

MSAWG/SAC Member Directory

May 2003

Midwest Sustainable Agriculture Working Group

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Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

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www.msawg.org

WHO WE ARE

Member Groups of the Midwest Sustainable Agriculture Working Group and the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition*

Center for Rural Affairs*
Columbia Area Food Circle
Conservation Districts of Iowa
Dakota Resource Council
Dakota Rural Action*
Diocese of Jefferson City, Social Concerns/Rural Life Office
FARM Alliance of Rural Missouri
Grassworks
Hoosier Environmental Council
Illinois Stewardship Alliance*
Illinois Sustainable Agriculture Society
Innovative Farmers of Ohio
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy*
Institute for Rural America
Iowa Environmental Council*
Iowa Farmers Union
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation*
Kansas Rural Center*
Land Stewardship Project*
Michael Fields Agricultural Institute*
Michigan Agricultural Stewardship Association*
Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Services (MOSES)*
Minnesota Food Association
The Minnesota Project*
Missouri Farmers Union
National Catholic Rural Life Conference*
Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society
Nebraska Wildlife Federation
Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society*
Ohio Citizen Action
Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association
Practical Farmers of Iowa
Prairie Rivers Network
Sierra Club Agriculture Committee*
Wisconsin Farmers Union Education Foundation
Women Food and Agriculture Network

WHO WE ARE

What is MSAWG?

MSAWG is a network of organizations working for a system of agriculture that is economically profitable, environmentally sound, family-farm based, and socially just.

We are farm, food, rural, conservation, environmental, and religious organizations and individuals who organized in 1988 to interject grassroots sustainable agriculture perspectives into the debate over the Farm Bill and federal policies and programs. Members are based in one of the north-central states or are national organizations with a strong Midwest presence.

A number of MSAWG participants form a subgroup, the *Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (SAC)*, to secure joint representation in Washington, D.C., and to speak as a formal coalition. In addition, beginning in 2003, SAC membership is open to groups nationwide. Our Washington staff provide support, analysis, education, and advocacy for the entire sustainable agriculture community.

Our policy work is developed and implemented by four issues committees. These committees bring together farmers, conservationists, researchers, and others to debate policy issues and develop consensus around policy options. The four issues committees are: Conservation and Environment, Research and Extension, Marketing and Rural Development, and Family Farm Opportunity and Risk Management.

MSAWG provides expertise to the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture. Several individuals active in MSAWG also guide the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture. MSAWG also works with the SAWGs in the other regions of the United States.

MSAWG and the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition are highly effective. We have played a major role in:

- Developing the new stewardship incentives program, the Conservation Security Program, in the 2002 Farm Bill.
- Creating the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE).
- Creating the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the major conservation cost share program.
- Creating the Wetlands Reserve Program to pay for easements to restore and protect ag wetlands.
- Reducing farm commodity program barriers to sustainable practices.
- Prodding EPA to strengthen and enforce rules for animal factories.
- Increasing money for sustainable agriculture and conservation programs through the appropriations process.
- Creating the Beginning Farmer Down Payment Loan Program and other credit programs to help a new generation get started.

MORE on WHO WE ARE

What is SAC?

While MSAWG is a broad-based network, the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition is a group that network comes together to take common positions and provide financial support for collective representation before Congress and federal administrative agencies.

In 2003, for the first time, SAC membership will be open to groups nationwide. Since its beginnings, SAC has operated as a national organization and has been advising many in the sustainable agriculture community nationwide. Yet, in representations on Capitol Hill and in the administrative agencies, the SAC staff can only claim to represent Midwest-based organizations. Expanding SAC membership to officially represent groups in other geographic regions will increase SAC's effectiveness. By the same token, organizations joining SAC will gain valuable D.C. representation and enhance their own political effectiveness.

The expanded SAC will continue to serve as an information resource to and work closely with the National Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture and each of the Sustainable Agriculture Working Groups.

SAC seeks extensive input from sustainable farmers and organizations working directly with farmers. In turn, SAC provides Inside-the-Beltway savvy and years of experience on how best to effect change within Washington.

SAC members must:

- be nonprofit corporations.
- work directly with farmers.
- have a major commitment to sustainable agriculture.
- not be otherwise represented in Washington.
- be comfortable with previous SAC positions.
- pay the yearly annual membership fees.
- participate in meetings and distribute alerts.

MSAWG/SAC Goals

- MSAWG/SAC furthers the goals of sustainable agriculture by playing a strong advocacy and watchdog role that improves the workings of Congress and administrative agencies.
- MSAWG/SAC builds the power of the sustainable agriculture movement by building our coalition and the capacity of member groups to work toward their policy goals.
- MSAWG/SAC identifies policy barriers to implementing sustainable agriculture and develops solutions to those needs.
- MSAWG/SAC brings together a diverse coalition of groups to move policy options forward.

MORE on WHO WE ARE

MSAWG/SAC 2003 Priorities set by our committees at the MSAWG Winter Meeting Jan. 26-27, 2003, Nebraska City, NE

CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Submitted by co-chair Bob Gronski, National Catholic Rural Life Conference: nclrcrg@aol.com

Major concerns

- Conservation Security Program implementation, including rulemaking, educating farmers about the program, and educating professionals/agency people.
- Livestock waste, including the new EQIP rule.
- State Technical Committees, including gearing up our own network so that MSAWG groups can work our priority issues at the STC level.
- Funding for conservation programs in general.

