negative effects of Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs), people are looking for alternatives. In response, the National Campaign and its partners have reactivated our Sustainable Livestock Committee. With the membership and priorities of this committee just now taking shape, this is a perfect time for those of you who are interested to join up.

As with all National Campaign committees, we look for broad and diverse representation. Members already range from the staff of large multi-issue national organizations, to single-issue organizations that recognize the need to collaborate on

Continued on Page 6

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Letter from the Executive Director

The National Campaign has accomplished an immense amount of organizational development work over the past six months. The result is an increasingly sturdy organization now moving swiftly forward to benefit this nation's vibrant grassroots movement for sustainable agriculture.

We have completed a three to five year strategic plan, examined and reaffirmed our current focal issues, and created a structure that should benefit the movement by greatly increasing our impact. New issue committees are up and running. Cooperative work by board and staff created a tag line and our first logo, just in time to give the National Campaign a more recognizable identity in the Farm Bill year.

Among our most exciting news is the hiring of Annette Higby as Policy Committee Coordinator. Details about Annette appear elsewhere in this newsletter, but I can tell you that she was hired on a Monday, met with the Board at our Annual Meeting on a Friday, and hit the ground running on the following Monday. This is emblematic of her passion for our issues, and the talent she brings.

Over the past three months we have been in multiple venues across the country giving a face to the National Campaign, from Kentucky, to Wisconsin, to California. Our Annual Board Meeting took place in Washington, D.C., where we welcomed Mark Lapping onto our Board. Mark is Distinguished Professor of Planning and Public Policy at the University of Southern Maine, and previously served in leadership roles at Rutgers, Kansas State University, and the University of Guelph in Ontario. He is also a prolific author on agriculture, rural planning, and rural policy. With roots on a Vermont farm, he is presently completing a history of agriculture in Maine.

Another first is our evolving collaboration with the Agricultural Policy Analysis Center (APAC) at the University of Tennessee. This collaboration will create a visible space for the National Campaign in the academic arena as we work with APAC to meet research objectives established by our 2005 Commodity Policy Dialogue.

And at the broadest level, we have been getting ready for the 2007 Farm Bill by honing the tools we need to promote effective citizen advocacy for federal policy. We are refining our criteria to select the Action Alerts we send so they will be tightly targeted to what you really need to hear, and we've been cleaning and building our Alert List with close to 1,000 new folks enlisted in just the past year from all over the country to build our movement's strength.

There is always so much more to do, but I am heartened and excited about our position as we move into the final approach to a new federal Farm Bill.

Deborah M. Burd
Executive Director

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The NCSA is a diverse nationwide partnership of individuals and organizations cultivating grassroots efforts to engage in policy development processes that result in food and agricultural systems and rural communities that are healthy, environmentally sound, profitable, humane and just.

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A BROAD ALLIANCE FOR BETTER POLICY

A BROADER ALLIANCE FOR CHANGE

By Yancey Stanforth-Migliore, National Campaign

On January 14th, the Sunday edition of *The New York Times* printed a major Op-Ed on federal agriculture policy. Entitled *Amber Fields of Bland*, it was authored by regular *Times* Op-Ed contributor, Dan Barber. Dan is a real spokesperson in the movement for sustainable agriculture and healthy regional food systems because he has taken his active intelligence, and his reputation as a bright star in the world of celebrity chefs, and put them to work to discuss federal policy on food and agriculture.

The real story, for us, is that a major chef has taken up the banner of farm policy, educating people about the incredible breadth of impact it has on food, and on society. First of all, it is a complex message in a busy world and will benefit greatly from treatment by a compelling spokesperson like Mr. Barber. Second, it signals a broader and increasingly powerful alliance advocating for policy change. And it signals a shift in how we, as a nation, are beginning to understand farm policy as food policy, which affects us all. This is great news for farmers, as well as for the rest of us who simply eat food, and live on the planet.

Dan Barber is the chef and, along with his brother, David, and sister-in-law Lauren, co-owner of Blue Hill at Stone Barns, the admired new restaurant on the Rockefeller estate at Pocantico Hills in New York's Westchester County. He is also the creative director of the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture—a partner of the National Campaign.

