

League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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Agriculture Study Correspondence

RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

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Dear Committee Members,

We are nearing the end of the time we have allotted to ourselves to hear from agriculture interests from various points of view. However, it seems that our study will be lacking if we do not hear from Commissioner of Agriculture Gene Hugoson.

For this reason, we have scheduled him for July 13th at 11:00 a.m. I hope it is possible for committee members to arrange to be present.

A second meeting has been schedule for July 20th at 1:00 p.m. with William Nelson, President of Cenex Harvest States. He will be speaking on co-ops.

We will forego the potluck dinner at either of these meetings due to time constraints, and perhaps we could consider holding a potluck at our August meeting.

Sincerely,

Gertrude

Agriculture Study Committee
Meeting Notice
Thursday, July 13, 2000
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Minnesota Women's Building
Large Meeting Room

AGENDA

- 1. Call to order
- 2. 40 Presentation by Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson
- 3. 20 Questions and Discussion

Agriculture Study Committee Meeting Notice Thursday, July 20, 2000 1:00 p.m. Minnesota Women's Building **Large Meeting Room**

AGENDA

11.

5 Review plans for forum

15 Committee Reports 10. 5 Set August Meeting Adjournment

1.		Call to Order
2.	30	Presentation by William Nelson, President, Cenex Harvest States
3.	15	Questions and Discussion
4.	5	Appointment of Secretary, Call for Vouchers
5.	5	Review of timetable
6.	5	Review of Publication Steps
7.	5	Report on Funds

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Laura Waterman Wittstock President MIGIZI Communications, Inc.

Mark G. Yudof President University of Minnesota July 6, 2000

Commissioner Gene Hugoson Department of Agriculture 90 West Plato Blvd St. Paul MN 55107

Dear Commissioner Hugoson:

At the April 1999 State Convention of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, member delegates voted to undertake a two-year study called Agriculture Policies and Their Impact on the Long-term Viability of Agriculture and Rural Communities. The study will focus on the social and economic impact of state government policies and regulations involving agriculture.

This is clearly an ambitious undertaking. Consequently, we have heard from many speakers from different areas of expertise. We have heard from farmers, agricultural economists, rural sociologists, Cargill and others. The speakers have been from Minnesota and Iowa. Committee members have also attended seminars and conferences to learn more about the subject.

As the information gathering phase of our committee work is nearing completion, we would appreciate it if you could spend some time with us, perhaps pulling together the various perspectives into an over arching view.

We have heard from speakers regarding the need for farmers to develop good financial plans and marketing strategies, and the need to work cooperatively. In addition, we have heard environmental concerns over water pollution and food safety.

Recently, Governor Tom Vilsack of Iowa visited Minnesota and spoke of his plans for investment in privately owned land conservation. How is Minnesota faring with land conservation or privately held lands especially in view of the 1996 Farm Act?

It will not be possible for you to adequately address all these concerns in one hour, but we would appreciate hearing form you on as many of these topics as you care to address.

Your staff has informed us that it will be possible for you to meet with us on July 13th at 11:00 a.m. We meet at the League office conference room located at 550 Rice Street in St. Paul. Please call 651/224-5445 if you have any questions. We are looking forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Gertrude Ulrich

Gertrude Ulrich Chair, Agriculture Study



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James A. Roberts Vice President, Corporate Relations Minnesota Power

G. Edward Schuh Professor Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs University of Minnesota

Laura Waterman Wittstock President MIGIZI Communications, Inc.

Mark G. Yudof President University of Minnesota May 25, 2000

Dear Committee Member,

After much telephoning we finally have a speaker from Cargill. Unfortunately, the speaker can make any Thursday but June 1st. We agreed upon June 8th, as we had discussed this in committee and had reserved the conference room for both dates. I hope you all have managed to keep June 8th open. See you then.

Sincerely,

Gertrude

Agriculture Study Committee Meeting Notice and Agenda

THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2000 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Minnesota Women's Building

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!

(Change due to availability of speaker.)

Agenda

- 45 Speaker: Linda Thrane, Departmental Vice President, Cargill
 Questions from Committee
- 2. 2 Minutes of the Thursday, May 4, 2000 Meeting
- 3. 60 Review of written materials submitted/Ulrich, Gunderson
- 4. 15 Review of publication process/Sawyer
- 5. 2 Set next meeting

LWVMN Agriculture Study Committee Minutes May 4, 2000

Present: Gertrude Ulrich, JoAnne Rohricht, Stephanie Henriksen, Barbara Vaile, Nancy Gundersen, Anne Borgen, Mary Phillips, Eldred Phillips, Deanne Lederer, Bev Montgomery.

Before the regularly scheduled meeting a work session was held where copies of members documents were dispersed and read.

Tasks for June and July are:
-arranging the Sept. or Oct. Public Meeting(s) with speakers,
location, budget, and assigning responsibilities
-writing, rewriting and editing our document.

It was noted that **topics not as yet covered** are: food safety and quality (JoAnne Rohricht has something on regulations), environment (Helen Palmer), and stewardship (Brian Karlsson-Barnes), farm advocacy groups, state compared with national policy, state and federal links.

The St.Cloud group are compiling and editing. Nancy Gundersen has provided an extensive table of contents.

Adeline Blowers is compiling the bibliography. We are to list meetings and seminars attended, persons and books consulted. Gertrude Ulrich will list speakers who presented to the committee. Deanna Lederer will compile a glossary of definitions.

The June Meeting will be on June 1 or 8 depending on the Cargill presenter's calendar.

To date we have received only \$1,550 for the study. Vaile expressed concern that funders had not yet been identified.

Concerns about the fall meeting(s) were: the time it takes to generate publicity, identifying co-sponsors, and the following "homework" assignment. We are each to bring to the June meeting a fall meeting plan proposal including: a) speakers, b) topics, c) recommendation on whether to have more than one meeting and where, and d) a facility.

Ulrich will look into cable coverage.

The meeting was adjourned on time.

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Vaile.

Minnesota League of Women Voters Agriculture Study Committee

Minutes April 6, 2000

Present: Ulrich, Lederer, Mary and Eldred Phillips, Borden, Gundersen, Rohricht, Peck; Karlsson-Barnes and Vaile after 1 p.m..

The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Gertrude Ulrich who introduced the morning's speaker, Dr. Cornelia Flora, Director of the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development, Iowa State University and currently serving as a Senior Fellow in Agricultural Systems at the U of M and working with the MN Institute of Sustainable Agriculture.

A transcript of Dr. Flora's presentation is attached.

Discussion of Dr. Flora's Presentation

Ulrich: The 7-county metro area is more rural than people realize. The greatest pollution here is from home septic systems and lake cabins...Regarding our rivers, the Mississippi River has improved, and the current emphasis is on the Minnesota River......knows farmers who would like to see clean streams again. Re the rural community of Worthington with which she is familiar, sees very little connection between the farms and the town...town is prospering because of the medical center there.

Borden: Farmers shop elsewhere for bargains like everybody else...can't stop that.

Peck: Can't fix things (reconnect farms with their communities) everywhere, but you can start in particular places......pointed to examples.

The potential of E-commerce for small businesses in general and entrepreneurial farmers in particular was mentioned by several. Web sites are easy to establish and communication is greatly facilitated. Roads will continue to be vital for the delivery of products.

Phillips: Regulations will continue to be necessary to get people to do what they should.

Borden: A very important issue for farmers is health insurance. The lack of it is part of the reason they have to work off the farm. Governmental policy should address this.

Peck: Contract monitoring by the state is very important (agreeing with Flora). Contracts can provide an option for farmers, but they have to be monitored for fairness.

Rohricht: Although the document we produce will need to describe the realities of present agricultural practices and policies, we should not be governed by resignation. We

should ask what it is we want our farm and food systems to be like. We need to envision the changes we think are necessary for healthy land and sustainable farms and communities.

Business Meeting

Chairperson Ulrich asked the committee to review and give titles to the committee structure as it has now evolved. Members proceeded to state what they had done to date and to describe the focus of their work. From that the following committees were named:

The Future of Rural Communities -- Lederer and Peck

The Future of the Independent Family Farm -- Lederer and Peck

Food Safety and Quality -- Rohricht and Borden

Agri-Business -- Gundersen

Background/Overview -- Palmer, Gundersen, Borden and Rohricht

The Phillipses and Rohricht are working with the Northfield committee which has several foci pertaining to ecological, sociological, ethical and spiritual issues for farm land, families and communities.

Further contributions:

Borden has been gathering and sharing a variety of data relevant to the study. Peck is writing on "Contracts."

Rohricht is working on the social impact of ag policies and practices on rural communities, in consult with Lederer and Peck, and as a part of the Northfield committee (Karlsson-Barnes, Henriksen, Phillipses, and Vaile), the name of which is no longer clear to the recorder.

Efforts of committee members not present (as understood by recorder):

Palmer is working on Environmental issues in conjunction with the Background/Overview Committee.

Karlsson-Barnes is working on sustainability issues from an ecological perspective and on stewardship of the land (ethical and spiritual dimensions)

Vaile is interested in Globalization issues as they impact sustainable agriculture.

Further discussion on the document per se:

Borden suggested that our study document follow the format:

Facts/Background

Issues

Solutions/Choices (or a similar phrase)

This suggestion was well received by the committee, and it was recommended that those who are writing keep this format in mind.

Gundersen, reporting for the Background/Overview Committee, recommended that the committee appoint two or three "designated writers" to focus on the document to be written and to present an outline at the next meeting with main and subordinate issues delineated. Specific assignments could then be made or confirmed. Gundersen also suggested that the document have a brief statement of the Facts, including graphs and visual aides and a brief account of how we got to where we are, and then move to the Issues section and do further development within it.

Chairperson Ulrich reviewed the Committee's decision to interview certain persons as further resources for our study. She mentioned in particular Rep. Winter, Rep. Osthoff and Senator Dallas Sams and suggested the following issues to discuss with them:

- Incentive programs -- are they correctly tailored to the land as it is?
- · How to encourage beginning farmers?
- Chemical clean-up in rural areas where chemicals have been carelessly
 used, stored or disposed of. Is this being done in rural areas as it is
 in the cities?
- Feedlot regulations and problems related to the Minnesota River
- · Their views on ethanol

Ulrich invited those interested in being on the interview team to contact her.

Several pieces of info relevant to the study were distributed including a Q&A piece provided by Borden in which she had posed several questions to Cargill staff and received written answers in return. In addition, Ulrich alerted members to the March issue of <u>Atlantic Monthly</u> and its lead article, "The Kept University."

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 4th, at 1 p.m.

It was agreed that we would not schedule a speaker for this meeting but would concentrate on our study document. Members should do as much writing as they can and bring what they have written to the meeting. An outline will be submitted with Gundersen's coordination. In the meeting time remaining, we shall do planning for a forum.

Notes from Presentation by Willis Anthony, farmer from St. Peter and former Professor in Applied Economics, U of M

Presentation Outline:

Description of the Anthony Farm

Major Challenges in Ag and Food Production

Resulting Legislation and Policy

Description of the Anthony Farm

Farm location: In Nicollet County near St. Peter and near the Minnesota River. The river is important for transport and for drainage; it feeds the Mississippi thus providing transport to the Gulf.

Farm characteristics: May 1-Oct 1 production season, 30" rainfall, soil high in mineral content, especially suited to corn and soybeans.

The first Anthony farm was settled by Willis' mother's ancestors from Norway. His father was a blacksmith. In earlier times the area was made up of 80 - 160 acre farms, many land grant farms. Four rural communities supported and were supported by those farms; now there is one. After the railroads pulled out, the grain elevator sites disappeared.

Anthony feels a part of this changed landscape: His 2,400 acres incorporates some 11-12 smaller farms. He grows corn and soybeans, peas under contract, 15,000 hogs (620 sows) and some cattle. He runs the farm through two or three business units. His wife and son are shareholders and own the land (some land is rented). He employs his son, nephew and some part-time workers. Mechanized farming permits him to operate with this few employees. (He hires full-time workers for his hog operation.)

Anthony reviewed month by month the work accomplished on his farm including field work, tillage, weed control, planning, marketing, care of equipment, decisions on seed and chemicals, crop harvesting, storage and delivery.

Major Challenges in Agriculture and Food Production

1. Economic survival.

Anthony's farm is not under threat, but he gave the following comparative figures to illustrate the point: In 1954 a farmer could manage with 190 acres, 30 sows and 12 milk cows. In today's market a farmer with similar acreage, 510 hogs and 12 cows would incur:

\$14,345 Net income

\$44,095 (no debt or tax) Expenses

Net Result (\$29,749)

One family member would have to work full time for over \$14 per hour to make up the shortfall.

(Handout Provided)

Risk management.

Anthony lists weather uncertainties related to global warming, volatility in markets and uncertainty of government policies both domestic and foreign.

3. Knowledge category.

Food and ag advances result from public investment in land grant university research and dissemination of that knowledge. Federal investment in food and ag research, including food safety and nutrition, is at a 10-year low. (Handout provided) State and private funding has increased somewhat.

4. Technology.

Bio, electric and mechanical technology have increased significantly with great public concern about bio-tech developments in particular.

- Rural community structure and space. Brief reference to the "social" costs of space.
- Sustainable agriculture.
 Acknowledge the need for economic and environmental sustainability.
- 7. Tighter food chain linkage. With the distancing between production and consumption, there is concern for consistency of product and also, in the case of food safety, for the capacity to trace back where something goes wrong. It is a challenge to maintain this degree of control and still have entrepreneurial producers.
- 8. Public policy.
 U.S. food policy is piece-meal and our farm policy spastic and uncertain. Safety issues, consumer education, nutrition info -- all of poor quality. Trade policy is run by the State and Defense Departments rather than the Commerce Department. Thus our trade policies are inconsistent and short-term.
- Bureaucracy.
 It is hard for the average farmer to navigate the system.

Mr. Anthony concluded his remarks with several general comments: He is concerned about the continuing drive toward bigness and about environmental sustainability. We need more science in this regard, i.e., how best to protect against run-off and upgrade our waterways. The federal government should do more targeting on areas that shouldn't be farmed, but coalitions of political interests prevent this. And the state is not funding CRP enhancement programs.

Anthony also referenced the work of the MN Pork Producers Research Council of which he is a member. They have three three-year programs: Environment (odor and run-off), Safety (E-coli, etc.), and Animal Welfare. Anthony believes it is possible to produce pork in an environmentally friendly way and with humane animal treatment.

Questions and Answers exchanged with Mr. Anthony

- Q. What about the ownership of farmland?
- A. Does not envision ownership by large corporations...not enough return...they prefer to lease. Getting new people on the land is difficult.....Because of technology we are seeing more and more farms operated by two generations of family.
- Q. Should we encourage new people to farm or is it too hard?
- A. There is opportunity for small innovations, for "niches,"....CSAs are a great idea.
- Q. What government payments do you receive?
- A. Loan deficiency payments, crop disaster payments, ag market transition payments and CRP wetland payments.
- Q. Where would you prefer to see government payments go?
 A. Put it all in research and education and trade programs with no dollars in farm payments. Payments do not benefit farmers very much in his view. But he doubts that private insurance could cover weather disasters.
- Q. Why the need to get larger?
- R. In order to generate income for 2 or 3 families. It is also the case that bankers more readily loan to the bigger farms and people with land to rent more readily rent to them.
- Q. Isn't farmland often re-configured or expanded among brothers and relatives?
- A. Yes, amalgamations occur in this way, and some of the relatives hold off-farm jobs.
- Q. In reference to animal welfare measures, what might they be for an operation of 15,000 hogs?
- A Monitoring to see that they have room to move, continuous feed and water, and air circulating through the building and hiring workers who like to work with animals.
- Q. What about the issue of antibiotics and growth hormones?
- A. It is a concern both from its impact on humans and on resulting inefficacy with the animals. Some hog farmers tried dropping the level of medications when pork prices dropped, but the disease level increased.
- Q. What about help with vaccines, etc. for less trained farmers?
- A. We need more help from University research in this area..... Vet practice now is primarily consulting on feed, antibiotic programs, etc., not coming to look at one sick hog.
- Q. Where do farmers get sustainable values now that they don't seem to be coming from the University? And what is the possibility of a more equitable distribution of the land? A. There does not seem to be the political will for re-distribution of the land. As for the
- source of sustainable values, must come from all of us.

- Q. What about the growth and concentration of power in agri-business?
- A. It is alarming. We don't have the enforcement of our anti-trust laws that we should have....don't know how to answer the corporations claim that these trends are necessary to remain competitive...Also concerned about heavy contract use and abuses of power.
- Q. What about the problem of market access for small farms?
- A. If access to market is denied, it would clearly be a problem. Anthony's farm is not in the small farm category, and market access has not been an issue for him.
- Q. Has there been manure management problems on your farm?
- A. Yes. Although they have followed Nicollet County's requirements for injection of wastes in the ground and for one-year storage facilities and although they have placed their farrowing and finishing sites eight miles apart, they have still had odor problems on the site which is at a distance from their home. They investigated each incident and identified the problems (relationship between food and odor, problems with pipes, etc.) and took measures to correct. Their neighbors are still their friends.Believes those hog farms that have become public issues had other problems before that of the hogs.
- Q. What are your thoughts about the Minnesota River's pollution?
- A. There is an agreement between MN and the federal government to improve the Minnesota River. The MPCA wanted a major effort undertaken, but there proposal did not garner sufficient support. Instead soil scientists have identified that 2/3 of the pollution comes from three watersheds in the Mankato area and have proposed three areas of focus: (1) for the Blue Earth Watershed, corrected tiling and adequate birming; (2)correction of erosion patterns in area ravines and (3) attention to the problem of erosion caused by disturbing the soil in suburban development.
- Q. Where do you think research dollars should be spent?
- A. Funds for food, agriculture and environmental research should be put in a program like the National Science Foundation or the National Institute of Health where there is peer review and where research is motivated by curiosity, science and the public good.

Mr. Anthony was warmly thanked for his presentation. Meeting adjourned. (See page 3 re next meeting.)

Jo Anne Rohricht, Recorder

Minnesota Government Policies: What Can Be Done for Rural Communities Related to Agriculture

A presentation to the Minnesota League of Women Voters April 6, 2000

Cornelia Butler Flora

The basic reality that agriculture is changing. It is changing because of globalization and post-Fordist industrialization. Globalization is a result of the lowering of international barriers, first in the 1970s and 80s, to the flow of capital and in the 1990s to the flow of goods and services.

As a result, we have international agreements such as the World Trade Organization and NAFTA. The WTO took the place of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Farmers are upset about these two international agreements, and there is a real schizophrenia about this issue. On the one hand, we don't like having to import other people's stuff, while on the other hand, we like people importing our stuff. Unfortunately, we can't just say, "You import our stuff, but we won't import your stuff." So, this is the dilemma. Very seldom can you get something (a sale) without offering something in return (a purchase). So we export a huge amount of our agricultural product, just as we import a huge amount of what we eat.

Most people think in terms of the food value chain -- the various steps between producers of the raw materials that make up our food supply and end users who consume it. In the United States, the food processors drive the food chain - not the producers, not the input suppliers, and not the cargo carriers - while researchers report that grocery chains drive the value chain for food in Europe. So, if you are going to look at policies to improve agriculture or ways to do it, you need to look at the processor in the United States. One could argue that meat packers might still be the drivers in the meat value chain.

As we understand that value chain, we understand that farmers making more money will not necessarily keep Main Street in the local community vibrant. All the inputs farmers receive will not necessarily be from the community in which they live. For example, a friend is the member of one cooperative raises hogs for a different cooperative. The feed for those hogs comes from a third coop located several counties away. These contractual arrangements send the product further away and bring the inputs in from a greater distance. They also give farmers more a more secure income as long as they keep contract. So, contract farming is neither good nor bad. But contracts can be good or bad, and a single farmer may not have the resources to be sure the contract is enforced.

One of the policies that is important for keeping farmers on the land is having the state of Minnesota help oversee the contracts. An example of this need is seen in poultry production. While the first contract looks really good to the poultry farmer, the terms of the contract deteriorates over time as it is renewed. The farmer is too weak to contest it by himself or herself.

Another example comes from a number of people in Iowa I have spoken with who contracted with Murphy Family Farms, which is now Smithfield. Basically, these people did not read the contract carefully or didn't understand what it really meant. Their thinking was that because they were dealing with a very big company, they would not go broke, even with low hog prices, because big companies are so integrated. What a typical contract makes it clear that you never own the hogs (which saves you short term capital investment), you just own the processing portion (the more expensive long term capital investment). This is like owning a parking lot where I get paid for every car that parks in my lot. The difference is that only one person owns the cars that park there, and can thus tell you how to run it, how to improve it, and hold you liable for what happens to his car while under your care.