Minor concerns

- Crop insurance and requirements: relinking benefits to conservation compliance, swampbuster, sodbuster protection.
- Partnerships and Cooperations provision.
- Technical Service Providers (Third Party Technical Assistance), including rule comments, role for MSAWG organizations, etc.
- Department of Energy/USDA: registry for carbon; greenhouse gas credits (including ag lands).

RESEARCH AND EXTENSION COMMITTEE

Submitted by chair Kim Leval, Center for Rural Affairs: Kimleval@qwest.net

— Launch effort to save IFAFS (the Initiative for Future Agriculture and Food Systems) funding from the appropriations axe. Work to save as much of the applied funding for natural resource conservation, small and medium size farm and ranch profitability and Rural Policy program areas. If the program is absorbed into National Research Initiative, work to keep the applied nature of these three program areas or restore funding to like programs.

— Advocate for SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) and ATTRA (Appropriate Technology

Transfer for Rural Areas) programs - Take action to educate land grant staff about these two great programs. Prepare them to come to bat for the programs should the need arise.

— Continue effort to expand involvement of sustainable agriculture and organic stakeholders in the land grants and other public research institutions, as peer reviewers, and serving on federal advisory boards and assist them to take part in development of research and extension priorities. Take action by finding out who serves on the research priority setting bodies at Midwest land grants. Compile this information and assess tactics for increasing the number of sustainable and organic proponents on these research setting bodies.

— Proactively advocate for and promote integrated agricultural systems research, organic research, and plant and animal breeding research for sustainable agriculture systems.

(cont. on next page)

MORE on WHO WE ARE

FARMING OPPORTUNITIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Submitted by outgoing chair Jon Bailey, Center for Rural Affairs. The new chair is Traci Bruckner, Center for Rural Affairs: tracib@cfra.org

Major priorities

— Agriculture competition and concentration – emphasis will be placed on the packer ban and arbitration provisions of the competition/concentration package, but all pieces of the package will be supported

— Payment limitations

— Beginning farmer/rancher issues, focusing on:

1. Complete implementation of the land contract pilot program (including getting Midwest states participating and selected for the pilot)
2. Appropriation for the Beginning Farmer/Rancher Development Program
3. Beginning farmer/rancher conservation provisions – providing a document to USDA with ideas for implementation
4. Beginning farmer/rancher and rural development (small business development) tax provisions

Minor/Monitoring priority

— Monitor and publicize the outcome of crop insurance rules and regulations, especially those dealing with organic and sustainable farmers.

MARKETING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Submitted by chair Paul Johnson, pdjohnson@rnworks.com, and Ann Wright, awright@msawg.org

Top priority

Value-Added Product Market Development Grant Program

— Continue effort to influence implementation of the program through rulemaking process

— Protect funding in fy'03 as well as fy '04.

— Build a list of reviewers for the program with one-page background on each potential person. Deliver to Rural Business Cooperative Service and follow up with program administrators.

— Explore use of value-added list serve to educate farmers and groups about program, by sharing examples of grants, business contracts and feedback about program.

— Use websites for posting examples of successful grant applications and well as model business contracts.

— Explore opportunities to work with Small Business Development Centers to help applicants with writing grants. Also work with Centers to educate them about sustainable agriculture.

— Contact state USDA Rural Development Office about upcoming workshops on the Value-Added Grants program.

— Continue to build support within SARE for the Value-Added Grants program.

MORE on WHO WE ARE

What does MSAWG/SAC do for you?

- Brings you *Washington Report*, *Making Hay*, and other information about the federal policies and programs that affect your work.
- Delivers opportunities for you to effectively influence policy initiatives.
- Gives you the opportunity to come together to advance ideas that will benefit your efforts.
- Financially supports your efforts, when possible, that advance MSAWG goals as well.
- Presents many opportunities to learn from others in the sustainable agriculture community.
- Treats you to healthful, locally grown food, good conversation, and the opportunity to refuel and renew your commitment, through MSAWG meetings.

What does MSAWG/SAC ask of you?

- Move work forward by helping define issues and strategies in committees and at MSAWG/SAC meetings.
- Share your organization's successes, information you have, your lessons learned.
- Activate your own membership when action is needed on policy work.
- Generate ideas and opportunities for joint projects between MSAWG member organizations
- Help raise funds and recruit new members.
- Provide formal leadership as committee chairs and as members of the Coordinating Council.
- Pay your \$250 membership fee for SAC or \$75 annual fee for MSAWG (\$25 for individual membership). If you are unable to pay but can contribute in other ways, contact Teresa Opheim at teresa@msawg.org.

Meditation on our food

Let us take time to savor this food that has been prepared for us.

Look at the food — its colors, designs, textures, shapes.

Smell the food — breathe in attentively, experience the aromas of the seasonings and spices.

*Feed the warmth of the sun, the coolness of the rain that fell on the plants
and flesh that became this food.*

Imagine the multiple microbes helping roots take nutrients from the soil.

*Imagine the hum of pollinating insects, the communities of diverse six-legged creatures eating leaves
and roots and flower and fruits — and each other — seeking a balance of existence.*

Think of cows — chewing their cud, using their amazing switching tales to keep flies at bay.

