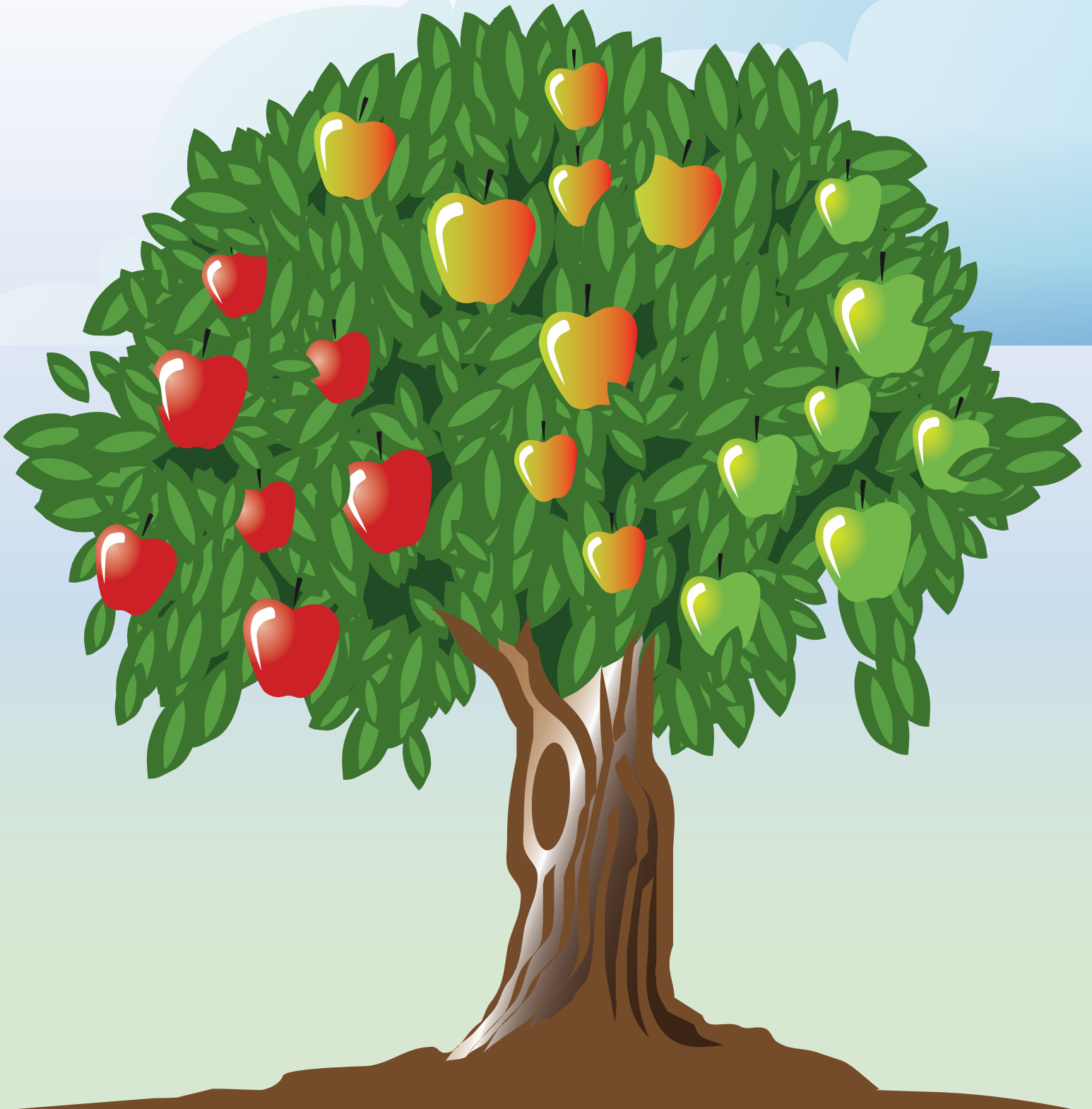




National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

2009 Annual Report

Growing and Thriving in a New Era



A New Era for the Sustainable Agriculture Movement

The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) commenced on January 1, 2009 after the successful merger of the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture and the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition. The new NSAC integrates and builds upon the strengths of both previous organizations, combining an experienced policy staff in Washington, D.C. with a larger, more diverse membership whose efforts to engage and strengthen grassroots advocacy are supported and coordinated through ongoing Coalition activities. Today, NSAC is more than 80 member organizations strong and is a more powerful, unified advocacy force than ever.

