

Dissenter's Notebook: Developed and Developing Countries

by Gary Holthaus, Red Wing, Minnesota, new Minnesota Project Board member
An "out-take" from Gary's upcoming Farm Stories.

THE DOCUMENTS related to world trade and agriculture are full of distinctions between "developed" and "developing" nations. Those names seem like misnomers to me. I understand that they are considered a euphemistic advance over terms like "First World" or "Third World," but the present usage is no less patronizing and condescending than the earlier terms. Behind "developing" lies the shadowy and unspoken pejorative "backward." Indeed, they may be even more patronizing than the older terms.

Who can name a "developed" country? Certainly we cannot claim that the United States is a developed country. What have we developed? The mightiest army in the world? Maybe. But what kind of development is that, if we do not at the same time develop our capacity to create peace? The most powerful economy? Perhaps. But what if we have made ourselves wealthy at the expense of our soil, our health, or the rest of the world's resources and citizens? What good is our wealth if we have not developed meaning? Where is the educational system we have developed that challenges students to live a meaningful life for others, as well as themselves? Where is that government we have developed that tries to balance the needs of all, and involves its entire citizenry in the workings of its democracy? Where is our fully developed social system that has eradicated racism or sexism or poverty? Where is the agricultural system we have developed that uses natural means to replenish the soil, raises healthy food and animals, and compensates farmers as they deserve for their labor? We know the system, but most of our farmers do not follow the practice. Where is the culture we have developed that will embrace and reinforce a sustainable

agriculture, create sustainable communities, and help realize a sustainable earth? As a nation, we have not yet learned how to be a good neighbor, to set the prisoner free, to give our brother a loaf instead of a stone, to do unto others in the social world or the world of nature...

Without such elements in our society, we are not yet fully developed and have much developing still to do — unless we have stopped developing, or have stopped working on all those issues. If that is the case, we may have already entered an era of arrested development, and will never become a fully mature nation state.

There are models to work from. We know there are countries where race is not the issue it is here. Countries where poverty is not the issue it is here. Countries where people are freer to express their innate love for others more openly than here. Countries where gender in all its diversity and range, draws little attention and is of so little consequence that their languages do not distinguish between male and female. Countries where everyone is a musician and music is known to be an essential part of everyday life, where people

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A PUBLICATION OF
THE MINNESOTA PROJECT
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Viewpoint

RECENTLY SOMEONE said they loved *Community Connections*, but could not figure out what the Minnesota Project does.

I was alarmed! Isn't it clear that we work for clean energy, local food, and sustainable agriculture, that we build coalitions to influence policy, do practical research, educate community leaders, and connect real people to policy for solutions?

We are out in the world so much, coordinating the Sustainable Energy for Economic Development Coalition (SEED), the Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) across the state, the Conservation Security Program MN Roundtable, the Heartland Food Initiative, The Midwest Ag-Energy Network — a policy incubator for the next Farm Bill, among other efforts we lead. Our goal is to find the ways to help communities live and work sustainably.

Yet our job at the Minnesota Project is often to lead communities of leaders, to focus on the greatest opportunities, to leverage resources and speak up on policies that move toward both profit and community and environmental needs. To best succeed, we purposefully do not blow our own horn. If we help organize the team, and coach them along, it is after all the team that wins. We all win.

So we give you work and this newsletter as a gift to you. ☘



Diane Jensen, Executive Director

Dear Readers...

MAYBE SOME OF YOU have read the speech given by Bill Moyers on May 15th at the National Conference on Media Reform. It was aired on Democracy Now! and it was published in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* the last Sunday in May.

Without contrasting it to the layer of inner politics of PBS — a dramatically thick layer — one knows the commitment in Bill Moyers' work. It is a commitment to truth and good journalism. As Moyers puts it, "The quality of democracy and the quality of journalism are deeply intertwined." He also states, "A free press is one where it's okay to state the conclusion you're led to by the evidence."

At a deeper level of detail, Moyers clarifies that "Now" got in trouble with the higher-ups at PBS because "it didn't play by the conventional rules of Beltway journalism." And those rules are that unless an official says something is so, it isn't news. This, as Moyers articulates, "has deviated from the First Amendment idea of a press that is independent of government."

I cannot solve the issues at PBS and won't try, but stories like this make me more committed to truth in my writing or editing work, even the editing of something small like *Community Connections* — something completely 'under the radar,' so to speak. This modest newsletter is mailed to 1450 readers and to nearly every state in the nation. Let's continue to tell our truths about the environmental or community development issues we study. And like Gary Holthaus on this issue's cover, let's examine the language of our articles or stories and make sure that our words are without bias.