*Envision the bent backs of planters and weeders and harvesters, feel the aching arms and shoulders
of those who wielded the hoes and steered the tractors.*

*Hear the knife chopping through the crisp flesh of potatoes and carrots thumping
the wooden cutting board*

Hear the rhythmic kneading of bread, the bump of the stirring spoon on the side of the kettle.

*Praise it all. Praise the life — and death — that is in this food. Praise the workers and the work
that brought it to us. Bless this food for our use, to give us strength to continue to work
for a food system that is environmentally sound and socially just.*

Let us savor this food.

by Dana Jackson, Associate Director of the Land Stewardship Project and member of the MSAWG
Coordinating Council. This meditation is read periodically at MSAWG gatherings.

MORE on WHO WE ARE

Our leaders: The MSAWG Coordinating Council

MSAWG/SAC is governed by a five-person Coordinating Council, which meets monthly (often via telephone). Current members are:

Brother David Andrews, National Catholic Rural Life Conference

Jon Bailey, Center for Rural Affairs

Duane Hovorka, Nebraska Wildlife Federation

Dana Jackson, Land Stewardship Project

Mary Fund, Kansas Rural Center

The Coordinating Council's responsibilities include:

— Assure that MSAWG policy and strategy are being developed and implemented; provide strategic leadership; respond to MSAWG members with issues that need to be addressed; look ahead to next tactical steps and build consensus around commitment to action strategies.

— Set the budget, recruit, and involve new organizations in MSAWG and SAC, and serve as a liaison with outside groups.

— Oversee meeting planning, assure that agendas are set and meet MSAWG's needs, foster strong group dynamics, and assure that group consensus process is followed; assure that MSAWG task forces and standing committees follow up on their responsibilities.

— Respond to time-sensitive problems, policy issues, group process, and administration.

Our staff: Who they are and how to find them

At the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

Phone: 202/547-5754; Fax: 202/547-1837

110 Maryland Avenue, Northeast, Suite 211, Washington, DC 20002

Ferd Hoefner (fhoefner@msawg.org) brings to his advocacy work nearly 25 years of Washington policy experience, including 13 with SAC, on issues related to food, agriculture, development, and environment.

Martha Noble (mnoble@msawg.org), who joined SAC in 1998, is a lawyer and policy specialist on agriculture and environment issues, including eight years with the National Center for Agricultural Law and the University of Arkansas School of Law's Agricultural Law programs.

Ann Wright (awright@msawg.org), who joined SAC in August 2001, has eight years experience working as the agriculture staff person for Senators Paul Simon and Paul Wellstone.

At MSAWG

Phone and fax: 319/354-0258

1614 Morningside Drive, Iowa City, IA 52245

Teresa Opheim (teresa@msawg.org) became Regional Coordinator for MSAWG in August 2001. She came from the Iowa Environmental Council and previously worked for the Environmental Law Institute and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

MSAWG and SAC* MEMBERS

Center for Rural Affairs*

P.O. Box 406
Walthill, NE 68067
Phone: 402/846-5428
Fax: 402/846-5420
www.cfra.org

The Center for Rural Affairs works to strengthen small businesses, family farms and ranches, and rural communities through action-oriented programs addressing social, economic, and environmental issues. CFRA's programs include:

— The Rural Policy Program works for agricultural policy that strengthens opportunities for family farmers and ranchers and promotes good stewardship of the environment.

— The Family Farm Opportunities Project helps beginning farmers and ranchers gain access to land, financing, knowledge and skills, and operates the Land Link clearing-house to match retiring farmers and ranchers with beginning farmers and ranchers.

— The Family Farm Sustainable Agriculture Project provides farmers and ranchers access to information and skills and to new production systems that help them capture a larger share of the consumer food dollar as they protect the environment.

— The Marketing Alliances Project connects family farmers and ranchers with consumers desiring food produced in environmentally and socially responsible ways, and assists family farmers and ranchers in forming cooperatives.

— The Rural Enterprise Assistance Project provides loans, business training, networking and technical assistance to small homegrown businesses in rural areas.

Contacts:

Jon Bailey (Director, Rural Research and Analysis Program, and MSAWG Coordinating Council member)
Jonb@cfra.org

Chuck Hassebrook (Executive Director)
Chuckh@cfra.org

Traci Bruckner (Policy Analyst, Rural Policy Program)
tracib@cfra.org

Kim Leval (Senior Policy Analyst, Rural Policy Program)
Kimleval@qwest.net
Phone: 541/687-1490
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340 Polk
Eugene, OR 97402

Paul Swanson
swanson@inebraska.com
Phone: 402/463-8507
5155 West 12th St.
Hastings, NE 68901-1703

Columbia Area Food Circle

The goal of this food circle in the Columbia, Missouri, area, is to develop a community-based, sustainable food system by:

— Encouraging families leaving public assistance to produce food for themselves and local markets.

— Increasing consumption of locally produced food by educating consumers about their food choices.

— Providing alternatives for small-farm families by helping them grow and market food locally.

— Developing community based value-added opportunities.