This new united organization is well equipped to address the emerging challenges and opportunities facing the advancement of sustainable agriculture. There are many reasons to be inspired: a diverse and determined throng of new farmers wanting a start on the land; a public clamoring for healthy, sustainably-produced food grown by farmers in their region; and allies in seats of power responding to the call to help re-build the infrastructure necessary for regional food systems to thrive.

At the same time, we are surrounded by vivid reminders of the serious challenges threatening the long-term social, environmental and economic resiliency of our farm and food system, including ongoing consolidation in the agribusiness sector and federal policies that largely continue our country's trajectory down the path of high input, high cost, and high risk agriculture.

NSAC is leading the way to long-term policy change. We are building on the twenty years of grassroots policy success of our predecessor organizations and we're leading the fight for federal policies and programs that retain and grow new farming opportunities, create local and regional food systems, support environmental improvement and mitigate climate change, and build stronger rural communities.

We thank you for your support and look forward to continuing our partnership to achieve our common goals.

– NSAC Organizational Council Chairs, Brad Redlin, Izaak Walton League of America and Scott Marlow, Rural Advancement Foundation International - USA

Building a Grassroots Base around a Shared Vision for Long-Term Policy Change

NSAC held its first organizational meeting in March 2009 in Washington, D.C. Farmers and member groups joined together to discuss and set NSAC's policy priorities and to make educational visits to members of Congress and the new Administration. One of the highlights of the inaugural NSAC meeting was a visit by the newly-appointed Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, who spoke about the need for more sustainable rural communities in the U.S., increased opportunities for beginning farmers, and improved access to healthy foods. Many of the Secretary's priorities complement NSAC's policy goals.



Maria Moreira of Flats Mentor Farm asks Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack about programs serving beginning and minority farmers during his visit to NSAC's inaugural meeting.

In August, representatives from NSAC member organizations met again, this time in Lawrence, Kansas. The summer meeting provided a time to discuss the Coalition's progress on its policy goals, learn grassroots advocacy tactics, reflect on NSAC's approach to federal farm and food policy change, and create a "roadmap" for its work on the next farm bill.



NSAC “Iowa delegation” meets with Secretary Vilsack during NSAC’s inaugural meeting in March 2009.

Growing Federal Support for Sustainable Food and Farming: Highlights of NSAC’s 2009 Policy Successes

In 2009 NSAC worked on several fronts to advance its mission. NSAC and its member groups helped to implement wins secured in the 2008 Farm Bill through visits with key staff at USDA and the Office of Management and Budget, drafting and submitting comments on proposed rules and requests for proposals, attending and presenting at public hearings, and distributing guides on farm bill programs. NSAC also fought to maintain and increase funding during the annual appropriations process, helped lead the legislative campaign to win mandatory funding for the Farm to School program, and crafted provisions to counteract negative impacts of pending food safety legislation on sustainable farm and food systems.

These semi-annual meetings, along with NSAC’s monthly issue committee calls, provide the space to gather the collective insight and recommendations of NSAC member groups. The consensus positions developed by NSAC are based on the member organizations’ direct experiences working on a daily basis with farmers and ranchers in the field. These positions are then translated into credible legislative and administrative proposals that are heard and considered in Washington, D.C. and, in many cases, are then implemented on the ground.

In addition, NSAC assists its member groups to engage individuals in the policy-making process. This includes initiatives such as farmer “fly-ins” to D.C. to speak to policymakers, grassroots trainings on activities such as in-district meetings, and farmer listening sessions where we gather suggestions for policy improvements.