The contract says that the farmer must provide buildings to specifications. These are very expensive buildings and the technologies constantly change. So, you have a fixed investment about one-half million dollars. As one of my friends says, this is a good way to borrow about 1/2 million dollars and to get yourself a minimum wage job. That is an option and it keeps the farmer on the land. If you have more off-farm work, all the better. But, the contract also says that you have to deliver the hogs under certain conditions with certain weight, etc. As the facilities get older and the conditions deteriorate as a result, more hogs will die due to disease. When this happens, the company will say that the farmer is not meeting the terms of the contract and they will terminate the contract. The contracts are sometimes written with the company's guarantee of financing the project, but the producer is still stuck with the debt.

This happened with both the poultry and hog industries. The large companies generally want farmers who have other sources for off-farm income so they pay back the debt. This is why these contracts need to be monitored and O.K.'d by the state.

Participant: I thought the state did look at contracts. Am I wrong? I thought I read about this in some publication. Do they do any review of contracts?

I don't know what the state of Minnesota does. I know this is definitely not the case in the South. I do know about the case of poultry. Again, I don't know what happens with the contract growing in Minnesota but it would definitely be something to research. Generally, contract growing for crops goes like this. Let's say that I am a vegetable canner and I will contract with 100 growers to deliver a specific vegetable from specific seed on a specific day with a specific quality. I look very carefully at the product. Then I decide to take out the bottom 50% and just contract with the top 50 producers, who may in fact take over the land of the some of the 50 that I dropped. The next time around, I will again pick only the top fifty percent to contact with. The fewer the growers, the better for the canner. It is easier to contract with a few rather than a lot of people. As a result, I have a competitive system and will just keep contracting with the champions. The producers compete to sell their products, but with increasing concentration in food processing, the processors don't compete with each other to buy what the growers produce. That is the type of competition that law firms use. You hire a lot of people, work them to 60 to 80 billable hours a week, try them out, and then you let a lot of them go. The practice of growing contests it difficult for rural communities, as these decisions are outside of the rural communities' control and are not made in regard to the well-being of the place -- only the wellbeing of the firm. That is what the market is expected to do, but it is hard on people and the environment..

What does this mean to rural communities? Obviously, it means we are not going to have agriculturally-based retail and wholesale businesses based in town because the contractor will supply the input and will take away the products for processing elsewhere. So, we will have a few communities around the state with value-added agricultural industries (although these are likely to be in urban areas and are not the cure to community economic ills that many claim they are. There will be the majority of Minnesota communities where this will not happen.

There has to be a lot concern about rural development so there can be off-farm jobs, which helps keep people on the land -- and connected with community..

A student I am working with just finished an interesting study of Marshall County, Minnesota. Her sample of owner operators found that 75% of those households had off-farm income, either from the husband or wife working off the farm. So, concern about rural communities as a whole is very, very important.

Prior to the 1996 Farm Act, there were a series of farm bills that built on the federal response to the Great Depression of the 1930s. In the 1930s, most farmers grew some wheat and some corn. Most farmers milked cows. In the South, most farmers raised cotton. In particular, many small farmers grew or could grow some tobacco. Thus commodity price supports, given in exchange for executing conservation practices and limit supply by taking acres out of production of those commodities, were put into place. Those price supports provided a base price below which domestic prices could not fall. And, to help farmers' cash flow, the federal government also provided a loan on the bushels harvested. That loan rate in essence became the ceiling price for the market. Those loans, made on grains or cotton prior to sale were non-recourse loans, which means if the price never gets to the loan rate, the farmer can just walk away from the unsold crop, keep the loan price and let the government deal with the crop. If the crop was sold below the loan rate, the farmer received a deficiency payment to make up the difference between the loan rate and the market price. It was not a bad notion but it was not holistic enough. So, people planted what they knew they would get a government price for, which they could predict. The only thing unpredictable would be the amount of set aside acres they had to have in place in order to qualify for the loans. They didn't pay as much attention to the market price as they did to what would be the loan price. The loan price was always determined very late and the conditions were always determined very late, creating a great deal of anxiety for farmers.

It only made sense to put the least productive land in the conservation program, as your payment depended on bushels (production). And you had to keep planting the program commodity crop, or you would lose your base acres from which you would take the set-aside and qualify for the deficiency payments. So, you had these perverse incentives to keep planting the same thing and growing as much as possible of it, no matter what world markets did or what happened to ecosystem health -- or your neighbor's farm. World markets looked terrible in the 70s, looked pretty good in the 80s, and looked great up until about 1997.

The idea of the 1996 Farm Act was to help farmers change and diversify from growing a lot of the same old crops and diversify their production systems to meet more diverse market demands. At that time we realized that we were supporting low valued, high volume commodities that required huge subsidies in terms of dams, locks, straightened rivers, railroad support, etc. to move. The federal government subsidized grain traders to send products overseas. We were also subsidizing the shippers to ship overseas. And we lent money on very "soft" terms (below market interest rates and forgivable loans) if they would buy our grain rather than someone else's grain. This was a very expensive proposition when we were only growing bottom-of-the-line products. Although Americans grow the finest corn, it is still #2 dent corn and it is transformed into many other things.

The thought was, "We know farmers are innovative and smart. Let's let them experiment and let's guarantee them an income that is not related to what they produce." The income was very good in the first two years of Freedom of Farm. Farmers who had previously participated in the commodity programs received a payment decoupled from what they produced and what they did to their land and water. Many farmers paid off their debt at that time and improved their debt to asset ratio, which was a very smart thing to do. But they did not innovate into new crops grown in new ways. The reason they did not innovate is an important piece in regard to what the state can do to help farmers. Farmers didn't innovate because nothing else changed. There were no institutions to help them market alternative crops. There was no information available to help them look at alternative ways of growing and marketing alternative crops. We made no institutional changes and expected farmers to change on their own.

What we had in place were the elevators that took corn, soybeans or wheat, while the very innovative ones might take sunflowers. There was no market for new products and no commodity associations which profited from more of a new crop being grown through check offs. They were no researchers receiving money from the non-existent commodity associations, and thus no one to lobby for extending the loan deficiency payments for new crops -- but there were there for the old crops, plus one, soybeans, introduced after the 1930s.

Participant: I need to argue with you a bit. We grew corn and soybeans because corn and soybeans had more value than any other crop. Some years ago, sunflowers became the "rage" but sunflowers could not compete with soybeans as far as what you could grow on an acre of ground. You could grow violets rather than corn, but you don't get as much out of an acre, so that is why they are growing corn and soybeans because you get more per acre than you do with the alternative crops.

Exactly and this is because it is the way it has always been. You are rewarded by the deficiency payments by how many bushels you grow. The market didn't make corn and soybeans profitable, the U.S. government did.

Participant: Yes, it's all set. These products are worth more than anything else one would grow.

But is it worth more only because the government is paying you for growing this particular crop? Sometimes it is truly worth more and sometime it is not. We need more research to determine what are other things we can grow and market. The tricky thing here is not looking for the

"miracle" crop. Sunflowers are more risky. Farmers in Minnesota adopted soybeans in the 1960s relatively quickly, as the crop was supported by extension and research and marketing mechanisms.

Participant: I come from that area and in the long hall you are right, but at the time this was a big innovation. This was a big step to take.

We need to do more studies to learn what was put into place to allow farmers to include soybeans in rotation. Extension really pushed it. You had processors ready to be there to buy. You had a whole industry of input and a whole institutional structure there to help with this change. My point is that farmers are doing what is smart. But what is smart financially has to do with the institutional structure that surrounds us.

The price of soybeans now is really low but this year farmers have loan deficiency payments for each bushel of soybeans. What are they going to plant next year? Soybeans. This is the only smart thing to do because this is the way the programs are set up. It would be too risky to try something else because the whole institutional structure in the state and the private sector make it more profitable to grow corn and soybeans. But, that institutional structure is not based on worldwide prices.

The point I'm trying to make is that the government programs makes farmers grow corn and soybeans. But we might need to look at world prices to see if it's worth our while as tax payers to do so. My question is, "Why are we planting more soybeans acres than ever in this country when soybeans are at world market lows?" There are a lot of people growing a lot of soybeans. We also see that increasing as a result of new technologies, such as Round-up ready soybeans and Round-up ready corn, where you can grow and manage more per acre. In terms of rural communities, supporting people to grow soybeans may mean encouraging one person to grow many, many acres of soybeans. But that person may be someone who has nothing to do with that community.

Paying for Producing What Society Needs

What is it that farmers produce? Farmers do a lot more than produce food and fiber. Farmers are indeed stewards of the land. We understand more and more that the quality of our water depends on what happens to the land, yet we reward farmers for fence row-to-fence row cropping because the biggest reward is the crop deficiency payment, which is based on per bushel of beans or corn.

So, we need to get the state of Minnesota to pay farmers for producing for the public good.

Participant: Who determines that?

Clean water?

Participant: No, the public good. O.K., clean water. They understand corn.

Yes, they understand corn, but why do we give farmers all of this funding? Is it because we want all of this corn and soybeans? Is it because we know what to do with it? No. Why do we subsidize corn and soybeans when we don't get good prices? Who defines that public good means that corn and soybeans farmers are worth more than wheat farmers? It's the powerful politicians. Why do they do it? Because the Corn and Soybean Associations are much stronger than the Wheat Growers.

The state acts upon what is defined as the public good, which is determined by pressure groups. The market does what is profitable. The market will always do what is profitable and they say that they are acting the way they do because it is profitable. It is the role of the state in a capitalist society to make it profitable to do what is right. Who defines what is right? This is what civil society, organized pressure groups, do. Increasingly, the public is defining water quality as what is right. We are also understanding that farmers are the guardians of our soil and water, but under the current situation, it is not profitable for farmers to do what contributes to the public good. Hopefully we are also understanding that there is no reason to think that farmers should be any more altruistic than anybody else.

What is it that farmers really do for society? Drinkable water is going to be the issue of the future. We have seen that happen in New York State already where the state is paying farmers to do whole farm planning. This is not easy for farmers to do because all of the institutions are set up to make it profitable to do what they have always done.

What state options would encourage farmers to look at alternatives? Some options could be:

- Support the multiple functions of agriculture
- Pay farmers for the ecosystem services they provide
- Make a change in institutional structures so farmers are paid more for doing a better job providing those services, rather than rewarding bad actors for shaping up.
- Enforce laws and standards against farmers who don't comply.

We hesitate to do that now, but enforcement is a critical issue. In Iowa we let the public good go, and we have very bad water quality as a result. Thus Iowans have had to spend a lot of money cleaning up our water. If we only enforce the negative sanctions without positively encouraging people to make changes, it won't work. Farmers really do not like regulations. Part of this is because we have all of these stupid best-management practices that someone in Washington, D.C. thinks up. Because the Natural Resource Conservation Services department has done no research on what the real impacts of specific best management practices (BMPs) are in specific environmental contexts, farmers say, "Putting in this mandated practice makes no sense". But we have NRCS so poorly staffed that farmers are not given the latitude to determine what makes sense on their own land, so they will go for an outcome standard rather than a design standard.

What is really happening to the water? There are ways we can monitor the water but this means making institutional changes. This is where a whole community can work together. You can get inputs from a distance, but services are purchased locally. When you pay for services, you get new and exciting custom service groups to come in.

Participant: Can you expand on that? Are you saying that the community might be able to provide services, but farmers would still need to get inputs from somewhere else?

Yes, but the services provided by the community would include things like installing, caring for, and repairing buffer, rather than the traditional inputs of seed, feed and agrochemicals. One reason why farmers don't put in riparian buffers is because you have to plant them at the same time you are planting corn. So, you create new custom service enterprises that are based on skill. We then have a whole new area of services such farm management and integrated pest management (IPM) that require skilled people in rural areas running their own businesses.

Farmers can afford these new custom services (as they are increasingly paying for custom spraying, custom harvesting and custom planting) if they are paid for the ecosystem services these custom services produce. That is what we as tax payers should be paying for, rather than corn and soybeans. Farmers don't want to take welfare, and the current institutions -- both market and governmental -- demand that you must grow corn and soybeans. We need to let the farmer work on these other issues. In the support of multi-faceted rural development, it is very important that we look at these things within the context of community. Farmers need to get together with people in the community.

We have developed a research tool that the North Central Regional Center for Rural Development, which covers the 12 North Central region states, used with some folks in Illinois. We looked at the question that if something changes on the farm to make resource flows, what has to change off the farm to make this work? If it was more labor, how was that labor supplied? If it would take a different kind of processing, where would that come from? This gives community people the opportunity to change in tandem with what farmers are doing. Instead of hiring farm laborers, they are hiring custom service people who have their own businesses. It's much easier to get good help from an independent business owner than it is just hiring folks. Anyone who has tried to hire folks in the last year or so knows what I'm talking about. You buy the service, not the person's time, when you go to an independent business owner.

The state of Minnesota should support more local food systems and give alternatives for people to produce and buy food locally. One example is HACCP, which is the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point, which is the new way we are now doing meat inspections for meat safety. This will be implement into a number of other food crops value chains in regard to the food safety regime. The state of Minnesota can help get the record systems up and running for small processors to help make them competitive.

While some small processors view HACCP as being regulatory and extremely costly, it can also be a way to be extremely flexible and to have a cutting edge in the market. Again, this is an area where it is important to have state support to help small processors, who will then provide alternatives for people who feel they can only contract with large packers in order to have a way to slaughter their animals. These small processors need serious help in getting funds.

IBP can hire one person or a team of people who can make all of their plants presumably HACCP ready, although we are now seeing that they keep lousy records and HACCP requires

good trace-back records. But, there are ways we can make things happen to keep small meat processors in place.

We need to provide experiments for alternatives, but let's not just experiment on the farm. This research must also be linked to pass-the-farm-gate stuff.

Let's look at the farmer who decides to grow flax. Many people are saying that flax is going to be a good product to grow.

Participant: But people aren't paying enough for it.

You're right, they aren't paying enough for it, so this person cannot just grow flax. This is an innovative farmer but the community must be innovative with him, so you will need somebody who is a specialty processor of flax oil or a specialty processor of linen. You must have these kinds of industries going on at the same time so this farmer can see a reason to start growing flax in terms of making a profit. Farmers can grow lots of things. They cannot sell them because the value chains are not there. It is appropriate for the state of Minnesota to help create the value chains, which is not always value added enterprises but linking the producer with existing endusers.

Participant: We would love to have alternative crops if we didn't have to harvest it in the fall. It would have been for weed control and that would have been good, but they didn't pay enough for it.

We have to figure out how we can put market institutions in place so that this can be <u>profitable</u>. Although farmers are very good at growing things, they are not very good at selling things. It is the institutions that are in place that can help make this different. My argument for rural communities is that that must be in the context of rural community. Obviously, it must be linked, so you will need coalitions that take you to and from a variety of markets. This is a place where public dollars could help us identify these kinds of alternatives. In these cases, public dollars can take risks so that entrepreneurs can then enter an arena to complete the value chain.

What are public dollars currently doing? They are heavily supporting market development that tends to be very unimaginative, like industrial parks. The disadvantage rural communities hav is that they are distant and dispersed. They really don't know what is "hot" and who is buying what is "hot". This is a service that could come from the public sector to help us at least begin looking into alternatives.

Institution building should be aimed at the market, because the market is so efficient at distributing goods and services. But, innovative institutions will only happen in urban areas unless we give rural areas a "jump start" because of their dispersion and distance. We just don't have those kinds of contacts. One contact is not enough. People are tired of someone coming in with a "miracle" crop idea and then losing their shirts, but rural folks have tended to believe that person because there are not a lot of alternative sources. So, the question is: How do we get those alternative sources of information to the farmer? I believe this would be an appropriate role for extensionists tied to the land grant universities.

Often, the public sector "jump starts" something that later becomes private sector. If extension now decided to do artificial insemination, there would be local protests from the artificial inseminators. But, extension started to do this for free to clarify that there was going to be a market.

Another example is when extensionists handed out highbred seed to radically change how farmers grew corn. Extension also handed out soybean seed to help introduce the crop. The current source of both those seeds is now firmly in the private sector. In other words, the public sector took the risk that allowed market enterprises to emerge.

We giving farmers loan deficiency payments to make farming less risky. Why do farmers put their crops into commodity crops?. Now we have more specialization and crops that were ultimately meant to be income supports for the bulk of rural residents embedded in rural communities. The situation has changed. Little of the billions of dollars Congress has appropriated in the last few years to make up for low commodity prices has remained in rural communities.

The state of Minnesota needs to promote farm community entrepreneurial partnerships. Let's not just make the farmer the only innovators. If you can't make money from your innovations, it won't work. My notion is that the problem is not just that this is the way the markets are. It is the way institutions are that in turn make markets function the way they do. What we must do for rural America is understand that we've had policies in place for 60 years that encouraged people to do these program crops. From experience, they learned this was not profitable. So, we must invest real money in allowing alternatives to be put in place. That means paying farmers to produce the things we really value and that is determined through a political process. The nice thing is that water quality is something most people acknowledge as being very important. When we see towns that are dealing with these issues, we see that they are making a difference. We must not blame farmers but acknowledge that we are all allies in this.

Looking at communities is an excellent way to bring about these needed changes. The community gives us a better handle as to what is going to happen in rural areas.

All institutional structures taught farmers not to be involved in their communities, as their real future rested in Washington, D.C. If pork producers wanted to increase pork prices, their commodity associations encouraged the federal government to buy more pork for the school lunch program in order to bring up pork prices. It worked. We need programs on the state level that show that involvement at the local level can also work in creating alternative institutions that strengthen local communities, rather than make them irrelevant to what happens on the land. And that such involvement helps farmers, not just agriculture as a sector.

Agriculture Study Committee
Meeting Notice
Thursday, April 6, 2000
10:00a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Minnesota Women's Building
Large Meeting Room

Agenda

10:00 a.m. Speaker: Cornelia Flora (introduced by Joann Rohricht)

North Central Regional Center for Rural Development,

Iowa State University, Ames

Discussion

11:00 a.m. Business Meeting

1. Development Report

2. Timeline

3. Topics of discussion for meetings with Legislators (Ted Winter, Tom Osthoff, Dallas Sams)

4. Committee Reports

Noon POTLUCK LUNCH—BRING A DISH TO SHARE

1:00 p.m. Speaker: Willis Anthony (introduced by Gertrude Ulrich) farmer from St. Peter

• To whoever took minutes at the last Agriculture meeting, please submit them to Gertrude at this meeting. Thank you!

February 23, 2000

Dear Committee Member,

Time marches on! We should all be writing on whatever topic each committee member has chose as their very own.

However, members have indicated that there are still many speakers that the committee should hear. We are going to have to make some decisions, as time is getting short.

Here is a list of speakers whose names have come up from time to time. This list is by no means exclusive, but are names that reoccur in my notes.

Helene Murray MN Institute for Sustainable Agriculture

Gene Hugoson Commissioner of Agriculture

Dallas Sams MN Senator, Chair, Agriculture/Rural Dev Committee

Tracy Beckman Executive Director, MN Farm Service Agency
Paul Porter Sustainable Agriculture, U of M Lamberton

Bruce Vruwink Farmer, Lake Lillian Willis Anthony Farmer, St. Peter Hog farmer, Wabasso

Andy Steensma MN Farmers Union, farmer

Tom Osthoff St. Paul Legislator

Ted Winter Legislator, farmer from Fulda

In making choices it should be born in mind that we have heard from the MN House Agriculture Committee staff, a professor of agriculture, two economists, a family farm, an economist speaking about the effect of the current downturn in the farm economy on rural towns and counties.

Please come to the March meeting prepared to make decisions on how much time we should devote to speakers, and who those speakers should be.

I think we are making progress! See you at the March meeting,

Gertrude

Gertride

MEETING NOTICE

Agriculture Study Committee

Thursday, March 2, 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. (*Please notice changed time!*)

Minnesota Women's Building 550 Rice Street, St. Paul

- 1. 60 Speaker: Mark Ritchie, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
- 2. 30 Future Speakers
- 3. 5 Report on Funding
- 4. 50 Discussion of timeline
- 5. 30 Reports from committees
- 6. 5 Agenda for next meeting

Richard Levins, from the University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics, was our before-meeting speaker.

Present: Ulrich, Borgen, Rohricht, Gundersen, Duffy, Peck, Lederer, Karlsson-Barnes, Vaile, Palmer, Montgomery

Motion: to approve the minutes of the I/6/00 meeting. Moved by Rohricht, seconded by Lederer; carried.

Motion: that LWVMN/EF, through its agriculture committee, sponsor a public forum on agriculture policy only. Moved by Borgen seconded by Karlsson-Barnes; failed.

Motion: That LWVMN/EF, through its agriculture committee, produce a publication on agriculture policy only. Moved by Karlsson-Barnes, seconded by Borgen; failed.

Motion: that LWVMN/EF, through its agriculture committee, sponsor a public forum and produce a publication on agriculture policy. Moved by Peck, seconded by Vail.

Borgen commented that should future circumstances find us financialy unable to produce both a forum and a publication, she would prefer we choose a forum.