Contacts:

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Mary Hendrickson
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Walker Claridge
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1658 County Road 342
Millersburg, MO 65251

Elizabeth Barham
Barhame@missouri.edu
Phone: 573/442-2553
1013 S. Glenwood
Columbia, MO 65203

Conservation Districts of Iowa

P.O. Box 801
Chariton, IA 50049
Phone: 641/774-4461
Fax: 641/774-5319
www.cdiowa.org

Conservation Districts of Iowa provides education and leadership through Iowa's soil and water conservation districts to promote conservation of natural resources. Priority issues include soil conservation, water quality, backyard conservation, and urban sprawl. CDI provides Iowa's 100 member districts a unified voice to address regional, state, and national issues.

Contact:
Deb Ryun (Executive Director)
deb-ryun@cdiowa.org

Bernie Bolton
Boltonne@lycos.com
Phone and fax: 712/482-3386
38995 Honeysuckle Road
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Gail (Butch) Neumeyer
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Phone and fax: 319/448-4118
4646 Spencer Grove Road
Walker, IA 52352

Bill Bennett
Wbennett@alpinecom.net
Phone and fax: 563/426-5695
4331 Dove Road
Elgin, IA 52141

Dakota Resource Council

P.O. Box 1095
Dickinson, ND 58602
Phone: 701/483-2851
Fax: 701/483-2854
www.drcinfo.com

Dakota Resource Council protects North Dakota's land, air, water, rural communities, and agricultural economy. DRC is working for preservation of family farms, enforcement of corporate farming lands, soil and water conservation, regulation of coal mining and oil and gas development, protection of groundwater and clean air, renewable energy, and sound management of solid and toxic wastes.

Projects include:

- Progressing toward fair livestock markets
- Preventing problems associated with GMO crops
- Promoting wind energy for economic development
- Wining sensible zoning for factory farms.

Contact:
Mark Trechock (Executive Director)
mtrechock@pop.ctctel.com
(see DRC contact information, above)

Dakota Rural Action*

P.O. Box 549
Brookings, SD 57006
Phone: 605/697-5204
Fax: 605/697-6230
action@dakotarural.org

Dakota Rural Action, through community organizing efforts, enables families and individuals to effectively work together to achieve and create a sustainable society that will guarantee freedom of choice for future generations.

Contacts:
Cathy Hoss (Staff Director)
cathyh@dakotarural.org

Frank James (Lead Organizer)
fejames@dakotarural.org

Robin Bagley (W. River Community Organizer)
robinb@dakotarural.org
Phone: 605/456-1322
102 Third St.
P.O. Box 296
Newell, SD 57760

Diocese of Jefferson City, Social Concerns, Rural Life Office

P.O. Box 417
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: 573/635-9127 x225
Fax: 573/635-2286
www.diojeffcity.org

The mission of the Social Concerns Office is to plan, organize, advocate, and implement activities that are central to the Church's mission of promoting peace and social justice as seen through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching.

Contact:
Barbara Ross
soconcerns@diojeffcity.org

F.A.R.M.

Farm Alliance of Rural Missouri

P.O. Box 190
Marionville, MO 65705
Phone: 417/258-2394

FARM is an alliance guided and supported by family farmer, organic, sustainable farming, consumer, church, environmental and consumer groups. Members include: Catholic Rural Life-Diocese of Jefferson City, American Agriculture Movement, Missouri Farmers Union, Missouri Organic Association, MSR Center for Rural Ministry, Missouri National Farmers Organization, and Green Hills Farm Project.

Contact:
Rick Hopkins
rdhopkins@americanpasturage.com

Grassworks

210 River Drive
Wausau, WI 54403
Phone: 712/261-6009
www.grassworks.org

Grassworks works to improve and expand the practice of managed grazing in several ways:

1. Expand the practice of grazing by developing grazing specialists to cover each region of Wisconsin.
2. Cooperate with grazing networks to enhance what they are already doing.
3. Advance the abilities of graziers by providing work-

- shops, seminars, and an annual grazing conference.
4. Advance the science of grazing with on-farm research projects.
5. Providing a positive voice about grazing to educate lawmakers and the public about the benefits of grazing.

Contact:
Paul Nehring (Executive Director)
pmnehring@mail.co.marathon.wi.us

Robert Eder
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N3775 Ritchie Rd.
New London, WI 54961

Mary Anderson
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Harley Troester
Phone: 608/728-2580
8086 Narrow Cut Lane
Bloomington, WI 53804

Gerard Jaeger
Phone: 920/533-4725
N1387 Rolling Dr.
Campbellsport, WI 53010

Hoosier Environmental Council

1915 W. 18th. St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202
Phone: 317/685-8800
Fax: 317/686-4794
www.hecweb.org

Hoosier Environmental Council addresses the root causes of Indiana's environmental challenges. The group focuses on improving state policies to protect air and water, including setting safeguards for drinking water, cleaning up lakes, rivers and streams, and the development of common-sense rules to govern large confined animal feeding operations.

Contacts:
Tim Maloney (Executive Director)
Tmaloney@hecweb.org

Rae Schnapp
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Dean Ford
Phone: 765/723-1732
R.R. 1, Box 233
New Ross, IN 47968

Jim Kennington
Phone: 812/367-2556
35 Mach Street
Ferdinand, IN 47532

Illinois Stewardship Alliance*

P.O. Box 648
Rochester, IL 62563
Phone: 217/498-9707
Fax: 217/498-9235
www.illinoisstewardshipalliance.org

Illinois Stewardship Alliance is a citizen's organization that promotes a safe and nutritious food supply, family farming, and healthy rural communities by advocating socially just and ecologically sustainable production practices.