AMBER FIELDS OF BLAND: Excerpts from a *New York Times* Op-Ed

By Dan Barber, Blue Hill at Stone Barns

There's invariably something risky, if not risible, about allowing Congress to decide what's for dinner. Bad decisions about agriculture have defined government policy for the last century; 70 percent of our nation's farms have been lost to bankruptcy or consolidation, creating an agricultural economy that looks more Wall Street than Main Street.

Now, after the uprooting of a thousand years of agrarian wisdom, we chefs have discovered something really terrible — no, not that the agricultural system we help support hurts farmers and devastates farming communities, or that it harms the environment and our health. What we've discovered is that the food it produces just doesn't taste very good.

Who's responsible for the blandness? Look no further than Washington: There you will meet not farmers, but the people determining how our farmers farm. They do it through the Farm Bill, a mammoth piece of legislation that designates American agricultural policy every five years and that Congress is preparing to take up in its new session.

This is a sweeping bill, omnibus in every sense — nutrition, conservation, genetic engineering, food safety, school lunch programs, water quality, organic farming and much more. It's really a food and farm bill. If you're a chef or a home cook or someone who just likes to eat, it affects you, because it determines what you eat and how what you eat is grown....

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS: Partners Working Together Fly Farmers In to Talk to Congress

By Jeri Lynn Bakken, Western Organization of Resource Councils

"Healthy competition leads to healthy agricultural markets, which leads to healthy communities, farms and ranches". That message was carried to Congress by contract poultry, cattle, and tobacco producers who traveled to Washington, D.C. in March to explain the need for a competition title in the upcoming Farm Bill. Twenty different organizations worked together to organize this important fly-in and bring farmers, their experiences and their issues into over 95 congressional offices.

Mary Fortenberry, a retired chicken contractor from North Carolina, noted that she "was amazed at the diversity of the group that came in." Fortenberry was able to go to Washington and speak about the reality of the contract grower situation because she is now retired. "Unfortunately", she explained, "many poultry contract growers are not able to speak out because of the fear of retaliation."

The fly-in was just part of the work the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture's Competition and Concentration Committee is doing to return competition to the livestock and poultry industries. The proposed solution would return healthy functioning markets through a comprehensive plan that includes:

- Limiting packer control and manipulation of livestock markets
- Increasing fairness in agricultural contracts
- Assuring adequate market information and transparency for producers and consumers

Find out more about the proposed competition title and what you can do to make it part of the Farm Bill on our web site. At www.sustainableagriculture.net/CompanDC.php you will find fact sheets and detailed information on each of the points in the platform.

WORKING TOGETHER

BUILDING SUCCESS BY NETWORKING THE NETWORKS

The heart and soul of our work at the National Campaign is helping people work together. Faulty agriculture policy affects society in a confusing laundry list of ways, from environmental damage like the seasonal dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico, to food that travels thousands of miles from farm to table, to disappearing family farms, the obesity epidemic, and...well, the list goes on! The National Campaign works at weaving together the disparate people and organizations that care about these issues into an effective and collaborative campaign for change.

This winter and into spring:

- We organized open dialogues to gather grassroots opinion on organic issues from both organizations and interested individuals in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, California, and Wisconsin.
- We helped get farmers to Washington D.C. to meet with Congress.
- Our Organic Program Coordinator testified before Congress.
- We presented policy information at the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition conference, and attended and supported the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group Annual Conference.
- We organized the five regional Sustainable Agriculture Working Groups for a regular exchange of ideas on shaping federal policy. Alone, each of these networks that support farmers all around the country can benefit their own region. Together, they can benefit us all.

At the same time, we've coordinated the cooperative work that takes place in our issue committees, and have tuned up our Action Alert machine—the web-based database of thousands of citizens we reach by email with the information people need to be effective advocates for change. We have been able to add almost a thousand new people onto this list through organizing over the past year, and are now working hard to refine the criteria we'll use during the busy days ahead to select the Alerts that get sent, so they will be tightly targeted to what *you* really need to hear.