Duffy asked for clarification: a forum only for our members or for the public as well? Consensus was that it should be for public as well.

Gundersen mentioned that LWVUS had in recent past produced several reports in plain typed form, an inexpensive mode of putting out a report. Perhaps we could do the same if it were necessary.

Motion passed.

Lederer said that she had found a copy of LWVUS's consensus form from their I988 farm study. She thought it might be helpful. We agreed that everyone should get a copy of it, as well as a copy of the January I988 National Voter, which was dedicated to the farm situation. Copies were made and those at the meeting received their copies.

Ulrich reiterated what she had said the meeting before: committee members need to start writing. Palmer agreed to giving editing suggestions on produced drafts.

Working group chairs reported that people were meeting and work was proceeding, although little writing had been produced yet.

After discussion concerning the difficulty of hearing speakers and getting the work done in a two-hour meeting, the committee agreed to meet at noon on March 2 (rather than I p.m.) so that we would have time to hear speaker(s) and to get our business completed. Meeting will run until approximately 3 p.m.

Rohricht requested having more speakers so that we would be sure to hear from an adequate and balanced selection of viewpoints on the farm situation. After discussion, we decided that having one separate day when we only heard from speakers (perhaps 4 of them) would be beneficial. Ulrich will see if she can get the speakers we desire for either a Thursday or a Saturday.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Gundersen

Dr. Richard Levins
Agricultural economist with the University of Minnesota
LWVMN farm committee meeting 2-3-2000

Worked doing traditional farm management work; helped farmers to learn and use good business procedures; finally it occurred to him that "problems facing farmers cannot be solved at the individual level." As a result, has become more focused on legislation.

Farmers are not getting their share of the money moving around in the economy; for example, in Martin County, with the fastest growing hog industry in the state, the farmers' net incomes are very low, "just bouncing off the zero mark," while the rest of the incomes in the county are going up.

There is so much money out there, but farmers are not getting much of it.

Typical is the experience of a farmer in SW Minnesota; the farm received in one year \$30,000 government income payments, but the farmer's family only netted \$8,000 to spend after the bills were paid.

Non-farmers have learned how to make money out of farming at the expense of famers .

So far the debate has been how to distribute money to owners of land; the issue should be how to make sure the farmers benefit from the money being given out so they don't go out of business.

Right now landlords get a good chunk of the government money; nationally 40% of land is owned by absentee landlords; in Swift County, where he did a study, 2 out of 3 acres were owned by a person or persons other than the person farming it.

Because farmers desire to farm greater pieces of land, competition keeps the rent high; rent is negotiated early in the spring when the year's growing conditions are still unknown and is in dollar amounts, not a percentage of the eventual crop as it often used to be; as a result, the landlord has little risk since he/she gets paid off the top.

Landlord's share of the money generally does not stay in the community, but may go south (retirement area) or to the big city (previous owners' children).

Solutions that have been proposed: I) conducting anti-trust investigations, 2) farmers acting together as a "union," 3) regulating agriculture as a public utility, 4)identifying and then subsidizing farms that society wishes to keep, 5) buying back farm lands and redistributing them, 6) putting rent controls on farm lands.

The present farm story needs to be told in a way to appeal to non-farm people. People need to see that it is basically a food issue: Whom do you want to grow your food and to care for the nation's cropland? Our farm land is a national productive resource.

LWVMN Agriculture Study Committee Meeting Notice and Agenda Thursday, February 3, 2000 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Minnesota Women's Building 550 Rice Street, St. Paul

Agenda

- Speaker: Dick Levins, University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics Presentation, Question and Answers Committee discussion
- 2. 40 Direction of the Study Ulrich

Motion: that LWVMN/EF, through its agriculture committee, sponsor a public forum on agriculture policy only

Motion: that LWVMN/EF, through its agriculture committee, produce a publication on agriculture policy only

Motion: that LWVMN/EF, through its agriculture committee, sponsor a public forum and produce a publication on agriculture policy

- 3. 15 Committee Reports

 Committee chairs, please come with a written report of work completed.
- 4. 5 Helen Palmer
- 5. 5 Agenda for next meeting

LWVMN Agriculture Study Committee Minutes January 6, 2000

Submitted by Anne Borgen, who will gratefully receive additions and corrections.

PRESENT: Gertrude Ulrich, Chair, Anne Borgen, Judy Duffy, Nancy Gundersen, Stephanie Hendriksen, Brian Karlsson-Barnes, Carol McCarter, Beverly Montgomery, Helen Palmer, Linda Peck, Eldrid Phillips, Mary Phillips, JoAnne Rohricht, and Barbara Vaile. Guest: Dave Serfling

- 1. Minutes of the December 2, 1999 were approved with the following corrections and additions:
 - 5. C. should add the word questions to read that "the local consensus questions must be done by August, 2000."
 - 5. D.1. should read "Dean Hamer (Pence Institute)" not the University of Minnesota
 - 5. D. should inlude a number 4. stating that "Barbara Vaile attended a course, Global Power-Local Promise, at Schumacher College. The teachers were Vandana Shiua, Mathis Wackernagel, and Wolfgang Sachs."

The last sentence in paragraph three of the notes on Dr. Runge's speech should be corrected to read that "the Act does introduce flexibility and severs the connection between subsidies and current farm prices."

2. Dave Serfling opened the meeting by talking to the committee about his Preston, Minnesota farming operation. Dave is a 1981 graduate of Iowa State University. He grew up on his 350 acre farm which was started by his father. He and his wife have two young children and she is employed off the farm as well. The discovery that their well water tested unfit for their baby daughter because of its high nitrate content led them to a search for alternatives in agriculture. He became interested in conserving and improving the soil and water and in raising animals without confinement. He is a member of the Land Stewardship Project.

The farm is a diversified operation with 80 beef cattle, 50 sows, and some sheep and chickens. He raises corn, oats and hay that along with the pastures are used to feed the livestock. He raises three litters of hogs a year without using total confinement sheds. He uses no antibiotics but finds that healthy animals are very rarely ill in the open environment and fresh air. His death loss is less than 1% from birth to market - about 6 months. He uses deep straw for bedding in the winter and rotates his sheep though the paddocks in the summer to keep the length of grass down during summer litters.

He sells most of his hogs to Niman Ranch of California. The decisions about what to breed and grow and risk of selling to one buyer are his alone. Niman buys only animals that have been raised without antibiotics in humane, non-confinement operations run by family farmers--that means the majority of the work of the operation must be done by the farmer or his family and the farmer must have daily contact with the animals. 850 hogs a week are now being shipped from this area to an Iowa packer for slaughter and distribution. There is a premium for the loins. How much consumers will be willing to pay for choice in their food supply is still an open question. Two food market chains that will buy these products are Fresh Fields and Wild Oats. In Denmark some food has a bar code that identifies the farm where the product originated.

Dave seemed willing to make a trade off in income for being able to participate in this kind of sustainable farming. His gross income is about \$150,000/year with a net of \$25,000 to \$30,000. His returns are lower than those of larger neighbors, but his risks and costs are also lower. He said that he can make money when prices are not as high and that he is able to weather a bad year or two with less hardship.

More comments:

- High cost of starting up is an obstacle to young farmers who need land, equipment and livestock all at once. Intensive grazing is a less expensive way to begin dairy farming.
- One needs to have enough land and animals to gross at least \$150,000 in order to operate a farm and survive in today's economy.
- Government programs should have an upper limit on emergency or other payments to one farm owner. Payments have been tied to past production base so the largest farms and owners get the most money. This policy favors large agribusiness firms, not family farms. He supports a free market system, but he thinks that if the government must assist farmers from time to time it should target smaller operations. This year, for example, his neighbor got \$400,000 in emergency payments and he got \$30,000.
- We should let the price of land drop to a lower level. We don't need all the land that is currently in production to grow the food that is needed.
- If we do nothing to change the trend, in twenty years we will have huge farms and some small part time farmers. Full time family farms will be a thing of the past.

3. Committee Reports - none

4. Timeline Discussion: President Duffy reminded the committee that the state office will be very busy next fall with voter service activities. If and when we do a publication, we must have our material pulled together in excellent shape because there is neither time nor money in the office to do that for us. We have \$1350, which is not enough money to pay for much assistance and must cover office costs as well. The development staff is still pursuing grants and hopes that MSI Insurance will consider a \$10,000 request this summer.

We discussed the possibility of providing a public forum instead of a publication, because it is less costly and still useful to our members and the public. The general consensus, however, seemed to be that we do need a publication because our members have a lot to learn about this topic.

Gertrude Ulrich, chair, then asked that we come to the February meeting with written motions. If we propose a publication what should it include? If we propose a public forum when and where should it be held, with whom might we partner, and what topics should be covered?

Each subcommittee should begin writing with rough drafts due by May.

5. We discussed who to invite to speak at our next meeting. Suggestions included Gene Hugeson from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture? Others?

The next meeting was set for Thursday, February 3rd, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

LWVMN Agriculture Study Committee Meeting Notice and Agenda Thursday, February 3, 2000 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Minnesota Women's Building 550 Rice Street, St. Paul

Agenda

- Speaker: Dick Levins, University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics Presentation, Question and Answers Committee discussion
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LWVMN Agriculture Study Committee Minutes January 6, 2000

Submitted by Anne Borgen, who will gratefully receive additions and corrections.

PRESENT: Gertrude Ulrich, Chair, Anne Borgen, Judy Duffy, Nancy Gundersen, Stephanie Hendriksen, Brian Karlsson-Barnes, Carol McCarter, Beverly Montgomery, Helen Palmer, Linda Peck, Eldrid Phillips, Mary Phillips, JoAnne Rohricht, and Barbara Vaile. Guest: Dave Serfling

- Minutes of the December 2, 1999 were approved with the following corrections and additions:
 - 5. C. should add the word questions to read that "the local consensus questions must be done by August, 2000."
 - 5. D.1. should read "Dean Hamer (Pence Institute)" not the University of Minnesota
 - 5. D. should inlude a number 4. stating that "Barbara Vaile attended a course, Global Power-Local Promise, at Schumacher College. The teachers were Vandana Shiua, Mathis Wackernagel, and Wolfgang Sachs."

The last sentence in paragraph three of the notes on Dr. Runge's speech should be corrected to read that "the Act does introduce flexibility and severs the connection between subsidies and current farm prices."

2. Dave Serfling opened the meeting by talking to the committee about his Preston, Minnesota farming operation. Dave is a 1981 graduate of Iowa State University. He grew up on his 350 acre farm which was started by his father. He and his wife have two young children and she is employed off the farm as well. The discovery that their well water tested unfit for their baby daughter because of its high nitrate content led them to a search for alternatives in agriculture. He became interested in conserving and improving the soil and water and in raising animals without confinement. He is a member of the Land Stewardship Project.

The farm is a diversified operation with 80 beef cattle, 50 sows, and some sheep and chickens. He raises corn, oats and hay that along with the pastures are used to feed the livestock. He raises three litters of hogs a year without using total confinement sheds. He uses no antibiotics but finds that healthy animals are very rarely ill in the open environment and fresh air. His death loss is less than 1% from birth to market - about 6 months. He uses deep straw for bedding in the winter and rotates his sheep though the paddocks in the summer to keep the length of grass down during summer litters.

He sells most of his hogs to Niman Ranch of California. The decisions about what to breed and grow and risk of selling to one buyer are his alone. Niman buys only animals that have been raised without antibiotics in humane, non-confinement operations run by family farmers—that means the majority of the work of the operation must be done by the farmer or his family and the farmer must have daily contact with the animals. 850 hogs a week are now being shipped from this area to an Iowa packer for slaughter and distribution. There is a premium for the loins. How much consumers will be willing to pay for choice in their food supply is still an open question. Two food market chains that will buy these products are Fresh Fields and Wild Oats. In Denmark some food has a bar code that identifies the farm where the product originated.

Dave seemed willing to make a trade off in income for being able to participate in this kind of sustainable farming. His gross income is about \$150,000/year with a net of \$25,000 to \$30,000. His returns are lower than those of larger neighbors, but his risks and costs are also lower. He said that he can make money when prices are not as high and that he is able to weather a bad year or two with less hardship.

More comments:

- High cost of starting up is an obstacle to young farmers who need land, equipment and livestock all at once. Intensive grazing is a less expensive way to begin dairy farming.
- One needs to have enough land and animals to gross at least \$150,000 in order to operate a farm and survive in today's economy.
- Government programs should have an upper limit on emergency or other payments to
 one farm owner. Payments have been tied to past production base so the largest farms
 and owners get the most money. This policy favors large agribusiness firms, not family
 farms. He supports a free market system, but he thinks that if the government must assist
 farmers from time to time it should target smaller operations. This year, for example, his
 neighbor got \$400,000 in emergency payments and he got \$30,000.
- We should let the price of land drop to a lower level. We don't need all the land that is currently in production to grow the food that is needed.
- If we do nothing to change the trend, in twenty years we will have huge farms and some small part time farmers. Full time family farms will be a thing of the past.

3. Committee Reports - none

4. Timeline Discussion: President Duffy reminded the committee that the state office will be very busy next fall with voter service activities. If and when we do a publication, we must have our material pulled together in excellent shape because there is neither time nor money in the office to do that for us. We have \$1350, which is not enough money to pay for much assistance and must cover office costs as well. The development staff is still pursuing grants and hopes that MSI Insurance will consider a \$10,000 request this summer.

We discussed the possibility of providing a public forum instead of a publication, because it is less costly and still useful to our members and the public. The general consensus, however, seemed to be that we do need a publication because our members have a lot to learn about this topic.

Gertrude Ulrich, chair, then asked that we come to the February meeting with written motions. If we propose a publication what should it include? If we propose a public forum when and where should it be held, with whom might we partner, and what topics should be covered?

Each subcommittee should begin writing with rough drafts due by May.

5. We discussed who to invite to speak at our next meeting. Suggestions included Gene Hugeson from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture? Others?

The next meeting was set for Thursday, February 3rd, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

MEETING NOTICE

Agriculture Committee Thursday, January 6, 2000 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Minnesota Women's Building 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN

AGENDA

- 1. 60 Speaker, Dave Serfling, farmer from Preston, Minnesota
- 2. 15 Discussion
- 3. 30 Committee Reports
- 4. 15 Timeline
- 5. 10 Henriksen's report on egg operation
- 6. 10 Focus/Public Meeting
- 7. 10 Next committee meeting and agenda

Agriculture Study Committee Minutes December 2, 1999

Present: Ulrich, Borgen, Rohricht, Sawyer, Gunderson, Duffy, Peck, Bennett, Lederer, Karlsson-Barnes, Mary & Eldred Phillips, Vaile, Wright, Palmer, Larson; guest, Andy Steensma, MN Farmers Union

Motion: to approve the minutes of the 11/4/99 meeting.

Mover: Rohricht

Seconded: Karlsson-Barnes Carried

Volunteers are to fill out and turn in expense forms each month.

1. Subcommittee Report:

A. Issues 4 & 5 Subcommittee: Sustainable Choices for the Future (new name) Karlsson-Barnes submitted written report.

Format for three teams:

- a. Health
- b. Family Farms & Rural Communities
- c. Agribusiness
- B. Issue: "Facts" Subcommittee

Gunderson, Palmer, Rohricht, Henriksen, Borgen

Facts broken down into categories:

- a. History, current status (U.S. and MN)
- b. Food production
- c. Present & near past legislation
- d. Social implications
- e. Economics (historical)
- f. Environment
- C. Peck, Karlsson-Barnes, Lederer, Bennett & June Varner from COACT COACT provided some materials including a booklet A Time to Act. COACT has additional materials the League could use. National Commission on Small Farms is available on-line. COACT focuses on feedlots & rural communities.
- D. Lederer found 1988 *National VOTER* issue on agriculture, covering almost everything the agriculture committee is looking at now; perhaps it could provide an outline.
- 2. Palmer showed 1500 pages of citizens advisory panel resources in 12 topic areas: *A Summary of the Literature* (from Scoping Document). 56 study questions; hired U of M faculty; 12 teams do literature research, which the League could perhaps use in its research. It is available on-line at http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us and also through GEIS. Palmer also passed out brochure from DOA
- Possible future speakers:
 - A. First Choice: Willis Anthony, large farmer
 - B. Second Choice: Cornella Flora, Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture
 - C. Gabriella Flora: environmental anthropology, genetically modified organisms
 - D. Gene Hugoson: MN DOA

- E. Ed Schuh, Humphrey Institute
- F. Stephen Carpenter
- G. Gary Koch

Palmer will consult with Land Stewardship for another smaller farmer to be paired with Willis Anthony

4. Future Meetings: Timeline

Thursday, January 6, 2000 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Thursday, February 3, 2000 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Thursday, March 2, 2000 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

5. Other Business

- A. Rohricht suggested someone from Land Stewardship Project who works on alternative farming.
- B. Sawyer asked if the committee wants to plan a public forum the fall or spring. A committee would be needed; contact Ulrich or Sawyer if interested. (Ulrich will serve on the committee.) The committee came to general consensus that the focus meeting should be done for the public.
- C. Borgen pointed out that to meet the January 2001 consensus, the local consensus must be done by August 2000, with research and report done by June 1, 2000.
- D. Ulrich reported on several meetings she attended.
 - Nobel conference on genetics at Gustavus Aldophus College, included an address by Dean Hamer(University of Minnesota) on recombinant DNA drug and vaccine production and gene regulation;
 - 2. Twin Cities Agriculture Roundtable (which has a schedule of meetings) featured a speaker who discussed the combination & recombination of pharmaceutical and agriculture seed companies. He observed that we'll soon be able to manufacture designer genes which will be able to combine grains with pharmaceuticals to eliminate blindness, diabetes and other medical conditions. However, while this new technology holds great promise there may be a dark side.
 - A conference on Ethics and International featured Michael Ciresi who
 emphasized that our great system of justice is a protection for American
 citizens in the area of improper use of biotechnology.
- E. Lederer mentioned website still says "sustainable" and maybe the wording should be changed back in position. Ulrich suggested bringing it up at the next meeting.
- F. Rohricht mentioned the place to find information on biotechnology at the website for the Alliance for Biotechnology at http://www.bio-integrity.org

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Bennett

Notes Dr. C. Ford Runge December 2, 1999

The meeting began with an address by Dr. C. Ford Runge, professor of economics and law at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Runge asked members if they believed Minnesota farmers to be in trouble at the present time. About half indicated they did. Dr. Runge then talked about the unevenness of the current crisis. Because agriculture in the U.S. is extremely complex, some farmers do very well, others are in distress. Many Minnesota farmers are currently in trouble for several reasons, one being a series of natural disasters. This is exacerbated by the collapse of the export market due to the collapse of the Asian economy.

Dr. Runge then viewed the main provisions of the 1996 federal farm program (FAIR). Because of this program, farmers went from crop by crop subsidies to a single whole-farm base, allowing farmers to plant almost any crop they chose, allowing farmers to plant in direct response to market forces.

Commodity farmers still receive government payments if they sign a seven year contract with the USDA. The shift to the whole farm base greatly favors large farm operations. In addition, farmers receive payments over and above marketing receipts, providing a very nice income for large operations. It is important to note that the Act does introduce flexibility and serves the connection between subsidies and current farm prices.

FAIR phases out price supports for certain dairy products, but leaves the price fixing arrangement plan for milk in place. This continues to favor east coast dairy farmers at the expense of mid-west dairy farmers.

Conservation programs continue and have been reinforced, although there is an early opt out provision, which may bring good crop land back into production, while protecting environmentally sensitive land to remain in CRP (Conservative Reserve Program).

Dr. Runge supported the 1996 Farm Act and continues to do so, but would like to see several modifications. Most important in his view, is to introduce countercyclicity, which would increase government payments in inverse proportion to farm derived income. This would work toward income stabilization. Payments would not be made during good times and bad (the current practice) but only at times of stress. Payments should be geographically determined because the U.S. is much too big and diverse to expect the same conditions to prevail across the country. Finally payments should be progressive; that is, large farmers would be limited in the total level of subsidy.

Sharon Morgan 5310 County Road 101 Minnetonka, Minnesota 55345

October 19, 1999

Mr. Kevin Kain MPCA Metro District 520 Lafayette Road St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194 MPCA EAW HEARING

JAN. 24 TH* & JAN. 25 TH.

520 LAFAYETTE RP. N

ST. PAUL

(TIME TBA)

(* IMPORTANT MEETING!)

Dear Mr. Kain:

I am writing this letter out of concern for the future of family farming, out of concern for the safety of our food supply, out of concern for the health of our environment and most personally out of concern for the people who's lives are so directly impacted by factory farming/feedlots.

By admission, I am not a farmer. I am a city dweller who is concerned about the amounts of pesticides and herbicides being used and the impact this practice has on our health and our environment.... So I buy organic whenever I can.