ISA's program to promote sustainable agriculture includes:

- Supporting an on-farm research and demonstration project
- Organizing and strengthening Conservation First, a coalition of Illinois groups working toward the development of farm policy that is balanced, forward thinking, and places the conservation of our natural resources and our family farmers first
- The Land Grant Accountability Project, which encourages the University of Illinois to increase the amount of research funding for sustainable agriculture
- Organizing against the proliferation of large-scale hog operations
- Promoting and supporting the Illinois Sustainable Agriculture network

Contacts:
Martin King (Agriculture Program Coordinator)
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Mark Beorkrem (Executive Director)
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Carthage, IL 62321

Steve Jurgens
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R.R. 2, Box 76
Arthur, IL 61911

Illinois Sustainable Agriculture Society

Rt. 3, Box 253
Mt. Sterling, IL 62353
Phone: 217/773-3869
ecoag88@yahoo.com

Illinois Sustainable Agriculture Society is a group of farmers and others dedicated to conservation and profitability on agricultural lands.

Contacts:
Candy Anderson (Administrator)
Shannon Allen
Kevin Brussels
Mark Roth
(see ISAS contact information, above)

Innovative Farmers of Ohio

3083 Liberty Road
Delaware, OH 43015
Phone: 740/368-8552
Fax: 740/362-8113
www.ifoh.org

Innovative Farmers of Ohio is dedicated to promoting, through research, education, and community-building activities, an agriculture that preserves and strengthens the economic, social, and environmental well being of Ohio's farms, farm families, and rural communities and protects and improves the health and productivity of Ohio's land and waterways.

- Programs include:
- Farmer-to-Farmer Education
 - Reconnecting Farmers and Consumers
 - Beginning Farmers
 - On-Farm Research

Contacts:
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860 Wright Lane
Greenfield, OH 45123

Noreen Warnock
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Columbus, OH 43202

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

2105 First Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55404
Phone: 612/870-0453
Fax: 612/870-4846
www.iatp.org

IATP's mission is to promote resilient family farms, rural communities and ecosystems around the world through research and education, science and technology, and advocacy. IATP's projects include:

- Numerous listservs to provide valuable info on ag policy
- Global Food Policy Project, which monitors the impacts of national and international policies, such as the World Trade Organization and national agricultural legislation on food security and family farm agriculture
- Sustainable Food Systems Project, which seeks to strengthen urban and rural links and provide a global policy context for local food system work
- Inter-American Integration Project, which works in partnership with organizations throughout the hemisphere to assess the impacts of national and international agricultural and trade policies.

Contacts:
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Nritchie@iatp.org

Mark Muller
Mmuller@iatp.org

Kristen Corselius
kcorselius@iatp.org

Institute for Rural America

P.O. Box 566
Ames, IA 50010
Phone: 515/292-2000
Fax: 515/292-7106
www.instituteruralameric.org

The Institute for Rural America was founded by farmers and rural people to emphasize the importance of prosperous agriculture and its impact on us and our communities. A nonprofit corporation located in America's heartland, the Institute promotes opportunity for the nation's agricultural producers and countless people, industries and businesses that depend on them. The Institute encourages individual and group action to create a stable agricultural marketplace; sustainable, economically healthy communities and good rural stewardship.

Contacts:
John Bobbe (Executive Director)
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9896 Co. Hwy. D
Brussels, WI 54204

Dave Reed (Secretary/Treasurer)
dreed@instituteruralamerica.org
(See contact info, above)

Iowa Environmental Council*

711 East Locust
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: 515/244-1194
Fax: 515/244-7856
www.earthweshare.org

The Iowa Environmental Council is an alliance of diverse organizations and individuals working with Iowans to protect our natural environment. Major programs include:

- Water quality protection, including water quality standards and strong water monitoring programs
- Appropriate management of livestock manure
- Reduction in pesticide and fertilizer use
- The closure of agricultural drainage wells, which provide pollutants a direct conduit to groundwater

Contacts:

Susan Heathcote (Research Director)

Heathcote@earthweshare.org

Elizabeth Horton Plasket (Executive Director)

Plasket@earthweshare.org

(see IEC office information, above)

Iowa Farmers Union

P.O. Box 8988

Ames, IA 50014

Phone: 800/775-5227

Fax: 515/292-6888

www.iafu.org

Iowa Farmers Union represents family farmers and ranchers on issues ranging from farm income to rural health care. The Farmers Union's primary goal is to sustain and strengthen the family farm agricultural structure in the United States. Programs and policy issues include: production agriculture, anti-trust enforcement, international trade, federal crop insurance, and beginning farmer programs.

Contacts:

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(See IFU contact information, above)

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Lori Sokolowski

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Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation*

505 Fifth Avenue, Suite 444

Des Moines, IA 50309

Phone: 515/288-1846

Fax: 515/288-0137

www.inhf.org

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation builds partnerships and educates Iowans to protect, preserve, and enhance Iowa's natural resources for future generations. INHF also works to improve state and federal policy for both public and private lands.

Major programs include:

— Permanent land protection, where staff help landowners choose how to protect their woodlands, wetlands, and prairies. INHF arranges donations and sales of natural lands, which become county or state public lands.