SAWGS LINK AND WORK TOGETHER

By **Kathy Ruhf**, NESAWG Coordinator

There are five sustainable agriculture working groups—Northeast, Southern, Midwest, Western and California. While they represent different regions and are different from one another in their structures, priorities and activities, they have a lot in common. Historically, the SAWGs have gathered together at annual National Campaign meetings. More recently, they've participated in regularly scheduled teleconferences sponsored by the National Campaign, which allow us to combine our strengths. SAWG organizers and/or coordinators update one another on their activities, exchange information and share resources. For example, Northeast SAWG has been focusing on regionalism in policy development (see excerpt below) and also on building advocacy capacity for its member groups. Through our teleconferences we saw a benefit for NESAWG to circulate its regionalism paper and checklist tool to the other SAWGs. Also, MSAWG/SAC asked NESAWG to conduct a workshop on advocacy capacity building at its recent Roots to Reform meeting in Washington, D.C. Through this collaborative work we're able to help each other, stretch our resources, and sharpen our organizing strategies.

Are We Being Served?

Excerpted from NESAWG's **Regional Framework for U.S. Food and Farm Policy**

Good public policies solve problems, address needs, and direct progress. However, even good policies can result in inequities, inefficiencies, and undesirable outcomes if applied in a "one size fits all" manner. Often, one size does not fit all, particularly with respect to different geographic regions. Good public policies must reflect and respond to regional differences, and should not unfairly hurt, disadvantage or ignore certain regions or sectors.

Regionalism is a framework that:

- 1) Identifies and responds to regional characteristics and needs; and
- 2) Encourages regional approaches and solutions.

Recognizing that regions do differ, a regionalist approach to public policy addresses *appropriateness, flexibility* and *equity* across regions. In no public policy arena is this more applicable than with food, agriculture and rural issues. Regionalism considers the economic, political, socio-cultural and natural factors of regions. Regionalism builds on strong affiliations of place, values local knowledge, and encourages place-based collaborations.

Positioning Ourselves for the Future: Continued

deeper level, our issue committees are *open to all*, offering an organized forum for the development of new ideas, and to promote policy reform.

And what have we changed? We've tightened up the focus of our issue committees, a process that has reaffirmed our commitment to committees on Stewardship Incentives, Competition and Concentration, and Organic Standards. Our process also revealed significant interest among our partners in sustainable livestock, and renewable energy, and the conviction that these issues are ripe for change and policy impact. So we're at work right now convening committees in these two important areas (for further detail, see Page 1).

We have created a single new Policy Advisory Committee designed to integrate the work of all our issue committees, to ensure the effectiveness of our work as a whole, and to guarantee that the core values we have identified as fundamental—rural development, social justice, and increasing the sustainability of commodity policy—are thoroughly incorporated throughout everything we do.

We have also hired a new Policy Committee Coordinator, Annette Higby. Her background in sustainable agriculture, policy, and the issues affecting family farmers, positions the National Campaign to move forward swiftly to support our partners in the movement with strong organizing and advocacy for this year's Farm Bill. We appreciate the support of our partners, and look forward to great work together in the year ahead.

THE NEXT STEP ON COMMODITY POLICY

By **Douglas B. Hunt**, Agricultural Policy Analysis Center, University of Tennessee

For nearly a year Deb Burd and I have talked sporadically about the importance of carrying forward the work done during the National Campaign's Commodity Policy Dialogue (CPD), which offered the potential to bring sustainable livelihoods to farms, and healthy environments and sustainable agriculture to their communities and regions. Specifically, we've been looking for ways the National Campaign and the Agricultural Policy Analysis Center (APAC) at the University of Tennessee might work together by undertaking whatever research is most useful to meet the needs outlined by the Dialogue.

This is a very challenging undertaking for APAC. Our focus, including the fantastic policy columns that APAC Director Dr. Daryll Ray produces week after week (see www.agpolicy.org), has traditionally rested on evaluating policy and policy impacts through economic and related analyses. APAC's usual analytical tools and frameworks are grounded in cost, price, yield, net income, exports, supply and demand elasticity, acres planted, etc. These are certainly related to the impact of various agricultural policies or practices on the sustainability of agriculture.