I am worried about resistant bacteria to antibiotics and how drug overuse in livestock can be partially to blame.... So I buy meat and poultry labeled "no antibiotics used". I have a strong affection for animals and I feel it is wrong to crowd them unnaturally into barns that do not allow the animal to live the life it was naturally meant to live... So I buy free range or locally grown. I have had a strong commitment to these issues for many decades. I know now, however, that, though it was a strong commitment, it was somewhat of an impersonal one.

My concerns have recently become very personal. I have painfully watched, both emotionally and physically, the impact that a poultry feed lot has had on my own parents.

My mom and dad are just entering their 70's. They enjoy their health and an active lifestyle. Together, they own 8 horses and partner to do all the chores required to keep the animals happy and the 120 acre farm running smoothly. The horses are exercised daily (weather permitting) and, in the spring and the fall, they love to head up to a state forest for long trail rides into the woods. They've lived on this farm for almost 40 years. Children were raised here, along with cattle, horses, chickens, a one leg wild duck (Pete) and a pet pig (Arnold). On the grounds are buried a variety of beloved pets including a lifelong companion sheepdog (Shep) and a bird who insisted on his own bowl of popcom, nightly.

Oct 20,99

My parents loved their animals and they loved their farm. For the majority of the 40 years they farmed and fed organically. For my father, the decision came after accidentally spilling a concentration of herbicide on a small area of a crop field. He watched as that piece of ground took years to recover and begin to produce again. He decided to farm without herbicides. That felt right to him. Over the years I've watched him find organic and/or chemical free ways to effectively deal with everything from weeds to pocket gophers. The only fertilizer that ever went on his fields was from his cattle or horses.

At this point in their lives, the children are grown and gone and the cattle, long ago, were sold to market. What remains is a tranquil spot with flowerbeds to tend and 8 of the best equine companions anyone could ever hope for. My parents created a welcome spot for their children and grandchildren to come home to. It was the gathering spot for the family, as was their intent... every holiday (mandatory), birthdays, anniversaries, every special occasion. Grandpa taught the grandchildren to ride horses (a few who now compete and show) and how to care for and love their animals.

Two years ago much of this changed. A variety of heavy equipment arrived on the neighboring property. With no notice, written or verbal, with no opportunity to investigate or to object, two very modern, very efficient poultry buildings went up. There is great claim to this efficiency as a roadside sign boasts how many million eggs sold...but at what price to my parents?

This new barn claims a new technology that dries the chicken manure and blows it out big fans running the expanse of the building. I'm assuming this makes for less work in removing the bird droppings from the barn, but what it means for my parents is a sickening odor which can get unbearable when the wind is from the south (barn is south, fans from both buildings blow north toward the house). The dust that now covers my mother's china cabinet suspiciously contains tufts of white feathers and is thick and sticky. Then there are the flys flys and more flys. There are no longer any gatherings outside on the picnic table or yard chairs pulled up to watch the horses in the paddock. If you can stand the odor, you cannot stand the flys. The owner of the barn admits to the fly problem but claims he's solved it by spraying more. Which adds to the concern of what pesticides, bacteria, antibiotics and particulate matter are blowing out those efficient fans at this small farm?

I have tried and my parents have tried to obtain an answer to that very question. We have talked to the MPCA, The Uof M, Dept of Public Health, and various environmental groups, public officials and medical doctors. It appears that no one really knows what the health effects are for my mom and dad unless the air is tested. At this time we have been unable to find a way to get this test done. One of the people we talked to at the MPCA suggested carbon filters (which are available for the fans) but when we requested this at the county board meeting the barn owner said he wasn't willing to spend the money. Meanwhile, both parents have developed a suspiciously similar cough, and my mother has been hospitalized with a stress-related illness. It is a terrible feeling not knowing if your own home is safe. It is a terrible feeling to wonder if the very air you

breathe could be making you sick. I horrifies my parents that they may be putting their grandchildren at risk!

So they don't hold the family gatherings at the farm any more. There hasn't been a potluck out in the yard for two summers, now. It's empty and lonely and the place holds less of their affection. The aircleaner runs all day and all night; a constant reminder of the invasion into their home. They sleep with the windows closed even in the heat of the summer because the odor is worse when it's hot. They've lost a lot of sleep the last two years and we've all shed a lot of tears. It's so very sad for me to watch my parents grieve all this loss.

It's not that they just gave in to this loss. I'm very proud of the fight they fought. This was about 100"s of hours of phone calls and networking with the certainty that this was much to unfair to be really happening; that there must be someone to talk to and something that could be done. They have had no success. Worse yet, it appears that the ordinances that are in place to prohibit an additional third barn (to be constructed this spring) may not stop a variance approval. The third barn will make it unboarable to live out their lives on their farm. They will be forced sell the farm and move.

Of course the decision to move brings up the fact that the feedlot, by its close proximity to the house has devalued the property considerably. It means that they cannot sell the property by dividing into lots, which may bring more money, because of the set back ordinance to the chicken barns. It means that they will face some tough choices. Without the financial means to replace their facilities they must look at the options of selling equipment, perhaps an auction, finding new homes for a few of their much loved horses and downsizing much earlier than they had planned. This all does not come without pain and heartbreak for two older people. It means going through a lifetime of accumulated belongings and leaving a place filled with memories

I believe that the owner of this poultry feedlot has the right to conduct his business and make a living for his family. I don't believe however, that in doing so, he has the right to compromise the air quality and property values of his neighbors. The owner of this barn lives a comfortable distance from the barns. He avoids the smells and the presence of the big barns while making the profits from the barns. He is aware of the damage he has done to my parents yet; he is campaigning to build a third barn even closer to my parent's kitchen window. This third barn will lower the air quality and the property value even further. The piece of land that these barns are built on is not big enough for a third barn. The ordinance is in place to help protect my parents from this third barn. If the variance is approved and the barn goes up, my parents have no choice but to take the real-estate loss and move. The health risk and emotional stress is too great.

I'm not suggesting that I have the answers to the complicated debate regarding the future of agriculture in Minnesota. I am not foolish enough to ask you to ban all factory farming. I simply wanted you to know about one couple's loss and pain and ask you to

do whatever you can to stop this third barn and in the future, protect others form this injustice Thank you for any help you can give us regarding this matter.

My Parents names are Sy and Doreen Kaeter. They live at 40382 115th Ave, St Joseph, MN 55345. Phone number is 320 253-1125.

Jeffery Marthaller is the feedlot owner. The project title is Lake Country Laying Hen Barn, Steams County

Most sincerely,

Sharon Morgan

1-129 300

LWV Agriculture Study Committee Meeting - 11/4/99 - Minutes

Gertrude Ulrich, chair of the committee, convened the meeting at 1:05 by asking members to identify themselves by name and local League. Meeting minutes of Oct. 7, 1999 were accepted as printed. The chair spoke of the telephone calls she has received from around the state indicating considerable interest in this study.

The committee reviewed procedures for filling out forms recording expenses and volunteer hours.

Reports on regional meetings: those committee members in attendance at the various meetings reported great interest in the study. All felt that the meetings had gone well.

Speaker John Peck: John is working toward his Ph.D. in agricultural economics and has spent several years working with farmers in Zimbabwe. John began by establishing the historical development of economics. The original Greek intent was to establish an understanding of household management, which is a joint decision-making process. By the time of Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* society was shifting from managing households to accumulating wealth, which was equated with happiness. It then began to look to those standards which could be measured, losing sight of undefinable qualities such as the well being of the community. As economics developed, the concept of the GNP evolved but has only allowed for inclusion of quantifiable products, good or bad. The invisible hand of the market became the all-pervasive standard. But the marketplace works only if the individual decision-maker (assuming there is one) has access to perfect knowledge and has the time in which to master and put to work this knowledge. This brings up the question of research.

Much of the research now being done at the University is done by researchers funded by a private company for a specific purpose. This brings up the question of the ownership of the results of the research and the independence of the researcher. Discussion followed. Members agreed that University research has played an important part in the development of the state, but what of the future? Committee members agreed that this was a fruitful area of study and could result in the development of policy for the League. John reviewed Minnesota's corporate farm law that he said was well written.

Speaker Eunice Biel: Eunice began by telling committee members that John Peck's review of Minnesota's corporate farm law was a perfect opening for her remarks. Eunice is a dairy farmer whose family has owned the farm she and her husband farm since before Minnesota became a state. Eunice is an active member of the Diary Council, but is convinced that the Diary Council will lobby the legislature to weaken those provisions which currently protect family farmers. Committee members agreed that this is an alarming development and that the League could develop consensus for support of existing law. Eunice felt that the process would take too long, as forces were poised to make drastic changes during the coming legislative session. Committee members and staff thought it possible to lobby the legislature on behalf of the existing law, through previously adopted national positions. This will be researched and discussed at the December meeting. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gertrude Ulrich

LWVMN Agriculture Study Committee Meeting Notice and Agenda Thursday, December 2, 1999 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Minnesota Women's Building 550 Rice Street, St. Paul

Agenda

Appoint Secretary of the Day

1:00 p.m. Guest Speaker: C. Ford Runge, University of Minnesota speaker remarks, followed by questions from committee

2:00 p.m. Agriculture Committee Business Meeting

Mins.

- 1. 2 Fill out volunteer hours/expense vouchers (see enclosed forms)
- 2. 3 Review and approve minutes of the 11/4/99 Meeting Minutes
- 3. 30 Reports from Committees(three to five minutes each)
- 4. 10 Request for time from Helen Palmer, committee member
- 5. 5 Future Speakers
- 6. 5 LWVMN Public Forum on Agriculture: see study timeline Does a forum contribute to the public discussion & debate on this issue?
- 7. 3 Other Business
- 8. 2 Next Meeting date and agenda items

Questions? Call Gertrude Ulrich, Chair at 612-866-8171 or State League Office, 651-224-5445 or 1-800-663-9328

LWVMN Agriculture Committee Meeting Notice and Agenda Thursday, November 4, 1999 Minnesota Women's Building

11:00 a.m. - Sub-Committees 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Full Committee Meeting

Enclosures: *Minutes of the October 7, 1999 meeting
(refer to minutes for sub-committee members)
*Letter from Committee Chair, Gertrude Ulrich
*Committee list

Agenda

- 1. 15 Reports on Regional Meetings Presentations
- 2. 15 Sub-Committee Reports eight committees—so brief progress reports, please
- 3. 60 Guest Speaker presentation by John Peck, followed by questions and answers
- 4. 15 Changes to the MN Corporate Farm Law/Eunice Biel
- 5. 15 Other business/next meeting



PRESIDENT Judy Duffy

October 27, 1999

ADVISORY BOARD

Ralph Burnet CEO Coldwell Banker Burnet

Ned Crosby Chair Jefferson Center

Isabel Gomez Judge Hennepin County District Court

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Vivian Jenkins Nelsen President and CEO International Institute for Interracial Interactions: INTER-RACE

James A. Roberts Vice President, Corporate Relations Minnesota Power

G. Edward Schuh Professor Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs University of Minnesota

Laura Waterman Wittstock President MIGIZI Communications, Inc.

Mark G. Yudof President Presity of Minnesota Dear Agriculture Study Committee Member,

Did you realize what you were letting yourself in for when you agreed to serve on the agriculture study committee back at the League Convention in April?

Knew it would be a big job, but not quite this big! Oh well. I find I'm reading the paper and listening to the news with much closer attention.

Since the first meeting of the Committee on July 29th we have come quite a way. We have agreed on the wording of the study and adopted a tentative timeline. Staff has developed and presented a tentative budget.

As always with the League, the first and foremost task of the committee is to educate League members and as many members of the public as we can reach. The need for education is apparent as our need for food never changes, but our understanding of the complex system of production, marketing and distribution grows ever more tenuous as fewer and fewer people have direct connections with the land.

With this in mind, we have heard from two speakers and have scheduled two more. The first speaker, a staff member from the Legislature, outlined current state policies and reviewed legislation passed in the 1998-1999 session. This consisted mainly of property tax relief, requirements that meatpackers report daily on prices paid for all livestock bought or delivered on contract and easing ambient air quality standards under certain conditions. The second speaker, a farmer from Iowa, stressed the need for farmers to develop managerial and marketing expertise.

The October meeting was devoted to the formation of subcommittees. Directions from the three previous meetings indicated that the following subcommittees would be helpful:

- proposed changes in state and federal laws pertaining to trade policies and to initiatives for change
- agricultural economics in a democracy, looking at the concentration of decision making and the access to information
- access to markets for farmers at the state, national and international level, what kind of farmers' organization is necessary

- the future of the independent farmer in view of the move to contract
- the future of rural communities
- · the future of agribusiness
- food safety/food quality (genetic engineering, antibiotic use, etc.)

In addition to the above, we need a committee to put together a primer on the history of agriculture showing the development of current trends. We also need an analysis of current state and federal laws and policies and how they affect Minnesota farmers and consumers.

As you can see, there is a great deal of work to be done, and so we are asking all committee members to sign up for one or more committee if you have not already done so. Please call either me at 612/866-8171 or the state office at 651/224-5445.

And so to work!

Thank you very much,

Hertrule Ulrich Gertrude Ulrich Committee Chair

LWV Agriculture Study Committee Minutes from meeting October 7, 1999

Gertrude Ulrich convened the meeting at 1:07 and had committee members introduce themselves.

Minutes from the September 2, 1999 meeting were reviewed and amended as follows: paragraph four should read \$30,000 and second • was changed to read Refine glossary and prepare a bibliography. Janis Larson moved to accept the minutes as amended.

<u>PLANNING COMMITTEE</u> A sub-committee of this group had met after the meeting on 9/2/99 to refine the issues. Their outline was reviewed and amended (see attached sheet, as modified and amended). During this discussion Linda Peck suggested adding words from the MN Constitution in support of farming and adding an issue about Food Safety/Food Quality. Brian Karlsson-Barnes suggested adding a 'spiritual element' to issues and perhaps joining issues #4 and #5, Gertrude felt there is rationale for keeping both titles. Others felt the word 'spiritual' could be problematic; Helen Palmer suggested 'human connection' might convey the meaning needed.

VOCABULARY Brian mentioned the need to define terms:

- · Large scale farms agricultural businesses
- Agricultural Corporations provide products/seeds to farmers and buy resulting products.

Deanna Lederer will compile a glossary and asked that word/terms be sent to her.

<u>RESOURCES</u> JoAnne Rohricht told about a committee which has worked for 16 months on agricultural issues and suggested their reports might yield info and vocabulary useful to our committee. JoAnne suggested we should review the LWV study from the 1970s re: <u>Sustainable Agriculture</u>. She also shared pamphlets from the <u>Community Supported Agriculture</u> (CSA) Farms, detailing the crops being grown at farms making up the organization.

RED WING WORKSHOP Helen Palmer reported that 20 people met in Red Wing for the Workshop on October 2. Helen said she told the group about the history of the agricultural study and the broad interest which resulted in its adoption at the State LWV meeting. Brian had made a handout for the workshop and Stephanie Henriksen had developed a display board of items pertaining to the agricultural study, which she shared with the committee today. Helen urged that each league begin an Agriculture Committee. She also suggested that the video could be run during registration at future workshops. Helen raised the question: Are we working on 'a study' or an 'action item'? To keep us focused, Linda suggested having the wording of the purpose for the study at the top of all subsequent papers. The group agreed it would be helpful.

SPEAKERS FOR November 4 meeting There was discussion about who to invite to speak to the committee and when. (Earlier a Green Sheet of Resource Persons was developed.) The group felt the sooner we get info, the better. For the November 4 meeting, Gertrude will contact C. Ford Runge; Linda and Stephanie will contact a second speaker, a person not involved in academia. Gertrude asked everyone to forward the names of suggested speakers to Sally Sawyer.

SUB-COMMITTEE SIGN UP So that members could form sub-committees and with persons near them geographically, sign-up sheets were circulated. Issues and sub-committee members are:

History/Background Primer Facts 1.

> Nancy Gundersen Helen Palmer, Chair Adeline Blowers Anne Borgen

Stephanie Henriksen JoAnne Rohricht

Issues 2. Agricultural Economics in a Democracy Jane Bennett Janis Larson, Chair

Bev Montgomery

Access to Markets for Farmers 3.

Linda Peck Charmaine Wright

The Future of the Independent Farm (family, contract) Human Connection 4. to the Land

Linda Peck, Chair Brian Karlsson-Barnes Mary & Eldred Phillips Charmaine Wright Stephanie Henriksen JoAnne Rohricht

5. The Future of Rural Communities

> Brian Karlsson-Barnes Eldred and Mary Phillips Linda Peck

Deanna Lederer Charmaine Wright

6. The Future of Agribusiness

> Janis Larson Nancy Gundersen

Food Safety/Food Quality (genetic engineering, antibiotic use, etc.) 7. Stephanie Henriksen Charmaine Wright Linda Peck

JoAnne Rohricht

Proposed Changes - State/Federal Laws, Trade Policies, and Initiatives for 8.

Change

Adeline Blowers Carol McCarter

Stephanie Henriksen

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League of Women Voters of Minnesota 550 Rice Street St. Paul, MN 55103 651/224-5445 651/290-2145 (F) lwvmn@mtn.org LWVMN Agriculture Committee Meeting Notice and Agenda Thursday, November 4, 1999 Minnesota Women's Building

11:00 a.m. - Sub-Committees 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Full Committee Meeting

Enclosures: *Minutes of the October 7, 1999 meeting
(refer to minutes for sub-committee members)
*Letter from Committee Chair, Gertrude Ulrich
*Committee list

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- 1. 15 Reports on Regional Meetings Presentations
- 2. 15 Sub-Committee Reports eight committees—so brief progress reports, please
- Guest Speaker presentation by John Peck, followed by questions and answers
- 4. 15 Changes to the MN Corporate Farm Law/Eunice Biel
- 5. 15 Other business/next meeting



RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

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James A. Roberts Vice President, Corporate Relations Minnesota Power

G. Edward Schuh Professor Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs University of Minnesota

Laura Waterman Wittstock President MIGIZI Communications, Inc.

Mark G. Yudof President Presity of Minnesota October 27, 1999

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And so to work!

Thank you very much,

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LWV Agriculture Study Committee Minutes from meeting October 7, 1999

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<u>RESOURCES</u> JoAnne Rohricht told about a committee which has worked for 16 months on agricultural issues and suggested their reports might yield info and vocabulary useful to our committee. JoAnne suggested we should review the LWV study from the 1970s re: <u>Sustainable Agriculture</u>. She also shared pamphlets from the <u>Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Farms</u>, detailing the crops being grown at farms making up the organization.

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Minnesota Women's Building Large Meeting Room 550 Rice Street St. Paul

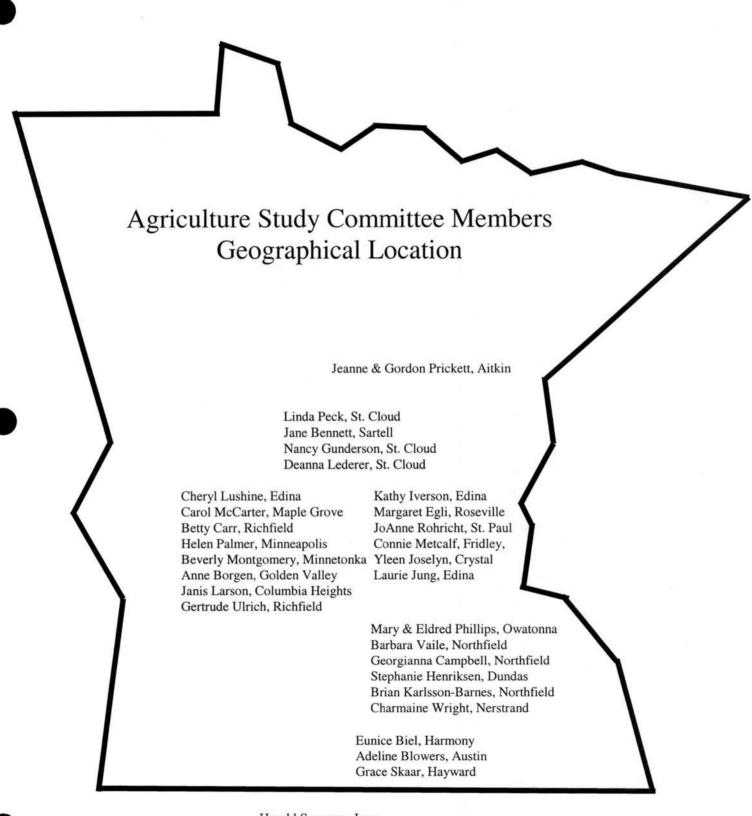
Please call the LWVMN office if you cannot attend: 1-800-663-9328 or 1-651-224-5445; e-mail: lwvmn@mtn.org

Agenda

- 1. 5 Introductions/Gertrude Ulrich
- 2. 2 Minutes of the September 2, 1999 Meeting/Beverly Montgomery Appoint recording secretary for this meeting.
- 3. 10 Report from Red Wing Regional Meeting/Helen Palmer & other presenters
- 4. 60 Organizing the work of the Committee/Ulrich

See attached outline of proposed subcommittees. Please review and come prepared to sign up for the area/issue that interests you. Have we forgotten anything or does it fit under one of the headings?