— Trail and greenway establishment

— Promotion of improved land management, including participation in several cooperative projects, such as the Raccoon River Watershed Project, which encourages sustainable agriculture methods in order to improve Iowa's water quality.

Contacts:

Duane Sand

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Mark Ackelson (Executive Director)

mackelson@inhf.org

(See INHF contact information, above)

Kansas Rural Center*

P.O. Box 133

Whiting, KS 66552

Phone: 785/873-3431

Fax: 785/873-3432

www.kansaruralcenter.org

KRC works to strengthen independent family farms and rural communities. By promoting sustainable farming methods, KRC strives to increase farming opportunities and protect the environment and natural resource base, while providing farmers a fair livelihood. KRC's vision also includes a safe and regional food system supported by partnerships between consumers and farmers.

Programs include:

— Family farm advocacy program includes monitoring agricultural issues at the state legislature, and analyzing and providing information on federal farm policy, as well as developing long-term research, credit, marketing and sustainable production systems to assist independent family farms in gaining a greater share of the consumer's food dollar.

— Heartland Sustainable Ag Project organizes local farmer-to-farmer clusters to explore and develop innovative approaches to production and marketing. KRC provides technical and planning assistance and seed money for education, on-farm trials, skills training, market development, and more.

— Clean Water Farms Project helps farmers and ranchers adopt farming practices that address non-point source agriculture pollution problems and reduce negative impacts on water quality by offering cost-share and technical assistance to establish on-farm models of clean water farming practices.

— Sustainable food system projects build partnerships between consumers and producers with community gardens, farmers' market development, and educational opportunities linking consumers with the origin of the food on their plates.

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Land Stewardship Project*

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White Bear Lake, MN 55110

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www.landstewardshipproject.org

MSAWG MEMBER DIRECTORY

The Land Stewardship Project is involved in a broad range of activities that foster an ethic of stewardship for farmland, promote sustainable agriculture, and develop sustainable communities.

LSP promotes policy and programs at the federal, state, and local level that help family farms and rural communities thrive and move us toward a food and ag system based on good stewardship of the land. The Federal Farm Policy Committee is made up of LSP staff and farmers.

LSP projects include:

— The Midwest Food Alliance, working to offer consumers food items marked with a seal of approval that indicates they were raised sustainably and locally.

— A Stewardship Food Network listing of direct-marketing farmers.

— Pride of the Prairie: LSP leads a West-central Minnesota partnership creating community support for locally grown food and the use of regional food on the University of Minnesota, Morris campus.

— Support for research of farming practices that improve profitability, environmental sustainability, and quality of life for family farmers.

— Training opportunities and resources, including whole farm planning workshops and a tool box of techniques for monitoring the impact of management decisions on quality of life, financial sustainability, soils, streams, flora/fauna.

— A Farm Beginnings program that trains new farmers in low-capital, environmentally sound farming practices, financial management, whole farm planning, and environmental monitoring.

Contacts:

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2919 East 42nd

Minneapolis, MN 55406

Michael Fields Agricultural Institute*

2493 County Road ES

East Troy, WI 53120

Phone: 262/642-3303

Fax: 262/642-4028

www.michaelfieldsagainst.org

Michael Fields develops and shares agricultural concepts and practices that promote resource-conserving, ecologi-

cally sustainable, and economically viable food and farming systems. The Institute's major program areas are:

- Agricultural research and education in sustainable, organic, and integrated farming systems.
- Student internship training program for beginning farmers and agricultural professions.
- Grassroots public policy support for sustainable agriculture.
- Sustainable food system development and urban-rural, farmer-consumer connections through conferences, publications, and marketing programs.

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Michigan Agricultural Stewardship Association*

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www.sustainable-ag.org

MASA is an organization of farmers and agricultural professionals committed to improving Michigan's farms through the development and adoption of sustainable farming practices. MASA works to:

- Increase awareness and educate the public on sustainable farming issues.
- Promote research that will determine the sustainability of alternative farming systems.
- Aid in the development of sustainable agriculture techniques for use on Michigan farms.
- Encourage cooperation between researchers and government agencies for the development of sustainable farming systems.
- Enhance and preserve Michigan's soil, water, and wildlife.

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Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES)

N7834 County Road B
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Spring Valley, WI 54767
Phone: 715/772-3153
Fax: 715/772-3162
www.mosesorganic.org

The Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service, (MOSES) is a non-profit education-outreach organization working to promote sustainable organic agriculture in the Midwest. Our office assists farmers, extension agents, organizations and others requesting information on organic and sustainable agriculture.

"Our mission is to help agriculture make the transition to a sustainable organic system of farming that is ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially just, through information, education, research, and integrating the broader community into this effort."

Our projects include:

- Upper Midwest Organic Resource Directory (UMORD) is a reference handbook that provides quick access to resources about organic agriculture in the Upper Midwest. The directory identifies resource groups, certification agencies, consultants, government agencies, suppliers, farmer co-ops, processors and publications.
- The Organic Broadcaster Newspaper, a bi-monthly newspaper that highlights news, information and innovations about organic agriculture.
- Upper Midwest Organic Farming Conference (UMOFC) is the largest organic farming conference in the nation, attracting a diverse group of over 1,400 participants and 120 exhibitors. The UMOFC is held annually in LaCrosse, Wisconsin the last weekend in February.
- Organic University is a series of in-depth full day

courses providing detailed information critical to successful production and marketing of organic crops and livestock.