Fostering Stewardship and Resilient Agricultural Landscapes

Farmers and ranchers are in a unique position to help provide healthy soils, clean water, habitat for native wildlife, carbon sinks to help mitigate global warming, energy savings and renewable energy sources, and other conservation benefits. NSAC is providing alternative forms of federal support for family farmers and rural communities that re-enforce the public interest in a healthy environment.

In 2009, NSAC maintained its two decades-long commitment to advancing substantive alternatives to status quo commodity programs, by improving implementation of the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), the landmark working lands conservation program that NSAC created in the 2002 Farm Bill. CSP rewards farmers and ranchers for actively managing and maintaining existing and adopting new conservation systems on their land. The Farm Bill provided sufficient funding to enroll 130 million acres in CSP over the next decade.



Edwin and Marian Fry operate Maryland Sunrise Farm on 875 acres, the largest parcel of certified organic land in Maryland. The Frys raise beef, dairy replacement heifers, food and feed grains, hay, and vegetables for the Anne Arundel County Farmers Market in Annapolis. They are participants in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and submitted comments to NRCS about CSP during the rule-making process.

Located near the Chester River, the Frys take their impact on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed seriously, rotating crops to build the soil and minimize runoff. They have catch ponds to capture sediment, a manure structure, and have worked with NRCS to plant buffer trees and fences alongside the tributary that runs through the farm. They also planted 40 acres in permanent pasture where their herd of heifers grazes. Combining crops and livestock has allowed the Frys to earn a comfortable income and practice good stewardship. Their farming mainstay is dairy; they milk 250 cows and raise 225 replacement heifers annually. In a cyclical, symbiotic relationship, they feed their extra organic grain to their herd and spread dairy manure back on the crop fields as organic fertilizer. The Frys successfully practice the whole-farm approach and operate their farm for the benefit of their animals, the environment and their community.

Due to NSAC's work on CSP in 2009, the program now includes over a dozen conservation activities directed specifically at sustainable and organic producers, as well as new support for local food marketing as an energy conservation measure. Thanks to the outreach provided by NSAC and its members through online resources for farmers and ranchers, toll-free help lines, and NSAC's new *Farmers' Guide to the Conservation Stewardship Program*, 33 million acres worth of applications for CSP were submitted in 2009 and 12.8 million acres were enrolled.

In 2009, NSAC also helped create and promote the new Organic Initiative in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, based on Organic Conversion Assistance, which was an NSAC achievement in the 2008 Farm Bill. Thanks in large part to the outreach efforts of NSAC member organizations who educated and alerted farmers about participating in the program and NSAC staff outreach to NRCS headquarters in Washington D.C., nearly 3,000 farmers enrolled in the Organic Initiative in 2009.

Rebuilding Regional Food System Infrastructure and Increasing Access to Healthy Foods

The U.S. is witnessing a regional food system renaissance, with more and more people clamoring to find healthy foods grown using sustainable methods by local farmers. This increased demand has made the shortcomings of our current food system glaringly obvious. In addition to a declining number of family farmers, the infrastructure necessary for local and regional food systems to thrive has steadily eroded. Small-scale meat slaughtering, grain milling, and dairy processing facilities, as well as packing and storing centers that used to dot the American landscape as recently as the 1960s, have all but disappeared. As communities lost this infrastructure, they also lost jobs, income and tax revenue, and public awareness of the people and systems responsible for feeding us.

In 2009, the USDA launched its new "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" initiative, aimed at reconnecting consumers and institutions with local producers. The initiative represented a major commitment from the Administration in line with

NSAC's ongoing effort to promote regional food systems and markets for small and mid-scale farmers in order to stimulate rural economies, improve access to healthy, nutritious food, and decrease the amount of resources to transport our food.

The Know Your Farmer initiative promotes existing USDA programs to advance its goals—several of which are NSAC priority programs like the Business and Industry Loan Program that provides federal loan guarantees for infrastructure projects like regional slaughter, cold storage, packing, and aggregating facilities; and the Value-Added Producer Grant that provides competitive grants for farmers and ranchers to develop value-added businesses and to market their product as a local or regional product. NSAC staff were consulted during the Know Your Farmer initiative roll-out and continue to work with USDA staff on the project.