- 5. 10 Identify speaker for general meeting of the committee/Ulrich Subcommittee has suggested C. Ford Runge or Steve Taff from the University of Minnesota, both agricultural economists.
- 6. 30 Break into subcommittees to plan work and choose sub-committee chairs



LWV Agriculture Study Committee Minutes from meeting September 2, 1999

Jane Bennett, vice chair, conducted the meeting and later in the meeting agreed to chair the committee. She thanked Gertrude Ulrich for accepting the responsibility to initially chair the committee and to begin the agriculture study project.

Jane reviewed protocol procedures: raise hands to be recognized, order of wishing to speak will be noted, and, one person speaking at a time so that all can participate effectively.

Committee members spoke their ideas, hopes, and wishes for the outcome of this committee's work. These were recorded on an easel tablet by Judy Duffy.

Andrea Lex requested ideas for sources to fund the study, which will cost about \$30,0,00. Andrea says that large agribusiness companies are not a source.

<u>Fall Regional Workshops</u> will be held to introduce Leagues to the topics under consideration in the Ag Study. To prepare for the workshops the following sub-committees will function:

• Coordinate articles and info for the workshops from various sources:

(Sally Sawyer, Charmaine Wright, Helen Palmer, Adeline Blowers, Stephanie Henriksen, JoAnne Rohricht, Jane Bennett)

- a few articles to give a notion about the scope of the study.
- · visuals of data from the Farm Rally in Waconia
- · 'words' from interviews of farm families condensed
- packet from Washington, D.C. gathering of farming community (30 from MN are attending) from Eunice Biel.
- · suggestions of activities local leagues could accomplish
- video On This Farm (27 minutes) low key and even-handed
- Refine the timeline, glossary and prepare a bibliography. (Deanna Lederer and Adeline Blowers)

Other suggestions to introduce the topic to Leagues:

- Get materials to local Leagues ASAP so members will be alert to current publications regarding ag issues.
- Local Leagues can be urged to form ag committees.
- Blurbs can be written for local League newsletters. (Anne Borgen shared what she had written for her League's newsletter.)

Workshops will be held on the following dates:

Red Wing October 2

Presenters: Helen Palmer, Brian Karlsson-Barnes, Barbara Vaile

Brainerd October 21

Presenters: Jane Bennett, Nancy Gunderson, Deanna Lederer, Linda Peck

West Metro Alliance October 28

Presenters: Anne Borgen, Carol McCarter

Roseville/etc. October 30

Presenters: Janis Larson, Gertrude Ulrich

(Other regions may convene meetings if they cannot make it to the set regional meetings.)

<u>Farm to Fork Symposium</u> - <u>September 18</u> at Mall of America, Bloomington. <u>Attendance is urged.</u> If needed, fee of \$25 can be reimbursed from the LWVMN Education Fund.

<u>State Legislative Agriculture Committee:</u> Adeline Blowers attended the Freeborn/Maurer County Meeting. She reported that only Republican legislators attended. They received info from various ag groups. Adeline felt most legislators did not understand the issues. The Hearing did not allow for speakers from the area.

National Farmer: Eldred Phillips shared materials from this publication.

Broken Heartland: Stephanie Henriksen gave a brief synopsis of book the group is reading.

NEXT MEETING ON OCTOBER 7, 1999, 1:00 - 3:00 P.M.

Agenda Item: Form sub-committees to meet outside of main Ag Committee to refine some info and data for the whole committee.

Recorder: Beverly Montgomery.

Date: September 29, 1999

To: Agriculture Study Committee Re: Agriculture Subcommittee

A meeting was held to discuss and determine the Agricultural Study subcommittee structure. It was decided that the following subcommittees would be established in order to facilitate the progress of the project.

The most fundamental objective of this committee will be to educate our members and the public at large on the salient issues affecting rural communities. To gather resources and produce a document that gives an overview of the following areas will be the work of this committee as a whole. Committee members will be asked to think about these areas and consider which one is of most interest and be ready to commit to a subcommittee at the meeting on October 7.

The "Facts and Issues" that will be produced will focus on these areas:

Facts Subcommittee:

1. A background primer including a brief history of agriculture in the U.S. This will cite statistics, current laws, trends (including the evolution to large scale, corporate farming and agribusiness), crops and the current crisis; an analysis of the impact of the freedom to farm act and international trade policies.

Background information on the state of Minnesota, including statistics, how many farms, what kind, crops, impacts of national and state laws, policies on farms, communities, the current crisis and environmental impacts; facts on changing rural communities.

Who are the players?

Charts, tables, maps would be useful.

This first part should be an informative, educational piece about agriculture in the US and MN today. Most of us are starting with a very rudimentary understanding of what our food production system has been and what factors are at work.

Issues Subcommittee:

- 1. Proposed changes in state and federal laws, trade policies and initiatives for change.
- 2. Agricultural economics in a democracy; these issues include the concentration of power and access to information.
- 3. Access to markets for farmers from the local, state, national and international; and the organization of farmers.
- 4. The future of the independent farm including contract farming.
- 5. The future of rural communities.
- 6. The future of agribusiness.

The audience for this study is local League members and members of the public, the media, policy makers, elected officials. Aim for a succinct, balanced yet thorough presentation. You might spend some time looking at the St. Paul Pioneer Press' series of articles, to be completed at the end of October and the way in which they tackled the subject. (The series uses human interest material as well as good factual material and discussion of issues.)

A timeline will need to be established and adhered to if this is to work. Writing, editing and preparation for publication are extremely time consuming and will require all of us to do our work in a timely fashion.

Thanks for your help and expertise!



RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

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Laura Waterman Wittstock President MIGIZI Communications, Inc.

Mark G. Yudof President University of Minnesota Date: September 17, 1999

To: Agriculture Study Steering Committee

From: Judy Duffy
Re: Meeting Notice

MEETING NOTICE

Agriculture Steering Committee Tuesday, September 21, 1999 1:30 p.m.

Champps Restaurant
North of Weaver Lake Road and I-94

(Call the office if you have questions. 651/224-5445)

To: Agriculture Study Committee

From: Sally Sawyer

Re: a modest proposal for organizing study

Date: 9/3/99

I have a suggestion for organizing the work of the committee. Before the next committee meeting, committee chairs and a few others should prepare a working outline of the publication—using as models previous LWV studies. The outline could be something like the following—note that this is only an example, not the outline you should follow.

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- 3. State of Minnesota: statistics: how many farms, what kind, crops, impacts of national and state laws, policies on farms, communities; current crisis. Include environmental impacts

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Part II: Issues: state and federal policies: various viewpoints, suggestions

Proposed changes in state and federal laws, trade policies

Initiatives for change

Models

What should the goals of federal/state ag policy be? Various viewpoints Include brief excerpts from interviews with farmers? How about rural businesses? Members of affected communities? Urban dwellers? Reps of co-ops or agribusiness?

Make sure that you have possible consensus questions in mind so that you provide information, discussion, pros and cons in this background material.

Your audiences for this study are local League members <u>and</u> members of the public, the media, policy makers, elected officials. Aim for a succinct, balanced yet thorough presentation. You might spend some time looking at the St. Paul Pioneer Press's series of articles, to be completed at the end of October and the way in which they tackled the

subject. (The series uses a lot of human interest material but also good factual material and discussion of issues.)

Use the working draft of the outline as a basis for forming subcommittees.

Decide on a list of speakers (no more than ten is my suggestion) to be heard by the whole committee, leaving subcommittees to focus on readings and remaining sources.

Decide how the subcommittees will report—will each write a section and turn it in to one or two main writers? My suggestion is to set a timeline—the time goes very fast and it takes a very long time to do the final writing and editing, not to mention the detailed process of publication.

Can the committee find a principal writer? Will we need to hire one to do the final writing and editing?

Handouts for Regional Meetings Agriculture Study Committee

- 1. Wording and Scope; Timeline for Study (green)
- 2. Sample Articles:
 - *"Harvest of Risk" series (June, July, August, September, 1999), Pioneer Press
 - *Report to the National Farmers Union, Consolidation in the Food and Agriculture system, Dr. William Heffernan, Department of Rural Sociology, University of Missouri-Columbia, February 5, 1999
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- 5. "Preparing your local League for the LWVMN Agriculture Study: Suggested Activities for Local Leagues"

Other materials

- 1. Excerpt from "And on this Farm" videotape, 5 minutes Will require VHS player at each site
- 2. Collage of report covers, photos to have at each site

Presenters: Red Wing, October 2nd: Palmer, Karlsson-Barnes, Vaile

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West Metro Alliance, October 28th: Borgen, McCarter

ROMAFH, October 30th: Larson, Ulrich

Preparing your Local League for the LWVMN Agriculture Study Suggested Activities for Local Leagues

October, 1999

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- 1. Form an Agriculture Committee. Include those people who have a special interest in this topic. If they're not members of the League, invite them to join!
 - Remind committee members that a League study gathers information and considers all viewpoints and aspects of an issue **before** arriving at a position.
- 2. This issue is a hot topic. There are forums, newspaper articles, television and radio discussions on a daily basis. Find a volunteer to keep a clipping file or notebook. Select small excerpts and print them in each issue of your League bulletin.
- 3. Use the readings included in materials presented at Regional Workshops to educate your committee and your members. The Pioneer Press plans to reprint in tabloid format its series "Harvest of Risk" following its completion in October. LWVMN will purchase copies for the use of each League. Report to the National Farmers Union Consolidation in the Food and Agriculture System by Dr. William Heffernan provides a good overview.
- 4. Watch for information from the State League office through the *VOTER* and in the "Presidents' Mailing." The state study committee is planning to provide camera ready articles for you to reproduce in your bulletin. LWVMN will also provide agriculture statistics for your county and a glossary of terms.
- 5. Plan a forum or informational meeting in your community. Include speakers such as your county extension agent, county planner, a local farmer, farm organizations, agribusiness rep, lender or local reporters with an agriculture beat. The college or university in your community would also be a good resource for speakers. Make sure you include a variety of points of view in your program.
- 6. Contact your county extension agent and county planner for materials related to agriculture in your community.
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LWVMN Study of Agricultural Policies and their Impact on Sustainability

Adopted by the LWVMN Convention, April 17, 1999

Wording: Study of the impact of agricultural policies, regulations and practices on the long term viability of agriculture and rural communities.

Scope: The study will examine state government agricultural policies (including but not limited to tax and land ownership policies) practices and regulations; subsidies and research dollars involving agriculture. The study will focus on the social and economic impacts of the above.

Working definition of sustainability: Development that maintains or enhances economic opportunity and community wellbeing while protecting and restoring the natural environment upon which people and economies depend. Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. [From Draft Scoping Document.]

Timeline for Agriculture Study Two Year Study: consensus in March 2001

- Summer 1999: set committee meeting schedule; define scope; decide on products; define research tasks and set interview schedule; plan fall regional workshops for local Leagues; assignments for research, writing, public meeting, discussion/consensus guide, etc.
- Fall 1999: Regional meetings
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- ❖ Spring 2000: Focus meeting if you choose to do this and we get funding for it a good way to inform the natural audiences for this topic that we're doing this study; form a group of cosponsoring organizations?
- May July 2000: drafts due; final edit.
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- March 2001: Positions approved by LWVMN Board and released to the public.

To: Ag Study sub-committee planning regional workshops

From: Judy Duffy and Sally Sawyer

Re: Proposed Agriculture handouts for the Regional Workshops

Date: 9/15/99

Time available at workshops: 30 to 45 minutes

1. Wording and scope: done

2. Timeline: done

- 3. Glossary—Lederer & Blowers: can this be completed? Not for the regional meetings GEIS is somewhat limited glossary.
- 4. Sample articles: best overview may be Pioneer Press series. The series is going to be reprinted in tabloid format when complete (at the end of October). We can purchase enough copies for local Leagues this year. We will have four of the five articles by the time of the first three workshops. Add Heffernan piece on Consolidation in the Food and Agriculture System.
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- 8. Bibliography & resources: Lederer & Blowers (according to the minutes); Blowers is preparing based on contributions from Charmaine and Stephanie.

Remember:

- 1. There will be five other segments at these meetings. Don't overwhelm participants
- 2. Local Leagues want to know the study timeline, especially when they must schedule Study and consensus meeting.
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Scoping Document

GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT ON ANIMAL AGRICULTURE



DECEMBER 1998

Glossary

Definitions are included for clarification purposes only. This glossary is not a listing of official definitions.

Animal feedlot A lot or building or combination of lots and buildings intended for the confined feeding, breeding, raising, or holding of animals and specifically designed as a confinement area in which manure may accumulate or where the concentration of animals is such that a vegetative cover cannot be maintained within the enclosure. For purposes of these parts, open lots used for the feeding and rearing of poultry shall be considered to be animal feedlots. Pastures shall not be considered animal feedlots.

Animal unit A unit of measure used to compare differences in production of animal manures that employs as a standard the amount of manure produced on a regular basis by a slaughter steer or heifer. The following equivalents shall apply: one mature dairy cow, 1.4 animal unit; one slaughter steer or heifer, 1.0 animal unit; one horse, 1.0 animal unit; one swine over 55 pounds, 0.4 animal unit; one sheep, 0.1 animal unit; one swine under 55 pounds, 0.05 animal unit; one turkey, 0.018 animal unit; one chicken, 0.01 animal unit. For animals not listed, the number of animal units shall be defined as the average weight of the animal divided by 1,000 pounds.

Aquifer A natural geologic formation that yields useful amounts of water.

Atmospheric deposition The process by which materials held in the atmosphere move to the earth's surface, including precipitation, particles, aerosols and gases.

BMP Best management practice is a conservation practice determined to be the most effective, practical means of preventing or reducing pollution from nonpoint sources.

CAC Citizen Advisory Committee for the Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Animal Agriculture.

Confinement Facility A type of feedlot where the animals are confined and fed under a roof or in a building.

Connected actions Two or more projects that are related, interdependent parts of a larger whole.

Economies of scale Reductions in the average cost of a product in the long run, resulting from an expanded level of output. Related to the technical input/output relationship rather than price changes as in economies of size.

Economies of size Pecuniary (i.e., money compensated) gains from increasing the volume of outputs. For example, buying a 6 oz. box of detergent from a vending machine at a laundromat will cost more per ounce than buying the 120 oz. jumbo box at a discount store on a per ounce basis.

Effluent The discharge of a pollutant, or pollutants, in a liquid form from a containing space.

Environment The complex of physical, social, chemical, and biotic factors that act upon an organism or an ecological community and ultimately determine its form and survival.

EIS Environmental Impact Statement is a thorough study of a project with potential for significant environmental impacts, including evaluation of alternatives and mitigation.

EQB Environmental Quality Board is the state agency that among other responsibilities adopts environmental review rules, monitors their effectiveness and revises as appropriate; provides technical assistance to interpret and apply rules.

EPA The United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Externality Cost or benefit incurred by others without just compensation.

Family farm Any farm owned by a natural person, or one or more natural persons all of whom are related within the third degree of kindred according to the civil law, at least one of whose owners resides on or actively operates said farm.

GEIS Generic Environmental Impact Statement.

Global climate change Changes in the earth's climate caused by human-induced increases in atmospheric gases which trap heat. These "greenhouse gases" include carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrogen oxides.

Ground water The supply of water under the earth's surface and below the water table.

Hydrogen sulfide (H,S) A toxic gas formed during anaerobic decomposition of manure. It smells like rotten eggs and causes headaches, dizziness, nausea, unconsciousness and death. It quickly deadens the sense of smell.

Hypoxia A zone of ocean with a depleted level of oxygen caused by the decay of excessive plant life stimulated by delivery of large amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus by a river. Such a zone occurs in the Gulf of Mexico due to the discharge of the Mississippi River.

Lagoon A manure treatment structure, typically earthen. Lagoons can be aerobic, anaerobic, or facultative depending on their design. An anaerobic lagoon is different from an earthen storage basin in that the lagoon is managed for manure treatment. Anaerobic lagoons are only partially emptied each year whereas earthen storage basins are emptied once or twice a year.

Manure The fecal and urinary excretions of livestock and poultry. Manure can include bedding material and water used for livestock. Types of manure have descriptive names such as liquid, slurry, and solid.

Manure storage area An area associated with an animal feedlot where animal manure or runoff containing animal manure is stored until it can be utilized as domestic fertilizer or removed to a permitted animal manure disposal site. Animal manure packs or mounding within the animal feedlot shall not be considered to be manure storage for these parts.

Methane (CH.) An odorless, explosive gas formed during manure's anaerobic decomposition. Methane can cause headaches and asphyxiation in unventilated areas.

MPCA Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Nonpoint source Entry of effluent into a water body in a diffuse manner with no definite point of entry and where the source is not readily discernible.

Nutrient Elements or compounds essential to growth and development of living things (e.g., nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium).

Pastures Areas where grass or other growing plants are used for grazing and where the concentration of animals is such that a vegetation cover is maintained during the growing seasons, except in the immediate vicinity of temporary supplemental feeding or watering systems.

Pathogens Disease-causing organisms.

Permit A document issued by the Pollution Control Agency, at no charge to the applicant, which contains requirements, conditions, and compliance schedules relating to the discharge of animal manure pollutants.

Phased actions Two or more projects by the same proposer that will have environmental effects on the same geographic area and will occur sequentially over a limited time period.

Phosphorus A nonmetallic element that occurs widely and is essential to the growth of aquatic organisms as well as all forms of life. In aquatic environments, phosphorus is often the nutrient that limits the growth that a body of water can support.

Point source The release of an effluent from a pipe or discrete conveyance into a water body or a water-course leading to a body of water.

Pollutant Any substance of such character and in such quantities that when it reaches a body of water, soil, or air, it is degrading in effect so as to impair its usefulness or render it offensive.

Risk The possibility of injury or loss. When used in environmental situations, 'risk' usually conveys the idea that the likelihood of an event is small but it's consequences would be significant if it did occur.

Rotational grazing The practice of subdividing pasture and forage fields into small sections, or paddocks, and allowing the high quality forage to be grazed quickly.

Rural Of or relating to the country, country people or life, or agriculture.

Scoping Process to identify what potential environmental impacts, alternative and other issues will be addressed in the EIS.

Social Of or relating to human society, the interaction of the individual and the group, or the welfare of human beings as members of society. Tending to form cooperative and interdependent relationships with others of one's kind.

Surface water Water present above the substrate or soil surface.

Sustainable agriculture Represents the best aspects of traditional and modern agriculture by using a fundamental understanding of nature as well as the latest scientific advances to create integrated, self-reliant, resource conserving practices that enhance the enrichment of the environment and provide short- and long-term productive and economical agriculture.

Sustainable development Or 'sustainability' is development that maintains or enhances economic opportunity and community wellbeing while protecting and restoring the natural environment upon which people and economies depend. Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Value added The value of the firm's output minus the value of the inputs it purchases from other firms or enterprises. In common usage it refers to the portion of firm profits that accrue to owners who supply agricultural products as inputs to the firm.

Vertical coordination When two or more firms whose activities extend over more than one successive stage of production form an agreement or alliance to coordinate their vertically related production processes.

Vertical integration A single firm whose activities extend over more than one successive stage of the production process transforming raw materials into final goods.

Water quality The biological, chemical, and physical conditions of a waterbody.

Watershed The surrounding land area that drains into a lake, river or river system.

LWVMN Agriculture Study Committee Meeting Notice and Agenda Thursday, September 2, 1999 1:00-2:00 p.m. Minnesota Women's Building 550 Rice Street, St. Paul

Assignments for this meeting:

Bring in writing your suggestions for funding of this study.

Read Chapters 4-6, Broken Heartland.

Read introduction to *Pigs, Profits, and Rural Communities*, in previous packet. Read "Consolidation in the Food and Agriculture System" by Dr. William

Heffernan, enclosed.

Pioneer Press articles from June & July, "Harvest of Risk"—June in previous packet, July passed out at last meeting.

Needed outcomes from Today's Meeting:

a) Agreement on who will present at the Regional Meetings and what materials/ideas committee will provide local Leagues for their guidance (see agenda item 4).

b) Decision on how to proceed with interviews, readings (see agenda item 5).

Enclosures

Regional Workshop schedule
Interview Questionnaire as revised
List of interviews/bibliography
Heffernan article as cited above
Memo re registration for September 18th Clean Water Action Symposium

Agenda

- 1.2 Introductions
- 2. 5 Protocol suggestions: Rotation of recording secretary; other?

 Meeting schedule: Form subcommittees to work between committee meetings?