MOSES attends and sponsors numerous other events and activities bringing along their resource library and book sales. Books we offer over twenty books for sale to assist farmers and others interested in learning about the many aspects of organic farming.

Resources Referral we assist farmers and others with questions and help them find information by referring them to websites, books, events, organizations and other information sources.

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explore ways that their work can be strengthened, while also exploring ways to take advantage of any synergies that arise.

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Minnesota Food Association

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www.mnfoodassociation.org

MFA's mission is to build a more sustainable food system. The group's projects include:

-- New Immigrant Agriculture Project, a collaboration that supports conventional and new immigrant farmers in converting from conventional or traditional farming methods to sustainable and organic production practices.

-- Tackling Hunger Through Rural Economic Development: Through state appropriation MFA will contract directly with sustainable and organic farmers to provide targeted food products that would be grown and delivered to Minnesota's Regional Second Harvest Food Banks, and through them distributed to low-income families who are in need of high quality, nutritious food.

-- Food Summit 2003: Strengthening Local Food Systems, a collaborative with the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture and The Minnesota Project, this day-long event will bring together 100 people from around Minnesota who are doing the work in local food systems and

The Minnesota Project*

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Canton, MN 55922
Phone and fax: 507/743-8300
www.mnproject.org

The Minnesota Project is dedicated to sustainable development and environmental protection in rural Minnesota. The Project connects rural leaders and perspectives to state and national policy development and promotes the understanding that socially, environmentally and economically healthy rural communities are vital to our society.

Projects include:

- Whole farm planning: promoting an integrated approach to on-farm decision making.
- Sustainable energy: making a transition to cleaner energy for economic development.
- Community sustainability: applying the principles of sustainability in small towns.
- Farm and water policy: creating state and national policies to help farmers protect the environment, and

working to involve citizens in river protection activities, including the Conservation Security Act.

— Community/university partnerships: working with the University of Minnesota College of Agriculture to insure that the needs of sustainable agriculture are met.

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Missouri Farmers Union

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Phone: 573/659-4787

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www.missourifarmersunion.org

Missouri Farmers Union is a general farm organization reaching farmers and ranchers through education, legislation, and cooperative efforts. MFU's mission is to protect and enhance the economic interests and way of life of Missouri family farmers and ranchers and the rural communities they represent. MFU works for farm policy that works for more equitable distribution of farm income and for conservation, and the group is involved in value-added efforts to enhance family farmers' share of the food dollar.

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National Catholic Rural Life Conference*

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Des Moines, IA 50310

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www.ncrlc.com

The National Catholic Rural Life Conference seeks a living community in which people and the natural world are given the respect deserving of their creation by a loving God. In such a society, every person is valued, the Earth is carefully stewarded, the poor are fed and community life is nourished by public and private deeds. NCRLC's projects include:

— Extensive work on improving agricultural and food

policy, on local, regional, and national levels.

— Educational materials on the rural crisis, including analyses of concentration of agricultural markets, farmers in distress, importance of stewardship farming, antibiotics and Catholic teaching.

— The green ribbon campaign, which expresses solidarity with farmers and represents hope.

— The "Eating as a Moral Act" campaign, to relink eaters with their food supply.

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Nebraska Sustainable Agriculture Society

R.R. 1, Box 66
Steinauer, NE 68441
Phone: 402/869-2288
www.nebsusag.org

NSAS promotes sustainable food and farming systems through education and networking opportunities. Activities include an annual Healthy Farms conference, workshops, farm tours, field days, and marketing education.

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Nebraska Wildlife Federation

P.O. Box 81437
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Phone: 402/994-2001
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www.nebraskawildlife.org

The Nebraska Wildlife Federation is dedicated to wildlife and wild places in Nebraska through environmental education, fish and wildlife conservation, and common sense public policy. NeWF works actively with farm organizations on the Farm Bill and other policy issues, serves on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's State Technical Committee, and works with state and local organizations to promote wildlife habitat on farms and ranches. The group focuses especially on Nebraska rivers and associated fish and wildlife habitat, including water quality.

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Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society*

9824 79th Street Southeast
Fullerton, ND 58441
Phone and fax: 701/883-4304
www.npsas.org

NPSAS is an educational organization committed to the development of a sustainable society through the promotion of a socially sound food production and distribution system for the Northern Plains. NPSAS explores and promotes:

- organic production methods and philosophy.
- marketing systems that retain value in farms and communities.
- the development of local and regional food systems.
- good stewardship of land, energy, and labor.
- environmental and social stewardship.
- just and humane treatment of all creation.

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Ohio Citizen Action

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www.ohiocitizen.org

Ohio Citizen Action is best known for its work on public health and the environment. It has worked for strong toxic chemical right-to-know policies, pesticides in food, public education on hazardous materials and wastes, and groundwater protection. Ohio Citizen Action conducts a variety of campaigns on behalf of consumers, including numerous pesticide reduction projects. One project convinced local grocery stores to carry organic produce and products, another publicized grain farmers who have switched to organic farming, yet another to get the Ohio governor to veto a “veggie libel law” allowing pesticide manufacturers and others to sue citizens for questioning the safety of fruits and vegetables.