Another example of a NSAC priority program highlighted by the Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food initiative is the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP), a program we conceived that increases farmer-to-consumer direct marketing by providing grants for the development, improvement, and expansion of farmers' markets, roadside stands, community supported agriculture programs, and other direct marketing opportunities. Thanks to a provision NSAC won in the 2008 Farm Bill, FMPP sets aside at least 10 percent of total grant funds for projects that will utilize EBT systems. EBT is the debit card system that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) participants use to receive and use their monthly food benefit. In 2009, 35 of the 86 FMPP projects awarded, totaling \$1.8 million, went to recipients facilitating the use of EBT at markets.



The Big River Economic and Agricultural Development Alliance (BREADA) received a Farmers Market Promotion Program grant in 2009 to install machines at their markets that allows them to accept Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards. This will increase access to local foods for the underserved population in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. BREADA manages Red Stick Farmers Market, an outdoor producer-only farmers market with three locations (two of which operate year-round), and Main Street Market, an indoor facility which operates six days a week, year-round. Sixty-five farms and local food artisans attend the markets. Because the farmers are able to produce 52 weeks a year, BREADA has always been a reliable outlet for the Senior Coupon and WIC Coupon client base. Now they are very excited to have EBT at their markets and they are publicizing the program to the community through an educational campaign that will target EBT eligible customers, offering introductory specials, events to learn about markets, and information on buying local.

Food Safety

There is no question that the U.S. food system needs to be made safer and that federal oversight and enforcement must be strengthened. Making our food safer, however, should not come at the expense of sustainable and organic producers' livelihoods—those farmers who best model the production and marketing methods necessary for ensuring a resilient landscape and healthy human society.

Unfortunately, the food safety legislation being considered in the House and Senate in 2009 cast a broad regulatory net over family farm value-added production and on-farm processing, failing to acknowledge the diversity of agriculture or the different risks associated with various scales of production and processing practices. By failing to focus proposed new FDA regulation on processing activities that present the most risk for foodborne pathogen contamination, the proposed legislation could needlessly throttle an increasingly important engine for rural economic development and rural revitalization. Paradoxically, in its zeal to protect consumer health, Congress could instead stifle a healthy shift in diet to more fresh and local foods.

In 2009, NSAC distributed a policy brief, Food Safety on the Farm, and worked with NSAC member organizations and the National Organic Coalition, to mobilize support from House and Senate members to ensure that any new food safety standards in proposed legislation:

- Are flexible and appropriate to the scale and diversity of the farm;*
- Do not conflict with or duplicate the National Organic Standards;*
- Take into consideration conservation and environmental standards established by federal conservation, wildlife, and environmental agencies; and*
- Focus rules and enforcement activities on crops and processing techniques that have been associated with foodborne illness.*

Fostering New Farming Opportunities

The future health and vitality of agriculture, the food system, and rural communities depends on the successful entry of farmers who want to pursue a sustainable farming livelihood. It also depends on restoring fair competition to the marketplace and improving the rights of farmers who produce under contract with large companies. In 2009, NSAC built upon its history of legislative successes aimed at creating more opportunities for beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ensuring fair and competitive agricultural markets.

NSAC successfully promoted the first round of \$17 million in Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) grants. A NSAC priority in the 2008 Farm Bill, the BFRDP program provides competitive grants to community-based organizations and others working to ensure that beginning farmers have access to technical assistance, training, land-link, and other forms of support to ensure their successful entry into agricultural livelihoods. In 2009, organizations submitted over 180 applications to BFRDP; 29 were approved, with more than 25 percent of total funding awarded to projects serving minority, immigrant, and women farmers and ranchers and farmworkers.