To move the CPD work and the National Campaign's agenda forward, we understand the need to create metrics to concretely measure and categorically rate the impact of various commodity policies on conservation. (A metric is a measurement of an aspect of a process that is used to assess performance.) We also understand the challenge of identifying or developing appropriate analytical tools.

There has been much written and discussed about these issues, as we have approached a new comprehensive Farm Bill. The rapid changes in commodity prices may have significantly shifted or even undermined many of the assumptions made in some of that work.

Our first task will be to identify and evaluate similar or related efforts to identify and assess impacts of various commodity policies on conservation and farmer livelihoods and, where possible, to include other interested parties in this work.

APAC looks forward to working with the National Campaign and its partners to provide a solid foundation of research from which to develop new approaches to commodity and conservation policies—policies that benefit the environment, farming, and the communities they both sustain.

Douglas B. Hunt is Research Coordinator at the Agricultural Policy Analysis Center, University of Tennessee



APPROPRIATIONS NEWS

Great success!

After years of Congressional cuts to the Conservation Security Program, and despite very challenging budget constraints for FY 2007 funding, the House and Senate agreed on April 24th that the FY07 Supplemental Appropriations Bill will remove CSP funding caps imposed by previous House language, and instead support uncapped funding. This would allow the 51 watershed CSP sign-up announced by USDA to go forward and would allow the contract modifications from earlier year contracts to be finalized and payments to start.

Without the hard work of many grassroots supporters, CSP would be funded in the Supplemental Appropriations at such drastically reduced amounts that it could not sign up any new producers this year. Of course this Supplemental Appropriations will go to the President's desk for a predictable veto as part of the War Funding Bill, but the negotiations that will ensue now include a commitment to fund CSP at levels that allow new eligible farmers and ranchers nationwide to enroll.

Congratulations!



WOW! Grassroots Activism at Work:

USDA recently announced an administrative shift that threatens to decertify tens of thousands of small organic farmers throughout the world in developing countries. These folks provide nearly all of the organic coffee in this country, and much of the cocoa, teas, bananas, and spices.

Working with the National Organic Coalition, Equal Exchange and others, the National Campaign coordinated the distribution of a sign-on letter to send to USDA to let them know how people feel about this important issue. We are proud and impressed to report that 3,300 people signed on in just over a week, along with over 500 businesses and organizations in 20 countries!

There is no doubt that grassroots activism is a powerful tool for shaping policy—so join our Alert List today!

Campaign for a Better Farm Bill: Continued

just food system. Farm Bill programs such as the *Farmers' Market Promotion Program*, *Farmers' Market Nutrition Program*, and *Community Food Project Competitive Grants Program* are good examples. They recognize that increasing all consumers' access to fresh, healthy foods purchased directly from producers addresses critical nutrition and food security needs while also reinvigorating local agricultural economies. Technical assistance, mentoring, and conservation set-asides for the next generation of family farmers included in the *Beginning Farmer and Rancher Initiative* affirm the economic and environmental value of family farmers and this next generation's diverse geographic, experiential, and cultural backgrounds.

Good policy isn't built on "silo" solutions. We must emphasize systems-based policies that address the interdependence between family farmers who manage over half the land area of the lower forty-eight states, and the rest of us who deserve healthy delicious food, and clean water and air. To this end, support for a new Conservation Security Program in the next Farm Bill demonstrates an appreciation for the multiple benefits of agriculture: food and fiber production can be promoted in a way that reinforces the public interest in soil tilth, wildlife habitat, and unpolluted waterways. As a movement, we should ensure that this program not only continues, but that it is adjusted and expanded so that all farmers have the opportunity to participate and are provided the technical support they need.

The list of policy innovations goes on. Other important proposals promoted by members of our campaign include strengthening urban agriculture opportunities, addressing the particular challenges faced by socially disadvantaged producers, and promoting fair competition through a *Competition Title* that would limit the market power of agribusinesses.