 Two meetings per month? Assign homework to all or different assignments to individuals? Perhaps these questions can be addressed later in the meeting.
- 3. 15 Around the table: Everyone take <u>one minute</u> to answer the question: What do you hope will come out of this ag study? (to be recorded on flip chart)
- 4. 40 Planning the October Regional Meetings: (see enclosed schedule)
 Who will present at each meeting? What to provide Local Leagues: pep talk, timeline, glossary, bibliography and other resources, sample interview, suggestions for speakers? Questions for local Leagues (is there an agriculture crisis and what are the components of that crisis?) Note: GEIS glossary will be handed out at meeting & Deanna Lederer is working on some glossary terms.

Note from Sally: local Leagues are always anxious to know a) what the timeline is for a state study b) what materials and resources are available to them to get ready for the study c) what do they have to do and when do they have to do it!

5. 15 **Review of interview/bibliography suggestions:** (see enclosed) These were collected at the last meeting with a few additions from committee members. Are there additions?

Assignments for reviewing and reporting on different readings?

How will we handle talking to all the people we have identified?

- 6. 10 Report from Adeline Blowers re state legislature agriculture committee meetings
- 7. 30 **Discussion on reading assignments:** (see above) Focus on issues identified in these materials and record on flip chart.
- 8. 8 What Next? Suggestions for next agenda: reports on farmer interviews. What else? Next meeting date?

JOIN US FOR 1999 FALL REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

Red Wing: Saturday, Oct. 2, Lunchtime

Brainerd: Thursday, Oct. 21, Evening

Roseville/Maplewood/Falcon Heights: Saturday, Oct. 30, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

West Metro Alliance: Thursday, Oct. 28, 5:30 p.m.

Topics will include:

- ACTION: Learn how to take effective action in your community and how you can be a part of LWVMN and LWVUS lobbying efforts.
- Making Democracy Work: Hear about some local League programs and initiatives and contribute your own ideas!
- Agriculture Study: Find out how to prepare your League community for this new LWVMN State Study.
- How to Use Your Education Fund Money: Walk through the process of how to use your tax deductible contributions to pay for programs and projects that serve your community.
- Nuts and Bolts: Learn how to be in League without it taking over your life.
- **Membership:** Explore ways to recruit members and reach out to diverse populations.

Questionnaire/Survey of People in Farming Conducted by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota

Name of Farmer	
Name of Leaguer	
Address	
Name of League	
Address	Name of the Name o
County	

These questions are framed with intention to stand as open-ended questions. With open-ended questions, the farmer should be given opportunity to answer without prompting. Prompting to help him/her to answer more completely is permissible. The interviewee is free to abstain on any question. The information in brackets is intended to help the interviewer. If you feel an important question is missing, add it and let us know. We suggest a minimum of one hour for the interview.

Suggestions for accuracy: Tape interview, take notes, have to people interview, have the interviewees double-check your report.

- 1. How do you define yourself in farming? Why do you define yourself this way? [e.g. owner/operator, traditional family farmer, hobby farmer, modern agribusiness person, corporate farmer, contract farmer]
- 2. Why are you in farming? What are your plans for the future? Would you like to see your children go into farming?
- 3. Describe your farming operation. [e.g. type of farming and products, size of farm, ownership, lease or rental of land]
- 4. Who has the decision-making power in your operation? Do other factors or parties limit your decisions?
- 5. What inputs and other investments do you have? [e.g. do you raise own feed, what do you have to buy, type of equipment and machinery, how much is invested in your land, employees (within family and outside family), type of technology, computers, machinery, high tech production, use of production records and other outside information about markets, planning, planting schedules]
- 6. How do you market your products? Do you have any contractual obligations or limitations?
- 7. What are the greatest threats/challenges/issues facing farming? Facing your own operation?

8. What would you do to improve the situation?

Other questions, if time and not covered:

- 9. Do you have off-farm income? Health and life insurance coverage?
- 10. How does farming affect/impact the community in which you live?
- 11. How does your operation employ methods to steward and sustain land, soil, air, and water resources? [e.g. lagoons, manure management, minimum tillage, rotational crops, diversity, row cropping, rotational grazing, wetland protection, conservation tillage]
- 12. What are the challenges of environmental protection for your operation? [e.g. costs, regulations, labor, time, available land, urban sprawl, chemical use, pesticides, fertilizers, keeping up with rules]
- 13. Please share any personal experiences of bias and favoritism in the farming industry.
- 14. What are positives and negatives of farming in general?

Resources for Agriculture Study: Interviews, readings, other

Interviews

Categories

Farmers

Dwight Auet (former extension agent, raises hogs on grass) R 1 Box 230 Austin, MN 55912 507/437-3085

Steve Albers (50-cow operation, just sold cows), 13771 Cabot Ave, Dundas, MN 55019, 507/645-8008

Carmen Fernholz (sustainable) R 2 Box 9A, Madison MN 56256, 320/598-3010

Darlene Hand, 1243 320th St E, Northfield, MN 55057, 507/645-5078

Nolan Jungclaus (sustainable hogs) Lake Lillian MN, 320/664-4843

Monica Kahout (hogs) 74766 350th St. Olivia, MN 56277, 320/523-1516

Elwood Lips (helps at NFO buying station), 9306 190th St E, Faribault, MN 55021, 507/334-4051

Jim Ludwig (75-cow w/son) 1301 130th St E Dundas, MN 55021, 507/334-8853

Mike & Linda Noble Kenyon, MN 507/789-6679

Lorraine Olson (farms with son Mark, just sold cows), 22720 Glynview Tr, Faribault, MN 55021,507/334-7632

Paul Sobocinski (hogs) R 1 Box 104 Wabasso, MN 56293, 507/342-5280

Dennis Timmerman (hogs and new coop proposal) R 1 Box 69 Boyd, MN 56218 320/855-2311

• Farm Groups

Center for Rural Affairs, PO Box 406 Walthill, NE 68067 402/846-5428 Farm Aid PO Box 228 Champagne, IL 61821 800-FARMAID (Willy Nelson)

Land Stewardship Project (LSP) Mark Schultz

Twin Cities Office, Brian DeVore, 2200 4th St White Bear Lake, MN 55110

651/653-0618 (w) or 612/721-5363 (h) lspwbl@mtn.org

Western MN Office, Paul Sobocinski 103 W Nichols Montevideo, MN 56265 320/269-2105 (w) or 507/342-5280 (h)

MN Farm Bureau

MN Farmers Union (MFU), Andy Steensma lobbyist/farmer 800/969-3380 X309

MN Milk Producers, Lee Johnston lobbyist, R 1 Box 137, Swanville, MN 56382 320/573-2328

MN Pork Producers, Dave Preisler, N. Mankato 507/345-8814

National Farmers Organization (NFO)

Sustainable Farming Association (SFA) DeEtta Bikle R 1 Box 4 Aldrich, MN 56434 218/445-5475

Women in Sustainable Agriculture (WISA)

Mary Ellen Scarf, U of M Extension Agent, Sterns County, LWV member

Legislators/policy makers

Rep. Gary Kubly

Rep. Tom Osthoff (metro legislator knowledgeable on agriculture)

Rep. Doug Peterson, House Agriculture Committee

Rep. Ted Winter

Sen. Becky Lourey (Sen. Mores/Sen. Beckman gone)

Sen. Dallas Sams, Senate Agriculture Committee Chair (Agribusiness viewpoint)

Government Entities

EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs

Farm Service Agency (FSA), Director Tracy Beckman

MN Dept. of Agriculture, Commissioner Gene Hugoson

MN Board of Animal Health, Secretary Haggerty

Farmers Manure Management Advisory Committee (FMMAC)

GEIS Committee, Helen Palmer, member

Environmental Quality Board (EQB) contact John Larson

MPCA, Jim Sullivan, and members of water quality committee

Association of Townships, Troy Gilchrist (illegible)

USDA, Dan Glickman

Association of Counties (has not been helpful)

Heroic County Commissioners

Loren Lein (Faribault County) 206 W 2nd, Blue Earth, MN 56013 507/526-3995

Heather Robins (Rice County)

Tom Culhane (LeSueur County) R 1 Box 90, Waterville, MN 56096 507/362-4459

Francis (?) (Renville County)

Nancy Barsness, New Prairie Township (Pope County) consultant on township planning/feedlots, R 1 Box 86, Cyrus, MN 56323 320/795-2708

2

Other organizations with related interests

Clean Water Action, Suzanne McIntosh/feedlots

Izaak Walton League

Resource Center of the Americas, Larry Weiss (exploitation of workers, etc.)

317 17th Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414 612/627-9445

MN Catholic Conference

COACT; Don Pylkkan, 651/645-3733

Organic Consumers Association; 218/726-1443

The MN Project, Diane Jensen, Exec. Dir.,

1885 University Ave W, Ste 315

St. Paul MN 55104

P: 651/645-6159

F: 651/645-1262

E: water007@gold.tc.umn.edu

Center for Rural Affairs, Chuck Hasabrook,

PO Box 406

Walthill, NE 68067-0406

P: 902/846-5428

Farmers Legal Action Group

46 E 4th St Ste 1301

St. Paul, MN 55101

P: 612/223-5400

Environmental

Agriculture Natural Resources Communication, Pat Henderson

Organic Consumers Assc, Ronnie Cummins

860 Hwy 61

Little Marais, MN 55614

P: 218/726-1443

F: 218/226-4157

E: info@organicconsumers.org

W: http://www.organicconsumers.org

MN Ctr for Environmental Advocacy Kristin Sigford, Project Director,

26 E Exchange St Ste 206

St. Paul MN 55101-2264

P: 651/223-5969

Clean Water Action Marie Zellar, Feedlot Pollution Prevention Proj. Dir.,

326 Hennepin Ave E

Minneapolis, MN 55414

P: 612/623-1855

· Academic/Professors/Researchers

Agronomists

Peggy Egley

Economists

C. Ford Runge, College of Agriculture, U of M, global perspective

George Morse, Dept of Applied Economics, U of M

231 Classroom Office Bldg

1994 Buford Ave

St. Paul, MN 55108-6040

P: 612/625-1222

F: 612/625-6242

W: http://apecon.agri.umn.edu

http://www.extension.umn.edu

Steven Taff, Dept of Applied Economics, U of M

1994 Buford Ave

St. Paul, MN 55108-6040

P: 612/625-3103

E: sjtaff@umn.edu

Dick Levins, U of M, 612/870-0453 or in Northfield 507/645-5331

John Peck, Jr.

Emie Diedrich

Marleen Halverson, Agriculture Economist, Northfield 507/645-2478

3

Sociologists

Cornelia Flora, Iowa State at Ames, rural sociologist

515/294-1329

515/294-2303 (FAX)

Gary Gorham

Julie Jensen, citizen expert R 1 Box 80 Olivia, MN 56277 320/523-1106

Futurists

Don Wyse, U of M Sustainable Ag Dept. 800/909-6472

Scientists

Margaret Mellon, Editor, The Gene Exchange

Two Brattle Square

Cambridge, MA 02238-9105

F: 617/864-9405

E: genex@ucsusa.org

W: http://www.ucsusa.org/publications

Paul Homme, veterinarian/farmer R 3 Box 132A Granite Falls, MN 56241 320/564-2206

Calvin Alexander, U of M, geology/karst/sink hoes

· Ethics/Religious

Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis

Campaign for Food Safety Debbie Ortman; 218/226-4164

Joint Religious Legislative Coalition Brian A. Rusche, Exec Dir,

122 W Franklin Ave Rm 315

Minnapolis, MN 55404

P: 612/870-3670

TF: 888/870-1402

F: 612/870-3671

Rural Life Bernie Evans, Carh.(?)

Catholic Rural Life Office, Dale Hennan, Montgomery 800/595-7310 or 612/645-8590 MN Council of Churches, Sister Mary Tacheny 170 Good Council Dr, Mankato, MN 56001 507/389-4238

Sustainability perspectives

Helene Murray, Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, U of M 800/909-6472 or 612/625-0220

Carmen Fernholz, Chair, Sustainable Farming Association

RR 2 Box 9A

Madison, MN 56256

P: 320/598-3010

Don Wiess

DeEtta Bilek, Chpt Coordinator, Sustainable Farming Assc of Central MN

RR 1 Box 4

Aldrich, MN 56434

P: 218/445-5475

4 8/19/99

• Agribusiness and Cooperatives (they buy low, sell high)

Pat Henderson (LWV), Coop Farm Land

Cargill

Hormel

Land O'Lakes

ValAdco hog coop, Renville County

The Turkey Store, Faribault, MN (HQ Barron, WI) turkey processor

Golden Oval egg processor, Renville

Monsanto

Pioneer Seeds

Jenny-O

• Bankers/Financial Institutions

Federal Reserve (?) Ron Wirtz, Federal Gazette Telecommunications; 612/204-5262

Mr. Barsness, President, Independent Bankers, Prior Lake State Bank; 447-2101

Independent Bankers Association

Farm Credit Services (backs big confinements)

*check MFU Stef Lake for list of banks helping with farm rally Aug. 21 at Waconia

Media

Mary Hendrickson, U of M

Kate Perry, Pioneer Press

Chris Ison, Star Tribune

Tom Rothman, MN News Network (radio) Pothman Farm Report

MN Public Radio, Mary Lozier 800/652-9700 X1460

Mark Steil 507/372-2901

Mychal Wilmes, editor "AgriNews" Rochester 800/533-1727

Tom Cherveny, West Central Tribune, Willmar 800/450-1150

Lynn Kettelson, Linder Farm Report 800/955-6017

• Antitrust

Neil Hamilton, atty Agriculture Law Center, Drake University, Des Moines IA Lynn Hayes, atty Farmers Legal Action Group metro 612/223-5400

5 8/19/99

Readings/Bibliography

Killing Competition with Captive Supplies. Land Stewardship Project.

Heffernan, Dr. William. Consolidation in the Food & Agricultural System. University of Missouri. Columbia, Missouri.

(Available from MN Farmers Union

Steff Lake, Director of Communication

600 CR D W

Ste 14

St. Paul MN 55112

P: 651/639-1223)

Love, Patricia Weir. The Impact of Changes in Dairy Farming on a Local Economy: A Case Study.

(Available from MN Farmers Union.)

Durrenberger, E. Paul & Thu, Kendall M., eds. Pigs Profits & Rural Communities.

Under the Blade: The Conversion of Agricultural Landscapes. Westview Press. Hildebrand, John. Mapping the Farm: The Chronicle of a Family Farm.

Internet Resources

USDA

http://www.usda.gov

MN Community Profiles http://www.mnpro.com MN Department of Agriculture http://www.mda.state.mn.us



550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

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G. Edward Schuh Professor Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs University of Minnesota

Laura Waterman Wittstock MIGIZI Communications, Inc.

G. Yudof ident University of Minnesota Date: August 19, 1999

LWVMN Agriculture Study Committee Members To:

Jane Bennett & Sally Sawyer From:

Clean Water Action Symposium September 18th Re:

Please plan on attending (if you can) the September 18th Symposium entitled "Reclaiming our Food System from Corporate Giants."

We remind you that the registration deadline is August 30th. The symposium fee is \$25.00. This is a reimbursable expense for committee members, so get a receipt and submit on your expense voucher, if you want to be reimbursed. See Sally if you have questions about this.

Ouestion: does the committee want to have a display, like the one at the LWVMN Convention? The fee is \$25.00 and the deadline is also August 30th.

FROM FARM TO FORK Reclaiming Our Food System From Corporate Giants

Registration:		
Name:		
Org. or Co. Name:		- 1
Address:		
City/State/ Zip:		
Phone Number:		
email:		
I will be attending:		
		e or both
Symposium \$2	25.00 _	
Display Booth \$2 (see below)	25.00 _	
TOTAL	_	
Each set-up for tabling Exhibition will include and two chairs.	e one six-foot l	ong table
I need tables and		hairs. ircle
I will need an electri	cal outlet YE	s no
Make checks payable t	to Clean Water	Action.
Send registration form	and check to:	
Suzanne	McIntosh	
Clean W	ater Action	
326 Henne	pin Avenue E.	
Minneapoli	is, MN 55414	
Registration for	m and fees di	ie by

August 30, 1999

Leging.

The Doubletree Grand Hotel, Mall of America, is a full service facility, including indoor pool. Rooms are \$105 for attendees. Call (612) 854-2244 for reservations.

Registrants are responsible for payment. There is a complimentary Mall and Airport shuttle from the hotel.

Doubletree Grand Hotel 7901 24th Avenue S. Bloomington, MN 55424

For more information about this event, please contact Suzanne McIntosh or Andrea Kiepe at (612) 623-3666.

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	Park X	
8 8		
494	AB.78th St	
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Clean Water Action Allia 326 Hennepin Avenue E. Minneapolis, MN 55414

RECEIVED JUL 1 :



Clean Water Action Alliance presents

Reclaiming Our Food System From Corporate Giants



September 18, 1999 Doubletree Grand Hotel Mall of America Bloomington, MN 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Co-sponsored by:
The Institute for
Agriculture and Trade
Policy, the Izaak Walton
League and the MN
Farmers Union

er Action Alliance

League of Women Voters



From Farm to Fork: Reclaiming Our Food System from Corporate Giants

Clean Water Action invites you to participate in a symposium about the impacts of the industrial food system, especially factory farms, on urban citizens and rural communities. The event will be held on September 18, 1999 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at the Doubletree Grand Hotel in Bloomington MN, near the Mall of America. The symposium is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Farmers Union, the Izaak Walton League and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy.

During the morning session speakers will discuss food safety, 'veggie libel' laws, antibiotic resistance caused by intensive livestock farming, animal cruelty in industrial meat production, concentration in agriculture and the effects of industrial agriculture on rural communities. In the afternoon, speakers will cover the environmental, human health and economic advantages of buying locally produced food, and direct marketing of organic produce and meats. A panel of local family farmers will describe their experiences bypassing the industrial food distribution system.

We encourage you to attend. The symposium is recommended for farmers, consumers, and activists concerned about the quality of our food supply and the moral and environmental implications of industrial scale factory farms. Space is limited, so early registration is advised.

SYMPOSIUM AGENDA Saturday September 18, 1999

8:30 Registration

9:00 Welcome and opening speaker

9:30 CONCENTRATION IN AGRICULTURE

Dr. Mary Hendrickson, rural sociologist from University of Missouri Extension and Outreach, will explain the consolidation and concentration of agriculture by corporate giants.

10:30 INVESTIGATION OF THE VEAL, HOG AND PACKINGHOUSE INDUSTRIES
Gail Eisenitz, Chief Investigator from the Humane Farming Association and author of
Slaughterhouse, explains her investigation into animal cruelty in industrial meat production and
confinement factory farms.

11:30 Break

11:45 ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE, FOOD SAFETY AND FOOD DISPARAGEMENT LAWS Ron Collins, Director of the Food Speak Project, Center for Science in the Public Interest, will discuss antibiotic resistance, 'veggie libel' laws and other food safety issues.

12:30 THE REAL ECONOMICS OF FACTORY LIVESTOCK
Lunch and lunch speaker, John Ikerd, co-coordinator of the Sustainable Agriculture Systems
Program at the University of Missouri, Columbia.

1:30 "A TALE OF TWO CHICKENS: EATING LOCALLY AS A POLITICAL ACT"

Dr. Kamyar Enshayan, adjunct professor of Agricultural Engineering at the University of

Northern Iowa and Coordinator of the Local Food Project, will discuss the ramifications of our
food choices.

2:30 DIRECT MARKETING TO CONSUMERS OF ORGANIC PRODUCE AND FREE RANGE MEATS

A panel of five local family farmers will discuss producing livestock in a profitable and ecologically sound manner and explain how consumers can purchase sustainable meats and produce.

3:30 Closing

Farmers Exhibition

- Learn about sustainable agriculture
- Order natural meats from local farmers
- Discover Metro Area Farmers' Markets
- Find out which restaurants and groceries provide organic produce and free range meats

FREE ADMISSION TO THE PUBLIC

Coinciding with the symposium, an exhibition will be held by local farmers and other groups to provide information to the public on sustainable agriculture, the environment and issues related to factory farming.

For more information about the exhibition or to reserve a display booth contact our event coordinator at the phone number and address below.