As a result of NSAC advocacy, Congress responded to the economic recession and financial crisis by substantially increasing 2009 funding for Farm Service Agency farm operating and ownership loans. As a result of NSAC's work in the 2008 Farm Bill, these loan funds now more effectively target beginning farmers. In 2009, 14,500 beginning farmers received loans totaling \$1.5 billion. Nearly half of all direct operating loans and over 70 percent of direct ownership loans went to beginning farmers, just shy of the farm bill targets of 50 and 75 percent, respectively.



In November, USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan visited the operation of a graduate of the Land Stewardship Project (LSP)'s Farm Beginnings Program to announce over \$17 million in Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) grant awards to 29 groups and institutions nationwide that are working with new farmers. NSAC members, including LSP, California Farmlink, Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association, and Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service, were among some of the groups that were awarded grants. NSAC worked for passage of BFRDP, which will provide \$75 million over the next four years in dedicated funding for community-based organizations and others working with new farmers.

In 2009, NSAC worked to increase resources for sustainable agriculture research and extension, building on the significant gains in the 2008 Farm Bill that increased research and extension funding for sustainable and organic agriculture, public plant and animal breeding, renewable energy and conservation, minority and beginning farmer outreach and development, agricultural and rural entrepreneurship, and food systems and public health. NSAC secured a modest \$200,000 increase in funding for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) for FY 2010, and more importantly secured Administration support for a major increase for SARE in the FY 2011 budget. NSAC also submitted extensive comments on the 2010 Request for Applicants for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative and on the USDA's new plan for Research, Education, and Extension.



While in New Mexico in January 2010 for NSAC's winter meeting, NSAC members had a chance to tour Don Bustos' Santa Cruz Farm and see first-hand the results of a 2007 SARE grant he received to improve winter greenhouse production. With support from the SARE grant, Don and his farm staff built a solar energy system to use in the farm greenhouses. They constructed a root-zone thermal heating system made from used solar panels, an underground water tank, tubing for two closed-loop circulating systems and necessary pumps and gauges for coordinated circulation. The first winter Don used the solar system, he cut his fossil fuel expenses from \$1,900 to zero, and his produce supply increased 30 percent. Don and his team of farmers have educated local farmers and hundreds of members of the public.

Investing in Cutting Edge Sustainable Agriculture Research

Without robust funding for public research that promotes ecologically-based production systems, scientific and technical innovation is stifled and U.S. farmers and ranchers are unable to fully participate in and benefit from emerging markets for sustainably-produced foods. After plateauing for several decades, federal support for agricultural research may well increase significantly over the next few years. NSAC is focusing its attention on ensuring that new research funding supports the goals of sustainable agriculture, including new farming opportunities, regional food systems, environmental improvement, climate change mitigation, and strong rural communities.

Members

REPRESENTED MEMBERS

Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association (ALBA) - Salinas, CA

Alternative Energy Resources Organization (AERO) - Helena, MT

California Certified Organic Farmers (CCOF) - Santa Cruz, CA

California FarmLink - Sebastopol, CA

CASA del Llano (Communities Assuring a Sustainable Agriculture) - Hereford, TX

Center for Rural Affairs - Lyons, NE

Clagett Farm/Chesapeake Bay Foundation - Upper Marlboro, MD

Community Alliance with Family Farmers - Davis, CA

Dakota Rural Action - Brookings, SD

Delta Land and Community, Inc. - Almyra, AR

Ecological Farming Association - Watsonville, CA

Flats Mentor Farm - Lancaster, MA

Florida Organic Growers - Gainesville, FL

Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) - Chicago, IL

Georgia Organics - Atlanta, GA

Grassworks - Wausau, WI

Illinois Stewardship Alliance - Rochester, IL

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation - Des Moines, IA

Island Grown Initiative - Vineyard Haven, MA

Izaak Walton League of America - St. Paul, MN; Gaithersburg, MD

Kansas Rural Center - Whiting, KS

Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture - Poteau, OK

Land Stewardship Project - White Bear Lake, MN

Michael Fields Agricultural Institute - East Troy, WI

Michigan Integrated Food and Farming Systems - East Lansing, MI

Michigan Organic Food and Farm Alliance - Lansing, MI

Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service - Spring Valley, WI

National Catholic Rural Life Conference - Des Moines, IA

National Center for Appropriate Technology - Butte, MT; Fayetteville, AR; Davis, CA

Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance (NODPA) - Deerfield, MA

Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society - Fullerton, ND

Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides - Eugene, OR

Ohio Ecological Food & Farm Association - Columbus, OH

Organic Farming Research Foundation - Santa Cruz, CA

Rural Advancement Foundation International, USA - Pittsboro, NC

Sierra Club Agriculture Committee - Nationwide

Union of Concerned Scientists (Food & Environment Program) - Cambridge, MA; Washington, D.C.