Ohio Citizen Action also focuses on groundwater protection, improving farm policy, and connecting consumers and farmers.

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Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association

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www.oeffa.com

OEFFA is a broad-based membership association working together to promote sustainable, permanent, accountable and healthful agriculture. OEFFA provides an organic certification program, an apprenticeship program, public tours of organic and ecological farms, and organic program promotion.

OEFFA works with the Ohio Department of Agriculture to ensure that high standards are reinforced for the organic label, and monitors proposed state and federal legislative action, working on behalf of sustainable agriculture research and education, farm and farmland preservation, and citizens' right to know.

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Practical Farmers of Iowa

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www.pfi.iastate.edu

Practical Farmers of Iowa's mission is to promote farming systems that are profitable, ecologically sound, and good for families and communities. Programs include:

Farming Systems Program, which replicates on-farm research, farmer-to-farmer networking, field days and workshops.

Food Systems Program, which develops local food systems, public and agency education, value-chain development for niche markets, and building farmer capacity to serve alternative markets.

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Prairie Rivers Network

809 South Fifth Street

Champaign, IL 61820

Phone: 217/344-2371

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www.prairierivers.org

Prairie Rivers Network strives to protect the rivers and streams of Illinois and to promote the lasting health and beauty of watershed communities. The group provides information, sound science, and hands-on assistance to individuals and community groups so that they can become effective river conservation leaders.

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Sierra Club Agriculture Committee*

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www.sierraclub.org

The Sierra Club's Agriculture Committee educates, disseminates, and cooperates with the members of the Sierra Club and the public about a system of agriculture that strives for a sustainable balance that is both equitable for the human population and agriculture supply. The Sierra Club opposes public policy initiatives that encourage farming practices on such a scale that it destroys the family farm structure and concentrates crops or livestock in such a way that can never be sustainable.

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Wisconsin Farmers Union Education Foundation

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Women, Food and Agriculture Network

A Tides Center Project
59624 Chicago Road
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Phone: 712/243-3264
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www.wfan.org

WFAN's mission is to link and amplify women's voices on issues of food systems, sustainable communities, and environmental integrity. Activities include:

- Economic and environmental literacy training.
- Leadership development.
- International networking.
- Internships and mentoring.
- Participatory research.
- Activist training.

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COOPERATORS

Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas/ATTRA

P.O. Box 3657
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Phone: 1/800-346-9140
Phone: 501/442-9824
www.attra.org

ATTRA is the national sustainable agriculture information center operated by the private nonprofit corporation National Center for Appropriate Technology. ATTRA provides technical assistance to farmers, extension agents, market gardeners, agricultural researchers and others.

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Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems University of Wisconsin

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www.wisc.edu/cias

The Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems is a small sustainable agriculture research center at the University of Wisconsin's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. The Center creates research in areas including sustainable livestock production and marketing systems, fresh produce production and marketing systems, grain production and marketing systems, institutional participation in regional food systems, specialty crops and value-added enterprises, urban food systems, food systems analysis, and pesticide use and risk reduction.

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Community Food Systems and Sustainable Agriculture Program of the University of Missouri and Lincoln University

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Phone: 573/884-3794
agebb.missouri.edu/sustain

The Community Food Systems and Sustainable Agriculture Program's mission is to sustain a desirable quality of life for people in urban and rural Missouri through food and agricultural systems that are ecologically sound, economically viable, and socially responsible. The Program aims to: 1) provide human and social capital resources and linkages among producers, consumers, university resources and institutions and organizations, and 2) provide educational opportunities to various audiences on sustainable food and farming systems.

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CSARE
Consortium for Sustainable Agriculture
Research and Education

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www.csare.org

CSARE is made up of diverse practitioners engaged in agricultural research and education. CSARE's mission is to cooperatively advance a more just and sustainable agriculture and food system by enhancing our insitutional and policy environment, cultivate collaborative capacities, and nurture a supportive community.

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Farmers' Legal Action Group

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www.flaginc.com

FLAG is a nonprofit law center dedicated to providing legal services to family farmers and their rural communities in order to keep family farmers on the land.

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Leopold Center
for Sustainable Agriculture

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www.leopold.iastate.edu

The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture:

— Explores economic models that will include all the costs and benefits of agriculture, so that farmers receive a better return on their investment, our natural resources on which farming depends are protected, and rural communities remain healthy.

— Promotes research in local ecologies to help us better understand how local ecological systems function, how farming practices can use free ecosystem services that healthy ecologies provide, and how farmers can use natural processes as models to increase agricultural production.

— Explores and develops new markets and opportunities that will increase the farmer's share of the food dollar, increase diversity in crop and livestock production, and reward farmers for ecologically sound farming practices.

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MISA is a partnership between the University of Minnesota's College of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences, and five nonprofit organizations. Its purpose is to bring together the diverse interests of the agricultural community with interests from across the University community in a cooperative effort to develop and promote sustainable agriculture in Minnesota and beyond.

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The Wallace Center uses policy analysis, research, and development to foster sustainable and equitable agricultural and food systems, promote sound natural resources management, strengthen rural communities, and shape U.S. agricultural and food policy agendas. Current programs include agri-environmental economics and policy work; local and regional food systems analysis and development; sustainable agricultural development in rural areas and local communities; and organizing and convening local and organizational capacity building.

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