While tenaciously advocating for the policies we want to win, we must also identify what we are against: several of the Farm Bill policies being peddled by powerful agricultural interests are disguised attempts to increase international market competitiveness for corporate agribusinesses. These policies walk a path that's been unaltered despite a domestic obesity epidemic, persistent food insecurity in our rural and urban communities, a steadily warming planet, and a consumer base clamoring for organic and local foods.

The urgency of these circumstances combined with a heightened public awareness of food issues demands action from each of us. We can do so this Farm Bill year by: 1) acknowledging the essential role that the federal government has in ensuring a healthy, just, and competitive food system and 2) detailing the ways in which public money can promote the public good through programs that support competitive local markets, the next generation of family farmers, healthy soils, clean wa-



ter, and sustainably-produced foods that are nutritious and accessible to all people. While Congress's two Agriculture Committee chairs assure us a new Farm Bill will be written by the fall, this year's tightened federal budget means the details change almost daily. To stay informed on what is happening on the Hill, and to know when to take action on the issues you care about, please visit the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition's "Farm Bill Action Center": www.sustainableagriculture-coalition.org; and sign up for action alerts at the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture website: www.sustainableagriculture.net

Aimee Witteman is a Food and Society Policy Fellow and the Grassroots Organizing and Outreach Coordinator for the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

Renewable Energy: continued

the impacts on rural communities will be applied as priorities are assessed and further developed.

Ethanol, most notably corn ethanol, is achieving boom status as investors—farmers and big corporations alike—search for gold in the golden nugget. But the reliance on mono-cropping corn for energy will max out soon, and is not sustainable, leading to more soil erosion, increased water degradation, and a rise in chemical inputs to increase production.

The rising star in this energy boom will be ethanol made from cellulose in plants. With the advance of this new technology will come the opportunity for farmers to increase the production of perennial plants such as switchgrass, native prairie grass species, shrubs, trees and other perennial feedstock that can diversify farm income and improve our natural resources.

Our nation is on the threshold of a major transformation in energy that will lead to changes in every aspect of life as we know it. It is important that the sustainable agriculture movement be a part of this change to ensure that government policies reward and encourage the sustainable production of biomass energy crops. Please consider joining this committee to help make a difference.

Sustainable Livestock: continued

the broader agenda for sustainable livestock, to individual ranchers and livestock producers. This committee provides an opportunity for various sectors to collaborate, think collectively, and develop a collective voice. All are welcome!

The first meeting took place in April so the work is still very much in formation. The primary focus in the short term will be to seek ways to support work that partner organizations already have underway on sustainable livestock issues for the Farm Bill and other legislative arenas. Issues could include the National Animal Identification System, and Country of Origin Labeling (in collaboration with our Competition and Concentration Committee), as well as CAFOs, and support for small-scale livestock production. If you would like to participate in this or any of the National Campaign issue committees, you can contact Sheilah@sustainableagriculture.net, or call our Pine Bush office.

GET INVOLVED!

MEET OUR NEW POLICY COORDINATOR

Annette Higby has been hired as our new policy coordinator. Since 2000, she has been in private practice as an attorney on farm business and new farm enterprise formation, and farm estate planning. During this time she has also worked as lead author of two publications, the SARE funded *A Legal Guide to the Business of Farming in Vermont*, and *Holding Ground: A Northeast Guide to Farmland Tenure and Stewardship*, which she co-authored with Kathryn Ruhf and Andrea Wolschuk. Her impressive history of work within the movement also includes ten years tenure in a variety of capacities for the Center for Rural Affairs in Nebraska.

While she will continue to carry out advocacy for individual farmers through her case work in Vermont, Annette's first love is farm policy and she is excited to be starting with the National Campaign just in time to have an impact on America's new Farm Bill. She will build on many years of prior experience, from work with the Center for Rural Affairs at the height of the farm crisis in the 1980's, to work on trade policy, tax, and water quality issues.

Annette was drawn to agriculture policy because of the many changes she saw affecting her neighbors and community during her youth on a farm in central Michigan. She now lives in Randolph, Vermont, with husband Marty Strange, and their 16-year-old son, Benjamin.



GET INVOLVED WITH THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN!