Virginia Association for Biological Farming - Lexington, VA

Wild Farm Alliance - Watsonville, CA

PARTICIPATING MEMBERS

Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network - Huntsville, AL

Carolina Farm Stewardship Association - Pittsboro, NC

Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems - University of Wisconsin-Madison - Madison, WI

Center for a Liveable Future - Johns Hopkins University - Baltimore, MD
City Seed - New Haven, CT
Community Food Systems and Sustainable Ag Program - U. of Missouri - Columbia, MO
Conservation Districts of Iowa - Chariton, IA
CS Mott Group for Sustainable Food Systems - Michigan State University - East Lansing, MI
Defenders of Wildlife - Washington, DC
Family Farm Defenders - Madison, WI
Farm Aid - Somerville, MA
Farm to Table - New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council - Santa Fe, NM
Farmers Market Coalition - Martinsburg, WV
Fay-Penn Economic Development Council - Uniontown, PA
Friends of Family Farmers - Colton, OR
Future Harvest/CASA (Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture) - Stevensville, MD
Heifer USA - Little Rock, AR
Henry A. Wallace Center - Winrock International - Arlington, VA
Humane Society of the United States - Washington, DC
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy - Minneapolis, MN
Iowa Environmental Council - Des Moines, IA
Iowa Farmers Union - IA
Just Food - New York, NY
Land For Good - Belchertown, MA
Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture - Iowa State University - Ames, IA
Maine Rural Partners - Orono, ME
Michigan Land Use Institute - Beulah, MI
Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture - University of Minnesota - St. Paul, MN
Nebraska Wildlife Federation - Lincoln, NE
Northeast Organic Farming Association – Interstate Council - NY, MA, RI, VT, CT, NH, NJ
Organic Farmers' Agency for Relationship Marketing, Inc. (OFARM) - Brussels, WI
Organic Valley - LaFarge, WI
PCC Farmland Trust - Seattle, WA
Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture - Millheim, PA
Practical Farmers of Iowa - Ames, IA
Roots of Change - San Francisco, CA
Slow Food USA - Brooklyn, NY
Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture - Pocantico Hills, NY
Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota - Starbuck, MN
Washington Sustainable Food and Farming Network (WSFFN) - Mt. Vernon, WA
Wisconsin Farmers Union - Chippewa Falls, WI
Women, Food, and Agriculture Network - Ames, IA
WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources - Pullman, WA

AFFILIATED REGIONAL PROGRAMS

Midwest Sustainable Agriculture Working Group
Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group
Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group
Western Sustainable Agriculture Working Group

2009 Revenue & Expenses

Revenue	
Donations	\$46,870
Grants	\$958,940
Dues & Registrations	\$55,108
Transfer from NCSA	\$88,732
Total Revenue	\$1,149,650
Expenses	
Salaries and Wages	\$368,827
Employee Benefits	\$128,924
Temporary Employees & Interns	\$40,885
Consultants	\$62,933
Strategic Initiative Grants	\$28,328
Subcontracts	\$64,337
Meeting Expenses	\$62,109
Staff Registrations	\$7,113
Travel (including farmer travel)	\$28,250
Office Space	\$45,035
Supplies & Equipment	\$7,305
Publications & Subscriptions	\$6,555
Postage	\$1,305
Printing	\$14,530
Telephone & Conference Calls	\$9,612
Total Program Expenses	\$876,048
Grant Administration	\$89,247
Total Expenses	\$965,295