Suzanne McIntosh or Andrea Kiepe Clean Water Action 326 Hennepin Avenue E. Minneapolis, MN 55414 612-623-3666

Report to the National Farmers Union

CONSOLIDATION IN THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SYSTEM

Report prepared by
Dr. William Heffernan
Department of Rural Sociology
University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri

With the assistance of

Dr. Mary Hendrickson Dr. Robert Gronski University of Missouri-Columbia

February 5, 1999



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Gertrude Ulrich, Chair LWV Richfield 7601 Aldrich Richfield, MN 55423 612/866-8171

Jane Bennett, Vice Chair LWV St. Cloud 4146 Pine Point Rd. Sartell, MN 56377 320/252-8779 egarver@csbsju.edu

Eunice Biel RR 1 Box 113 Harmony, MN 55939 507/937-3333

Adeline Blowers LWV Austin 1905 SW 5th Ave. Austin, 55912-1511 507/437-3547

Georgianna Campbell LWV Northfield 10834 Farrel Ave. Northfield, 55057-4463 507/645-7488

Margaret Egli LWV ROMAFH 705 Heinel Circle Roseville, 55113 612/486-0177

Carolyn Garvin LWV St. Cloud Area 624 Riverside Dr. NE St. Cloud, 56304 320/252-7737

Nancy Gundersen LWV St. Cloud Area 806 S 6th St. St. Cloud, 56301 320/252-9651 Stephanie Henriksen LWV Northfield 1866 130th St. E Dundas, 55019 507/645-7086 e-mail: dkamis@informns.k12.mn.us

Kathy Iverson LWV Edina 5410 York Ave S Edina, 55410 612/929-2694

Yleen Joselyn LWV Crystal/New Hope/E Ply 4068 Hampshire Ave N Crystal, 55427-1498 612/533-9659 e-mail: 72162.236@compuserve.com

Laurie Jung LWV Edina 5611 Concord Ave Edina, 55424 612/922-2120 e-mail: LPJung@aol.com

Brian Karlson-Barnes 216 Woodley St. W Northfield, MN 55057 507/645-2527

Janis Larson LWV Fridley 3812 Lincoln St. NE Columbia Heights, 55421 612/788-0728

Deanna Lederer LWV St. Cloud Area 5811 Michael Ct. St. Cloud, 56303 320/253-5704 e-mail: dlederer@cloudnet.com

Cheryl Lushine LWV Edina 4600 Browndale Ave Edina, 55424 612/925-4532

Connie Metcalf LWV Fridley 860 W. Moore Lake Dr. Fridley, 55432 612/571-3596 e-mail: cjmet@netO.net

Beverly Montgomery LWV MEPH 18321 Ridgewood Rd Minnetonka, 55345 612/470-1098 e-mail: wmontgomery@ieee.org

Helen Palmer LWV Minneapolis 2405 Sheridan Ave S Minneapolis, 55405 612/377-5972 e-mail: thepalmers@uswest.net

Linda Peck LWV St. Cloud Area 12299 Sauk River Rd St. Cloud, 56301 320/685-3365

Mary Phillips LWV Owatonna 610 Carl Anna Pl. Owatonna, MN 55060 507/455-2622

Jeanne & Gordon Prickett LWV MNMAL Hc5 Box16cc Aitkin, 56431 218/927-2267 e-mail: gordnett@emily.net Catherine Severin LWV Duluth 720 Arnold Ave N Thief River Falls, 56701 218/683-7201 e-mail: mahces@means.net

Grace Skaar LWV Freeborn County Rt. 3 Box 95 Hayward, 56043 507/373-5080

Peg Sundell LWV New Ulm 311 N German St. New Ulm, 56073 507/354-1261

Harold Swanson 210 E Florence Glenwood, IA 51534 712/527-9895

Barbara Vaile LWV Northfield 4151 320 St. W Northfield, MN 55057 507/645-7315

Charmaine L. Wright 11513 Karow Tr. Nerstrand, MN 55053 507/645-8853 LWVMN Agriculture Study Committee Meeting Notice and Agenda Thursday, September 2, 1999 1:00-2:00 p.m. Minnesota Women's Building 550 Rice Street, St. Paul

Assignments for this meeting:

Bring in writing your suggestions for funding of this study.

Read Chapters 4-6, Broken Heartland.

Read introduction to Pigs, Profits, and Rural Communities, in previous packet.

Read "Consolidation in the Food and Agriculture System" by Dr. William Heffernan, enclosed.

Pioneer Press articles from June & July, "Harvest of Risk"—June in previous packet, July passed out at last meeting.

Needed outcomes from Today's Meeting:

- a) Agreement on who will present at the Regional Meetings and what materials/ideas committee will provide local Leagues for their guidance (see agenda item 4).
- b) Decision on how to proceed with interviews, readings (see agenda item 5).

Enclosures

Regional Workshop schedule
Interview Questionnaire as revised
List of interviews/bibliography
Heffernan article as cited above
Memo re registration for September 18th Clean Water Action Symposium

Agenda

1. 2 Introductions

- 2. 5 Protocol suggestions: Rotation of recording secretary; other? Meeting schedule: Form subcommittees to work between committee meetings? Two meetings per month? Assign homework to all or different assignments to individuals? Perhaps these questions can be addressed later in the meeting.
- 3. 15 **Around the table:** Everyone take <u>one minute</u> to answer the question: What do you hope will come out of this ag study? (to be recorded on flip chart)
- 4. 40 Planning the October Regional Meetings: (see enclosed schedule)
 Who will present at each meeting? What to provide Local Leagues: pep talk, timeline, glossary, bibliography and other resources, sample interview, suggestions for speakers? Questions for local Leagues (in these are agriculture)

suggestions for speakers? Questions for local Leagues (is there an agriculture crisis and what are the components of that crisis?) Note: GEIS glossary will be handed out at meeting & Deanna Lederer is working on some glossary terms.

Note from Sally: local Leagues are always anxious to know a) what the timeline is for a state study b) what materials and resources are available to them to get ready for the study c) what do they have to do and when do they have to do it!

5. 15 **Review of interview/bibliography suggestions:** (see enclosed) These were collected at the last meeting with a few additions from committee members. Are there additions?

Assignments for reviewing and reporting on different readings?

How will we handle talking to all the people we have identified?

- 6. 10 Report from Adeline Blowers re state legislature agriculture committee meetings
- 7. 30 **Discussion on reading assignments:** (see above) Focus on issues identified in these materials and record on flip chart.
- 8. 8 **What Next?** Suggestions for next agenda: reports on farmer interviews. What else? Next meeting date?

JOIN US FOR 1999 FALL REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

Red Wing: Saturday, Oct. 2, Lunchtime

Brainerd: Thursday, Oct. 21, Evening

Roseville/Maplewood/Falcon Heights: Saturday, Oct. 30, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

West Metro Alliance: Thursday, Oct. 28, 5:30 p.m.

Topics will include:

- **ACTION:** Learn how to take effective action in your community and how you can be a part of LWVMN and LWVUS lobbying efforts.
- Making Democracy Work: Hear about some local League programs and initiatives and contribute your own ideas!
- **Agriculture Study:** Find out how to prepare your League community for this new LWVMN State Study.
- How to Use Your Education Fund Money: Walk through the process of how to use your tax deductible contributions to pay for programs and projects that serve your community.
- **Nuts and Bolts:** Learn how to be in League without it taking over your life.
- Membership: Explore ways to recruit members and reach out to diverse populations.

Questionnaire/Survey of People in Farming Conducted by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota

Name of Farmer	
Name of Leaguer	
Address	
Name of League	
Address	
County	
J	

These questions are framed with intention to stand as open-ended questions. With open-ended questions, the farmer should be given opportunity to answer without prompting. Prompting to help him/her to answer more completely is permissible. The interviewee is free to abstain on any question. The information in brackets is intended to help the interviewer. If you feel an important question is missing, add it and let us know. We suggest a minimum of one hour for the interview.

Suggestions for accuracy: Tape interview, take notes, have to people interview, have the interviewees double-check your report.

- 1. How do you define yourself in farming? Why do you define yourself this way? [e.g. owner/operator, traditional family farmer, hobby farmer, modern agribusiness person, corporate farmer, contract farmer]
- 2. Why are you in farming? What are your plans for the future? Would you like to see your children go into farming?
- 3. Describe your farming operation. [e.g. type of farming and products, size of farm, ownership, lease or rental of land]
- 4. Who has the decision-making power in your operation? Do other factors or parties limit your decisions?
- 5. What inputs and other investments do you have? [e.g. do you raise own feed, what do you have to buy, type of equipment and machinery, how much is invested in your land, employees (within family and outside family), type of technology, computers, machinery, high tech production, use of production records and other outside information about markets, planning, planting schedules]
- 6. How do you market your products? Do you have any contractual obligations or limitations?
- 7. What are the greatest threats/challenges/issues facing farming? Facing your own operation?

Draft

8. What would you do to improve the situation?

Other questions, if time and not covered:

- 9. Do you have off-farm income? Health and life insurance coverage?
- 10. How does farming affect/impact the community in which you live?
- 11. How does your operation employ methods to steward and sustain land, soil, air, and water resources? [e.g. lagoons, manure management, minimum tillage, rotational crops, diversity, row cropping, rotational grazing, wetland protection, conservation tillage]
- 12. What are the challenges of environmental protection for your operation? [e.g. costs, regulations, labor, time, available land, urban sprawl, chemical use, pesticides, fertilizers, keeping up with rules]
- 13. Please share any personal experiences of bias and favoritism in the farming industry.
- 14. What are positives and negatives of farming in general?

Resources for Agriculture Study: Interviews, readings, other

Interviews

Categories

Farmers

Dwight Auet (former extension agent, raises hogs on grass) R 1 Box 230 Austin, MN 55912 507/437-3085

Steve Albers (50-cow operation, just sold cows), 13771 Cabot Ave, Dundas, MN 55019, 507/645-8008

Carmen Fernholz (sustainable) R 2 Box 9A, Madison MN 56256, 320/598-3010

Darlene Hand, 1243 320th St E, Northfield, MN 55057, 507/645-5078

Nolan Jungclaus (sustainable hogs) Lake Lillian MN, 320/664-4843

Monica Kahout (hogs) 74766 350th St. Olivia, MN 56277, 320/523-1516

Elwood Lips (helps at NFO buying station), 9306 190th St E, Faribault, MN 55021, 507/334-4051

Jim Ludwig (75-cow w/son) 1301 130th St E Dundas, MN 55021, 507/334-8853

Mike & Linda Noble Kenyon, MN 507/789-6679

Lorraine Olson (farms with son Mark, just sold cows), 22720 Glynview Tr, Faribault, MN 55021,507/334-7632

Paul Sobocinski (hogs) R 1 Box 104 Wabasso, MN 56293, 507/342-5280

Dennis Timmerman (hogs and new coop proposal) R 1 Box 69 Boyd, MN 56218 320/855-2311

Farm Groups

Center for Rural Affairs, PO Box 406 Walthill, NE 68067 402/846-5428

Farm Aid PO Box 228 Champagne, IL 61821 800-FARMAID (Willy Nelson)

Land Stewardship Project (LSP) Mark Schultz

Twin Cities Office, Brian DeVore, 2200 4th St White Bear Lake, MN 55110

651/653-0618 (w) or 612/721-5363 (h) lspwbl@mtn.org

Western MN Office, Paul Sobocinski 103 W Nichols Montevideo, MN 56265 320/269-2105 (w) or 507/342-5280 (h)

MN Farm Bureau

MN Farmers Union (MFU), Andy Steensma lobbyist/farmer 800/969-3380 X309

MN Milk Producers, Lee Johnston lobbyist, R 1 Box 137, Swanville, MN 56382 320/573-2328

MN Pork Producers, Dave Preisler, N. Mankato 507/345-8814

National Farmers Organization (NFO)

Sustainable Farming Association (SFA) DeEtta Bikle R 1 Box 4 Aldrich, MN 56434 218/445-5475

1

Women in Sustainable Agriculture (WISA)

Mary Ellen Scarf, U of M Extension Agent, Sterns County, LWV member

Legislators/policy makers

Rep. Gary Kubly

Rep. Tom Osthoff (metro legislator knowledgeable on agriculture)

Rep. Doug Peterson, House Agriculture Committee

Rep. Ted Winter

Sen. Becky Lourey (Sen. Mores/Sen. Beckman gone)

Sen. Dallas Sams, Senate Agriculture Committee Chair (Agribusiness viewpoint)

• Government Entities

EPA, Office of Pesticide Programs

Farm Service Agency (FSA), Director Tracy Beckman

MN Dept. of Agriculture, Commissioner Gene Hugoson

MN Board of Animal Health, Secretary Haggerty

Farmers Manure Management Advisory Committee (FMMAC)

GEIS Committee, Helen Palmer, member

Environmental Quality Board (EQB) contact John Larson

MPCA, Jim Sullivan, and members of water quality committee

Association of Townships, Troy Gilchrist (illegible)

USDA, Dan Glickman

Association of Counties (has not been helpful)

Heroic County Commissioners

Loren Lein (Faribault County) 206 W 2nd, Blue Earth, MN 56013 507/526-3995

Heather Robins (Rice County)

Tom Culhane (LeSueur County) R 1 Box 90, Waterville, MN 56096 507/362-4459

Francis (?) (Renville County)

Nancy Barsness, New Prairie Township (Pope County) consultant on township planning/

feedlots, R 1 Box 86, Cyrus, MN 56323 320/795-2708

Other organizations with related interests

Clean Water Action, Suzanne McIntosh/feedlots

Izaak Walton League

Resource Center of the Americas, Larry Weiss (exploitation of workers, etc.)

317 17th Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414 612/627-9445

MN Catholic Conference

COACT; Don Pylkkan, 651/645-3733

Organic Consumers Association; 218/726-1443

The MN Project, Diane Jensen, Exec. Dir.,

1885 University Ave W, Ste 315

St. Paul MN 55104

P: 651/645-6159

F: 651/645-1262

E: water007@gold.tc.umn.edu

Center for Rural Affairs, Chuck Hasabrook,

PO Box 406

Walthill, NE 68067-0406

P: 902/846-5428

Farmers Legal Action Group

46 E 4th St Ste 1301

St. Paul, MN 55101

P: 612/223-5400

Environmental

Agriculture Natural Resources Communication, Pat Henderson

Organic Consumers Assc, Ronnie Cummins

860 Hwy 61

Little Marais, MN 55614

P: 218/726-1443

F: 218/226-4157

E: info@organicconsumers.org

W: http://www.organicconsumers.org

MN Ctr for Environmental Advocacy Kristin Sigford, Project Director,

26 E Exchange St Ste 206

St. Paul MN 55101-2264

P: 651/223-5969

Clean Water Action Marie Zellar, Feedlot Pollution Prevention Proj. Dir.,

326 Hennepin Ave E

Minneapolis, MN 55414

P: 612/623-1855

Academic/Professors/Researchers

Agronomists

Peggy Egley

Economists

C. Ford Runge, College of Agriculture, U of M, global perspective

George Morse, Dept of Applied Economics, U of M

231 Classroom Office Bldg

1994 Buford Ave

St. Paul, MN 55108-6040

P: 612/625-1222

F: 612/625-6242

W: http://apecon.agri.umn.edu

http://www.extension.umn.edu

Steven Taff, Dept of Applied Economics, U of M

1994 Buford Ave

St. Paul, MN 55108-6040

P: 612/625-3103

E: sjtaff@umn.edu

Dick Levins, U of M, 612/870-0453 or in Northfield 507/645-5331

John Peck, Jr.

Ernie Diedrich

Marleen Halverson, Agriculture Economist, Northfield 507/645-2478

Sociologists

Cornelia Flora, Iowa State at Ames, rural sociologist

515/294-1329

515/294-2303 (FAX)

Gary Gorham

Julie Jensen, citizen expert R 1 Box 80 Olivia, MN 56277 320/523-1106

Futurists

Don Wyse, U of M Sustainable Ag Dept. 800/909-6472

Scientists

Margaret Mellon, Editor, The Gene Exchange

Two Brattle Square

Cambridge, MA 02238-9105

F: 617/864-9405

E: genex@ucsusa.org

W: http://www.ucsusa.org/publications

Paul Homme, veterinarian/farmer R 3 Box 132A Granite Falls, MN 56241

320/564-2206

Calvin Alexander, U of M, geology/karst/sink hoes

• Ethics/Religious

Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis

Campaign for Food Safety Debbie Ortman; 218/226-4164

Joint Religious Legislative Coalition Brian A. Rusche, Exec Dir,

122 W Franklin Ave Rm 315

Minnapolis, MN 55404

P: 612/870-3670

TF: 888/870-1402

F: 612/870-3671

Rural Life Bernie Evans, Carh.(?)

Catholic Rural Life Office, Dale Hennan, Montgomery 800/595-7310 or 612/645-8590

MN Council of Churches, Sister Mary Tacheny 170 Good Council Dr, Mankato, MN 56001 507/389-4238

Sustainability perspectives

Helene Murray, Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, U of M

800/909-6472 or 612/625-0220

Carmen Fernholz, Chair, Sustainable Farming Association

RR 2 Box 9A

Madison, MN 56256

P: 320/598-3010

Don Wiess

DeEtta Bilek, Chpt Coordinator, Sustainable Farming Assc of Central MN

RR 1 Box 4

Aldrich, MN 56434

P: 218/445-5475

• Agribusiness and Cooperatives (they buy low, sell high)

Pat Henderson (LWV), Coop Farm Land

Cargill

Hormel

Land O'Lakes

ValAdco hog coop, Renville County

The Turkey Store, Faribault, MN (HQ Barron, WI) turkey processor

Golden Oval egg processor, Renville

Monsanto

Pioneer Seeds

Jenny-O

• Bankers/Financial Institutions

Federal Reserve (?) Ron Wirtz, Federal Gazette Telecommunications; 612/204-5262 Mr. Barsness, President, Independent Bankers, Prior Lake State Bank; 447-2101 Independent Bankers Association

Farm Credit Services (backs big confinements)

*check MFU Stef Lake for list of banks helping with farm rally Aug. 21 at Waconia

Media

Mary Hendrickson, U of M

Kate Perry, Pioneer Press

Chris Ison, Star Tribune

Tom Rothman, MN News Network (radio) Pothman Farm Report

MN Public Radio, Mary Lozier 800/652-9700 X1460

Mark Steil 507/372-2901

Mychal Wilmes, editor "AgriNews" Rochester 800/533-1727

Tom Cherveny, West Central Tribune, Willmar 800/450-1150

Lynn Kettelson, Linder Farm Report 800/955-6017

Antitrust

Neil Hamilton, atty Agriculture Law Center, Drake University, Des Moines IA Lynn Hayes, atty Farmers Legal Action Group metro 612/223-5400

Readings/Bibliography

Killing Competition with Captive Supplies. Land Stewardship Project.

Heffernan, Dr. William. Consolidation in the Food & Agricultural System. University of Missouri. Columbia, Missouri.

(Available from MN Farmers Union

Steff Lake, Director of Communication

600 CR D W

Ste 14

St. Paul MN 55112

P: 651/639-1223)

Love, Patricia Weir. The Impact of Changes in Dairy Farming on a Local Economy: A Case Study.

(Available from MN Farmers Union.)

Durrenberger, E. Paul & Thu, Kendall M., eds. Pigs Profits & Rural Communities.

Under the Blade: The Conversion of Agricultural Landscapes. Westview Press. Hildebrand, John. *Mapping the Farm: The Chronicle of a Family Farm.*

Internet Resources

USDA

http://www.usda.gov

MN Community Profiles http://www.mnpro.com MN Department of Agriculture http://www.mda.state.mn.us

6 8/19/99



550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

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G. Edward Schuh Professor Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs University of Minnesota

Laura Waterman Wittstock President MIGIZI Communications, Inc.

k G. Yudof ident miversity of Minnesota Date:

August 19, 1999

To:

LWVMN Agriculture Study Committee Members

From:

Jane Bennett & Sally Sawyer

Re:

Clean Water Action Symposium September 18th

Please plan on attending (if you can) the September 18th Symposium entitled "Reclaiming our Food System from Corporate Giants."

We remind you that the registration deadline is August 30th. The symposium fee is \$25.00. This is a reimbursable expense for committee members, so get a receipt and submit on your expense voucher, if you want to be reimbursed. See Sally if you have questions about this.

Question: does the committee want to have a display, like the one at the LWVMN Convention? The fee is \$25.00 and the deadline is also August 30th.

FROM FARM TO FORK Reclaiming Our Food System From Corporate Giants

Registration:
Name:
Org. or Co. Name:
Address:
City/State/ Zip:
Phone Number:
email:
I will be attending:
check one or both
Symposium \$25.00
Display Booth \$25.00
TOTAL
Each set-up for tabling at the Farmers' Exhibition will include one six-foot long table and two chairs.
I need tables and extra chairs.
circle
I will need an electrical outlet YES NO
Make checks payable to Clean Water Action. Send registration form and check to: Suzanne McIntosh
Clean Water Action
326 Hennepin Avenue E.
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Registration form and fees due by August 30, 1999

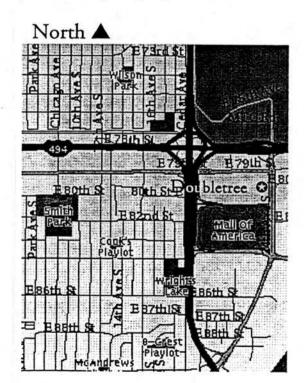
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The Doubletree Grand Hotel, Mall of America, is a full service facility, including indoor pool. Rooms are \$105 for attendees. Call (612) 854-2244 for reservations.