For people who care about food, health and the land, the National Campaign is the organization that gives you direct input into federal agriculture policy.

We offer you several easy ways to promote change in the food system:

- ✓ Sign up for our Email Action Alerts by sending your email address to campaign@sustainableagriculture.net. You'll know what's going on, and when your representatives in Congress need to hear from you to support policy change.
- ✓ Make a contribution, which will support public education about federal food policy, making grassroots advocacy easy, and shaping proposals for new and better policy through our policy committees.
- ✓ Bring us your ideas by participating in one of our policy committees.
- ✓ Encourage related organizations to become National Campaign Partners.

BE A FARM BILL HERO - Sign up Today!

By **Annette Higby**, National Campaign

The 2007 Farm Bill debate is well underway. The National Campaign is well positioned to work with our partners toward reforms that bring about a more sustainable agriculture but we need your participation. A simple letter, fax or phone call to your Congressman or Senator can wield enormous power. Please join us in the campaign to reform food and farm policy by becoming a Farm Bill Hero. Follow the 2007 Farm Bill debate as it unfolds and respond to the many opportunities to shape the outcome of the debate.

We'll keep you abreast of Farm Bill developments by sending weekly email reports that track National Campaign Farm Bill priorities around organic agriculture, rural development, conservation programs, competitive markets, renewable energy and other issues important to the future of rural America. And we'll send you timely and well-targeted Action Alerts by email so you can speak out and have direct personal impact.

You can read the full set of our Farm Bill priorities at: www.sustainableagriculture.net.

Imagine a 2007 Farm Bill that:

- Provides financial and technical assistance to farmers who convert to certified organic production.
- Provides full funding and a nationwide sign-up for the Conservation Security Program to reward farmers for undertaking new conservation measures on working farmlands.
- Puts an end to Packer price manipulation by banning Packer ownership of livestock, and guarantees the collective bargaining rights of contract farmers free from retaliation.
- Ensures that conservation and local ownership are central features of agriculturally based renewable energy production programs.

Together we can win a Farm Bill that serves our interests, a Farm Bill that supports a healthy rural environment and a healthy rural economy.

Sign up online today at: www.agmatters.org/farmbillhero

A THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!

This edition of Agmatters is dedicated to the movement-wide collaborative work that is required to change federal policy. In that spirit we'd like to single out the following partner organizations for thanks. Each of these National Campaign partners contributed funds in addition to their dues between 2005 and the present.

Community Food Security Coalition

CROPP Cooperative Inc./Organic Valley

Heifer International

The Minnesota Project

Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA

Union of Concerned Scientists

Don't Let This Be Your Last Newsletter! • We Need Your Response!

THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN NEEDS YOU!

As a grassroots supporter of sustainable agriculture, **YOU ARE OUR HERO!!** You and so many others respond repeatedly and actively and you have protected the interests of sustainable agriculture time and time again. Please help us once again by taking one or both of the following actions.

1. This is the last print newsletter we will send to anyone we haven't recently heard from. If you are active with the National Campaign in any way, you'll keep getting it. *If not, if you want to stay on the list you must take action by using the coupon below to tell us you wish to continue to receive the newsletter.* Also, if we do not have a current e-mail address for you, please send it with the coupon below or by emailing Sheilah@sustainableagriculture.net.

2. The Sandy River Charitable Foundation has awarded us a grant to help us build our capacity. If we can raise \$100,000 in new or increased gifts by June, we will qualify for an additional \$50,000. We've almost met that goal, but we need **your help** to put us over the top! Please send in your gift today!



Name _____

Please keep me on your newsletter mailing list!

I prefer to receive my information electronically

Please keep me on your action alert mailing list!

Be sure to give us your email address Email _____

YES! I want to support NCSA! Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of: \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 \$25 **Other \$** _____

Do not list me as a contributing partner on your website

Please send to: National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture, PO Box 396, Pine Bush, NY 12566. Thank you!

Contributions are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations. A copy of our latest annual financial report may be obtained by writing the NYS Attorney General's Office, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271 or emailing Charities.FOIL@oag.state.ny.us