2009 Donor List

BFK Foundation
Bradshaw-Knight Foundation
Cedar Tree Foundation
Claneil Foundation
Clif Bar Family Foundation
Farm Aid
Firedoll Foundation
Helianthus Fund
Kellogg Action Lab
W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Krehbiel Family Foundation
Lawson Valentine Foundation
McKnight Foundation
Newman's Own Foundation
New World Foundation
North Pond Foundation
Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation
Organic Farming Research Foundation
Organic Valley
David & Lucile Packard Foundation
Patagonia
Presbyterian Hunger Program
Vervane Foundation
Wallace Genetic Foundation
....and many generous individuals whom we greatly appreciate, because we can't do this work without your support!

Staff

Aimee Witteman, Executive Director
Ferd Hoefner, Policy Director
Julie Hudson, Director of Development
Martha Noble, Senior Policy Associate
Kate Fitzgerald, Senior Policy Associate
Ariane Lotti, Policy Associate
Annette Higby, Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator

2009 Strategic Initiative Grants

NSAC assists its member organizations by providing modest financial support so they can engage in grass-roots actions to advance our collective policy goals on key issues, in key states, at key times. The strategic grants are used to build the education and outreach capacity of NSAC member groups to assist farmers in participating in USDA programs, to encourage grassroots participation in developing policy options, and to advocate for change.

Alternative Energy Resources Organization for AERO staff and farmers to participate in the Montana State Technical Committee and meet with State Conservationist and NRCS staff.

California FarmLink and Agriculture and Land Based Training Association for grassroots lobbying in CA in support of the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development Account program in key Congressional Districts and for media work.

Center for Rural Affairs for the Farm Bill Helpline, workshops for beginning farmers on farm bill conservation, value-added agriculture, and credit programs, and for media work.

GrassWorks, Inc. for staff participation in the Wisconsin State Technical Committee

Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture and Future Harvest to jointly organize and host four on-farm educational workshops in PA and MD on programs that support local and regional food systems: SARE, VAPG, FMPP, and B&I Loans for local food enterprises.

Illinois Stewardship Alliance to provide grant writing workshops in collaboration with the USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service and media outreach on VAPG.

Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service for two educational workshops: one targeted to governmental agriculture professionals and the other targeted to farmers to encourage them to participate in CSP, EQIP, BFRDP, and VAPG, including outreach to Hmong and Latino communities.

Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Working Group to identify specific advocacy approaches and techniques to build power and advance key NSAC priorities in the Northeast and implement at least one of the identified approaches around the rollout of the Conservation Stewardship Program.

Rural Advancement Foundation International (RAFI) to conduct outreach and education with contract poultry growers around new USDA regulations on undue pricing preferences and contract fairness.

Western Sustainable Agriculture Working Group to assess implementation of the 2009 Organic Initiative in 10 Western states, identify barriers to participation by beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, and devise strategies to overcome them.

Southern Sustainable Agriculture Working Group and RAFI to convene Southern commodity producers to discuss commodity program reforms that better support family farmers.

Organizational Council

Chair, Brad Redlin, Izaak Walton League of America, Director of Ag Programs

Vice-Chair, Scott Marlow, RAFI - USA, Farm Sustainability Director

Treasurer, Jeff Schahczenski, National Center for Appropriate Technology, Ag Economist

Secretary, Brett Melone, Agriculture & Land-Based Training Association, Executive Director

Traci Bruckner, Center for Rural Affairs, Assistant Director Rural Policy Program

Don Bustos, New Mexico Acequia Association, Board Member & Farmer

Kathy Ruhf, Land For Good, Executive Director

Stacie Clary, California Certified Organic Farmers, Representative

Lydia Villanueva, CASA del Llano, Director

Duane Sand, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Public Policy Director



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The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition is the leading voice for sustainable agriculture in the federal policy arena, joining together the voices of grassroots farm, food, conservation, and rural organizations from all regions of the country to advocate for federal policies and programs supporting the long-term economic, social, and environmental sustainability of agriculture, natural resources, and rural communities.