Registrants are responsible for payment. There is a complimentary Mall and Airport shuttle from the hotel.

Doubletree Grand Hotel 7901 24th Avenue S. Bloomington, MN 55424

For more information about this event. please contact Suzanne McIntosh or Andrea Kiepe at (612) 623-3666.



Minneapolis, MN

Clean Action Alliance presents

FROM FARM TO FORK: Reclaiming Our Food System From Corporate Giants



September 18, 1999 Doubletree Grand Hotel Mall of America Bloomington, MN 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Co-sponsored by: The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, the Izaak Walton League and the MN Farmers Union

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From Farm to Fork: Reclaiming Our Food System from Corporate Giants

Clean Water Action invites you to participate in a symposium about the impacts of the industrial food system, especially factory farms, on urban citizens and rural communities. The event will be held on September 18, 1999 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at the Doubletree Grand Hotel in Bloomington MN, near the Mall of America. The symposium is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Farmers Union, the Izaak Walton League and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy.

During the morning session speakers will discuss food safety, 'veggie libel' laws, antibiotic resistance caused by intensive livestock farming, animal cruelty in industrial meat production, concentration in agriculture and the effects of industrial agriculture on rural communities. In the afternoon, speakers will cover the environmental, human health and economic advantages of buying locally produced food, and direct marketing of organic produce and meats. A panel of local family farmers will describe their experiences bypassing the industrial food distribution system.

We encourage you to attend. The symposium is recommended for farmers, consumers, and activists concerned about the quality of our food supply and the moral and environmental implications of industrial scale factory farms. Space is limited, so early registration is advised.

SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

Saturday September 18, 1999

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Welcome and opening speaker
- 9:30 CONCENTRATION IN AGRICULTURE

Dr. Mary Hendrickson, rural sociologist from University of Missouri Extension and Outreach, will explain the consolidation and concentration of agriculture by corporate giants.

- 10:30 INVESTIGATION OF THE VEAL, HOG AND PACKINGHOUSE INDUSTRIES
 Gail Eisenitz, Chief Investigator from the Humane Farming Association and author of
 Slaughterhouse, explains her investigation into animal cruelty in industrial meat production and
 confinement factory farms.
- 11:30 Break
- 11:45 ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE, FOOD SAFETY AND FOOD DISPARAGEMENT LAWS Ron Collins, Director of the Food Speak Project, Center for Science in the Public Interest, will discuss antibiotic resistance, 'veggie libel' laws and other food safety issues.
- 12:30 THE REAL ECONOMICS OF FACTORY LIVESTOCK
 Lunch and lunch speaker, John Ikerd, co-coordinator of the Sustainable Agriculture Systems
 Program at the University of Missouri, Columbia.
- 1:30 "A TALE OF TWO CHICKENS: EATING LOCALLY AS A POLITICAL ACT"

 Dr. Kamyar Enshayan, adjunct professor of Agricultural Engineering at the University of Northern Iowa and Coordinator of the Local Food Project, will discuss the ramifications of our food choices.
- 2:30 DIRECT MARKETING TO CONSUMERS OF ORGANIC PRODUCE AND FREE RANGE MEATS

A panel of five local family farmers will discuss producing livestock in a profitable and ecologically sound manner and explain how consumers can purchase sustainable meats and produce.

3:30 Closing

Farmers Exhibition

- Learn about sustainable agriculture
- Order natural meats from local farmers
- Discover Metro Area Farmers' Markets
- Find out which restaurants and groceries provide organic produce and free range meats

FREE ADMISSION TO THE PUBLIC

Coinciding with the symposium, an exhibition will be held by local farmers and other groups to provide information to the public on sustainable agriculture, the environment and issues related to factory farming.

For more information about the exhibition or to reserve a display booth contact our event coordinator at the phone number and address below.

Suzanne McIntosh or Andrea Kiepe Clean Water Action 326 Hennepin Avenue E. Minneapolis, MN 55414 612-623-3666

Gertrude Ulrich, Chair LWV Richfield 7601 Aldrich Richfield, MN 55423 612/866-8171

Jane Bennett, Vice Chair LWV St. Cloud 4146 Pine Point Rd. Sartell, MN 56377 320/252-8779 egarver@csbsju.edu

Eunice Biel RR 1 Box 113 Harmony, MN 55939 507/937-3333

Adeline Blowers LWV Austin 1905 SW 5th Ave. Austin, 55912-1511 507/437-3547

Georgianna Campbell LWV Northfield 10834 Farrel Ave. Northfield, 55057-4463 507/645-7488

Margaret Egli LWV ROMAFH 705 Heinel Circle Roseville, 55113 612/486-0177

Carolyn Garvin LWV St. Cloud Area 624 Riverside Dr. NE St. Cloud, 56304 320/252-7737

Nancy Gundersen LWV St. Cloud Area 806 S 6th St. St. Cloud, 56301 320/252-9651 Stephanie Henriksen LWV Northfield 1866 130th St. E Dundas, 55019 507/645-7086 e-mail: dkamis@informns.k12.mn.us

Kathy Iverson LWV Edina 5410 York Ave S Edina, 55410 612/929-2694

Yleen Joselyn LWV Crystal/New Hope/E Ply 4068 Hampshire Ave N Crystal, 55427-1498 612/533-9659 e-mail: 72162.236@compuserve.com

Laurie Jung LWV Edina 5611 Concord Ave Edina, 55424 612/922-2120 e-mail: LPJung@aol.com

Brian Karlson-Barnes 216 Woodley St. W Northfield, MN 55057 507/645-2527

Janis Larson LWV Fridley 3812 Lincoln St. NE Columbia Heights, 55421 612/788-0728

Deanna Lederer LWV St. Cloud Area 5811 Michael Ct. St. Cloud, 56303 320/253-5704 e-mail: dlederer@cloudnet.com

Cheryl Lushine LWV Edina 4600 Browndale Ave Edina, 55424 612/925-4532

Connie Metcalf LWV Fridley 860 W. Moore Lake Dr. Fridley, 55432 612/571-3596 e-mail: cjmet@netO.net

Beverly Montgomery LWV MEPH 18321 Ridgewood Rd Minnetonka, 55345 612/470-1098 e-mail: wmontgomery@ieee.org

Helen Palmer LWV Minneapolis 2405 Sheridan Ave S Minneapolis, 55405 612/377-5972 e-mail: thepalmers@uswest.net

Linda Peck LWV St. Cloud Area 12299 Sauk River Rd St. Cloud, 56301 320/685-3365

Mary Phillips LWV Owatonna 610 Carl Anna Pl. Owatonna, MN 55060 507/455-2622

Jeanne & Gordon Prickett LWV MNMAL Hc5 Box16cc Aitkin, 56431 218/927-2267 e-mail: gordnett@emily.net Catherine Severin LWV Duluth 720 Arnold Ave N Thief River Falls, 56701 218/683-7201 e-mail: mahces@means.net

Grace Skaar LWV Freeborn County Rt. 3 Box 95 Hayward, 56043 507/373-5080

Peg Sundell LWV New Ulm 311 N German St. New Ulm, 56073 507/354-1261

Harold Swanson 210 E Florence Glenwood, IA 51534 712/527-9895

Barbara Vaile LWV Northfield 4151 320 St. W Northfield, MN 55057 507/645-7315

Charmaine L. Wright 11513 Karow Tr. Nerstrand, MN 55053 507/645-8853

Report to the National Farmers Union

CONSOLIDATION IN THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SYSTEM

Report prepared by
Dr. William Heffernan
Department of Rural Sociology
University of Missouri
Columbia, Missouri

With the assistance of

Dr. Mary Hendrickson Dr. Robert Gronski University of Missouri-Columbia

February 5, 1999



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Agriculture Committee Meeting Notice Thursday, July 29, 199 1:00 p.m. LWVMN Office

Agenda

- 1. 5 Introductions
- 2. 5 Filling out expense vouchers and volunteer forms
- 3. 20 Wording of the Study
 Proposed wording: Study of the impact of agricultural policies, regulations and
 practices on the viability of agriculture and rural communities.
- 4. 30 Research: interviews, readings, other resources Guidelines for interview questions
- 5. 50 Discussion re Broken Heartland
- 6. 5 Other business
- 7. 5 Next Meeting: Thursday, September 2nd; agenda: planning for regional meetings

ertrude Ulrich, Chair LWV Richfield 7601 Aldrich Richfield, MN 55423 612/866-8171

Jane Bennett, Vice Chair LWV St. Cloud 4146 Pine Point Rd. Sartell, MN 56377 320/252-8779 egarver@csbsju.edu

Eunice Biel RR 1 Box 113 Harmony, MN 55939 507/937-3333

Adeline Blowers LWV Austin 1905 SW 5th Ave. Austin, 55912-1511 507/437-3547

Georgianna Campbell LWV Northfield 10834 Farrel Ave. Northfield, 55057-4463 507/645-7488

Suzannah Ciernia LWV Northfield 905 Highland Northfield, 55057 507/663-7876 e-mail: bciernia@lifeskillsed.com

Margaret Egli LWV ROMAFH 705 Heinel Circle Roseville, 55113 612/486-0177 Carolyn Garvin LWV St. Cloud Area 624 Riverside Dr. NE St. Cloud, 56304 320/252-7737

Nancy Gundersen LWV St. Cloud Area 806 S 6th St. St. Cloud, 56301 320/252-9651

Stephanie Henriksen LWV Northfield 1866 130th St. E Dundas, 55019 507/645-7086 e-mail: dkamis@informns.k12.mn.us

Kathy Iverson LWV Edina 5410 York Ave S Edina, 55410 612/929-2694

Yleen Joselyn LWV Crystal/New Hope/E Ply 4068 Hampshire Ave N Crystal, 55427-1498 612/533-9659 e-mail: 72162.236@compuserve.com

Laurie Jung LWV Edina 5611 Concord Ave Edina, 55424 612/922-2120 e-mail: LPJung@aol.com

Karen Langsjoen LWV St. Cloud Area 911 N 36th Ave St. Cloud, 56303 320/253-0801 e-mail: karenl@cloudnet.com

Janis Larson LWV Fridley 3812 Lincoln St. NE Columbia Heights, 55421 612/788-0728

Deanna Lederer LWV St. Cloud Area 5811 Michael Ct. St. Cloud, 56303 320/253-5704 e-mail: dlederer@cloudnet.com

Cheryl Lushine LWV Edina 4600 Browndale Ave Edina, 55424 612/925-4532

Connie Metcalf LWV Fridley 860 W. Moore Lake Dr. Fridley, 55432 612/571-3596 e-mail: cjmet@netO.net

Beverly Montgomery LWV MEPH 18321 Ridgewood Rd Minnetonka, 55345 612/470-1098 e-mail: wmontgomery@ieee.org

Helen Palmer LWV Minneapolis 2405 Sheridan Ave S Minneapolis, 55405 612/377-5972 e-mail: thepalmers@uswest.net

Linda Peck LWV St. Cloud Area 12299 Sauk River Rd St. Cloud, 56301 320/685-3365 Mary Phillips LWV Owatonna 610 Carl Anna Pl. Owatonna, MN 55060 507/455-2622

Jeanne & Gordon Prickett LWV MNMAL Hc5 Box16cc Aitkin, 56431 218/927-2267 e-mail: gordnett@emily.net

Catherine Severin LWV Duluth 720 Arnold Ave N Thief River Falls, 56701 218/683-7201 e-mail: mahces@means.net

Grace Skaar LWV Freeborn County Rt. 3 Box 95 Hayward, 56043 507/373-5080

Peg Sundell LWV New Ulm 311 N German St. New Ulm, 56073 507/354-1261

Harold Swanson 210 E Florence Glenwood, IA 51534 712/527-9895

Barbara Vaile LWV Northfield 4151 320 St. W Northfield, MN 55057 507/645-7315

Charmaine L. Wright 11513 Karow Tr. Nerstrand, MN 55053 507/645-8853

FROM FARM TO FORK Reclaiming Our Food System From Corporate Giants

Registration:

Name:
Org. or Co. Name:
Address:
City/State/ Zip:
Phone Number:
email:
I will be attending:
Symposium \$25.00 check one or both
Display Booth \$25.00
TOTAL
Each set-up for tabling at the Farmers' Exhibition will include one six-foot long table and two chairs.
I need tables and extra chairs.
circle I will need an electrical outlet YES NO
I will need an electrical outlet TES NO
Make checks payable to Clean Water Action.
Send registration form and check to:
Suzanne McIntosh
Clean Water Action
326 Hennepin Avenue E. Minneapolis, MN 55414
Willineapolis, WIIV 33414
Registration form and fees due by

August 30, 1999

Lodging:

The Doubletree Grand Hotel, Mall of America, is a full service facility, including indoor pool. Rooms are \$105 for attendees. Call (612) 854-2244 for reservations.

Registrants are responsible for payment. There is a complimentary Mall and Airport shuttle from the hotel.

Doubletree Grand Hotel 7901 24th Avenue S. Bloomington, MN 55424

For more information about this event, please contact Suzanne McIntosh or Andrea Kiepe at (612) 623-3666.

North A But St Doubletree Mall of America

Clean Water Action Allian i26 Hennepin Avenue E. Vinneapolis, MN 55414

NONPROFIT





Clean Water Action Alliance presents

FROM FARM TO FORK: Reclaiming Our Food System From Corporate Giants



September 18, 1999 Doubletree Grand Hotel Mall of America Bloomington, MN 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Co-sponsored by: The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, the Izaak Walton League and the MN Farmers Union

League of Women Voters 550 Rice St St Paul, MN 55103



From Farm to Fork: Reclaiming Our Food System from Corporate Giants

Clean Water Action invites you to participate in a symposium about the impacts of the industrial food system, especially factory farms, on urban citizens and rural communities. The event will be held on September 18, 1999 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at the Doubletree Grand Hotel in Bloomington MN, near the Mall of America. The symposium is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Farmers Union, the Izaak Walton League and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy.

During the morning session speakers will discuss food safety, 'veggie libel' laws, antibiotic resistance caused by intensive livestock farming, animal cruelty in industrial meat production, concentration in agriculture and the effects of industrial agriculture on rural communities. In the afternoon, speakers will cover the environmental, human health and economic advantages of buying locally produced food, and direct marketing of organic produce and meats. A panel of local family farmers will describe their experiences bypassing the industrial food distribution system.

We encourage you to attend. The symposium is recommended for farmers, consumers, and activists concerned about the quality of our food supply and the moral and environmental implications of industrial scale factory farms. Space is limited, so early registration is advised.

SYMPOSIUM AGENDA Saturday September 18, 1999

8:30 Registration

9:00 Welcome and opening speaker

9:30 CONCENTRATION IN AGRICULTURE

Dr. Mary Hendrickson, rural sociologist from University of Missouri Extension and Outreach, will explain the consolidation and concentration of agriculture by corporate giants.

10:30 INVESTIGATION OF THE VEAL, HOG AND PACKINGHOUSE INDUSTRIES
Gail Eisenitz, Chief Investigator from the Humane Farming Association and author of
Slaughterhouse, explains her investigation into animal cruelty in industrial meat production and
confinement factory farms.

11:30 Break

11:45 ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE, FOOD SAFETY AND FOOD DISPARAGEMENT LAWS Ron Collins, Director of the Food Speak Project, Center for Science in the Public Interest, will discuss antibiotic resistance, 'veggie libel' laws and other food safety issues.

12:30 THE REAL ECONOMICS OF FACTORY LIVESTOCK
Lunch and lunch speaker, John Ikerd, co-coordinator of the Sustainable Agriculture Systems
Program at the University of Missouri, Columbia.

1:30 "A TALE OF TWO CHICKENS: EATING LOCALLY AS A POLITICAL ACT"

Dr. Kamyar Enshayan, adjunct professor of Agricultural Engineering at the University of Northern Iowa and Coordinator of the Local Food Project, will discuss the ramifications of our food choices.

2:30 DIRECT MARKETING TO CONSUMERS OF ORGANIC PRODUCE AND FREE RANGE MEATS

A panel of five local family farmers will discuss producing livestock in a profitable and ecologically sound manner and explain how consumers can purchase sustainable meats and produce.

3:30 Closing

Farmers Exhibition

- Learn about sustainable agriculture
- Order natural meats from local farmers
- Discover Metro Area Farmers' Markets
- Find out which restaurants and groceries provide organic produce and free range meats

FREE ADMISSION TO THE PUBLIC

Coinciding with the symposium, an exhibition will be held by local farmers and other groups to provide information to the public on sustainable agriculture, the environment and issues related to factory farming.

For more information about the exhibition or to reserve a display booth contact our event coordinator at the phone number and address below.

Suzanne McIntosh or Andrea Kiepe Clean Water Action 326 Hennepin Avenue E. Minneapolis, MN 55414 612-623-3666

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Make Corrections 40 list

Agriculture Study Committee Members

Return to Sally Sally

Gertrude Ulrich, Chair LWV Richfield 7601 Aldrich Richfield, MN 55423 612/866-8171

Jane Bennett, Vice Chair LWV St. Cloud 4146 Pine Point Rd. St. Cloud, 56303_ Sartell MN 56377 egarver@csbsju.edu 320/252-8779

Adeline Blowers LWV Austin 1905 SW 5th Ave. 0 12 Austin, 55912-1511 507/437-3547

MARY PHILLIPS Adrienne Breiner LWU OWATONNA LWV Owatonna 610 CARL ANNA PL. 738 Exprospect 0WATONNA, MN 507 455, 2622 Owatonna, 55060 507/451-3933

Georgianna Campbell LWV Northfield 10834 Farrel Ave. Northfield, 55057-4463 507/645-7488

Suzannah Ciernia LWV Northfield 905 Highland Northfield, 55057 507/663-7876 e-mail: Bciernia@lifeskillsed.com

Margaret Egli LWV ROMAFH 705 Heinel Circle Roseville, 55113 612/486-0177

Barbara Vaile LWV Northstreld 4151 320 STW North Delet MV 53057 507-645 7315

Carolyn Garvin LWV St. Cloud Area/ will check to see it 624 Riverside Dr. NEY she wants to be on State Committee St. Cloud, 56304 Suspect she'd rather 320/252-7737 work at local League level

Nancy Gundersen LWV St. Cloud Area 806 S 6th St. St. Cloud, 56301 320/252-9651

Stephanie Henricksen LWV Northfield 1866 数 130th St, 巨 Dundas, 55019 507/645-7086 e-mail: dkamis@winformns.k.12.mn.us Dinformns, RIZ, mn. US

Kathy Iverson LWV Edina 5410 York Ave S Edina, 55410 612/929-2694

Yleen Joselyn LWV Crystal/New Hope/E Ply 4068 Hampshire Ave N Crystal, 55427-1498 612/533-9659 e-mail: 72162.236@compuserve.com

Laurie Jung LWV Edina 5611 Concord Ave Edina, 55424 612/922-2120 e-mail: LPJung@aol.com

Karen Langsjoen LWV St. Cloud Area will check 911 N 36th Ave to see if St. Cloud, 56303 She wants to work at state 320/253-0801 e-mail: karenl@cloudnet.com Vs local level

Janis Larson LWV Fridley 3812 Lincoln St. NE Columbia Heights, 55421 612/788-0728

Deanna Lederer LWV St. Cloud Area 5811 Michael Ct. St. Cloud, 56301 56303 320/253-5704 e-mail: dlederer@cloudnet.com

Cheryl Lushine LWV Edina 4600 Browndale Ave Edina, 55424 612/925-4532

Connie Metcalf LWV Fridley 860 W. Moore Lake Dr. Fridley, 55432 612/571-3596 e-mail: cjmet@netO.net

Beverly Montgomery LWV MEPH 18321 Ridgewood Rd Minnetonka, 55343- 553-553-553-612/470-1098 e-mail: wmontgomery@ieee.org

Helen Palmer LWV Minneapolis 2405 Sheridan Ave S Minneapolis, 55405 612/377-5972 e-mail: thepalmers@uswest.net

Linda Peck LWV St. Cloud Area 12299 Sauk River Rd St. Cloud, 56301 320/685-3365 Jeanne & Gordon Prickett LWV MNMAL Hc5 Box16cc Aitkin, 56431 218/927-2267

Catherine Severin LWV Duluth 720 Arnold Ave N Thief River Falls, 56701 218/683-7201 e-mail: mahces@means.net

Grace Skaar LWV Freeborn County Rt. 3 Box 95 Hayward, 56043 507/373-5080

Charlotte Stephens LWV St. Cloud Area 1127 N 6th Ave St. Cloud, 56303 320/251-8677

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Peg Sundell LWV New Ulm 311 N German St. New Ulm, 56073 507/354-1261

Ellen Perrault LWV Buffalo/Monticello 11170 95th St. NE Fridley, MN 55432

HAROLD Swanson 210 E. FLOVERY Glenwood, IA 51534 712-527-9895

Charmaine L. wright

11513 Karow Trail

Nerstrand, MN 550532

507/645-8853