Listen for truth in this issue, about language or democracy or food systems. Listen to prose or poetry. If we've done our job, you'll hear it. Then, motivated by truth-in-language, put your own pen to paper and send us your commentary on social or environmental issues. We'd love to keep democracy alive by putting your words or poems in print.

— Beth Waterhouse, Editor,
Community Connections, since 1992
beth.waterhouse@usfamily.net

Report Available: Anaerobic Digester Systems for Minnesota's Average Farm Size

IF YOU THOUGHT anaerobic digester systems were only possible for large-scale dairy farms, think again. Emphasizing odor control and manure management for 100 to 300 cow operations, a report generated for The Minnesota Project details six existing options for anaerobic manure digestion on Minnesota farms. Of the six model systems included in the report, five are designed for individual farms, while one is a community digester model. Rather than aiming for excess energy generation as some large-scale digesters do, these six system models focus on the benefits of simpler systems that cost less and are easier to build and operate. To read the report, or request a copy, visit <http://www.mnproject.org/index-biogas.html>

The report was made possible through a grant from AgStar Financial, Fund for Rural America. The report was completed by Dr. Philip Goodrich, University of Minnesota, Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering. Dr. Goodrich has more than 30 years of experience conducting research and development of digesters at the University of Minnesota.

If you would like more information or to discuss report findings, contact Amanda Bilek, abilek@mnproject.org or 651/645-6159, ext. 5. ☘

A Good Problem to Have

by Karen Lehman

I TOOK A WALK RECENTLY with a good friend who once worked for the Minnesota Food Association. It was her first time back in town for awhile, after moving to Boston 12 years ago. We stopped off for dessert at Lucia's Restaurant, one of our favorites, and of course, the conversation turned to food. She had recently dined at Restaurant Alma and couldn't stop raving about it. "It was wonderful. I don't remember places like this other than Lucia's when I lived in town."

"Customers want local, healthy, and above all, delicious food... but the supply isn't organized to meet the demand."

Lucia's, Restaurant Alma, Auriga, Fire Lake Grill House, Heartland Café, Zander Café, Sapor, Signature Café, Bayport Cookery — currently the Twin Cities, as well as other Minnesota communities, is enjoying many restaurants that have made strong commitments to local food. What's more, school districts (exemplified by Hopkins) and some hospitals, are beginning to seek out local and sustainable foods to promote health and learning.

Wow! Isn't this great? Yes, yes, yes! And Wow! Do we have a problem? Yes!

A year ago in these pages, we proposed that the food system had tipped, that the demand for sustainably-produced, local foods was beginning to exceed supply. Over the past two years, we've been working with chefs, distributors and farmers' groups to understand how better to deliver local and sustainably-produced foods into these food service markets.

More than anything, we've been the stewards of a learning process, conven-

ing the Local Foods Working Group, participating in the Sustainable Food Lab, and now convening the dialogues of the Heartland Food Initiative.

Through the Heartland Food Initiative, we've brought 50 people together from all sectors of the food system: farmers, processors, distributors, chefs, grocery retailers, university staff, state officials, and nonprofit local food advocates.

What we're learning is that customers want local, healthy and above all, delicious food. We have farmers growing those products in Minnesota. But that supply isn't organized to meet the demand.

Why not? We're at an awkward stage in the development of a strong local food system. It's like a puppy with the gangles, when the front legs are too long one week and the back legs too long the next. Our food system is organized for efficient production and distribution of commodities on one side, and great direct marketing through farmers markets and CSAs on the other. What's missing is a strong, well-coordinated system to get regional products into local food service markets.

These challenges present tremendous opportunities for new business, organized in collaborative marketing structures such as cooperatives or Limited Liability Corporations (LLCs). Farmers like those in the Southeast Food Network, the Pastureland Cooperative, Pride of the Prairie and others are moving to take advantage of these markets, creating the kinds of organizations that will facilitate product aggregation for food service distribution. Processors such as Lorentz Meats serve as aggregators for meat products, making distribution to food service more efficient.

A few months ago, the Minnesota Project convened a meeting with Commissioner Hugoson that included representatives from Food Alliance Midwest, Sysco Minnesota, and Minnesota Grown. We laid the problem out for him. It's a nice problem to have, when demand exceeds supply, but only to a point. Without the kinds of policies and programs that promote sustainable agriculture and collaborative business formation to ensure that farmers and processors have the capacity to supply these markets, customers could become frustrated.

For those of us who have worked on sustainable agriculture and local food systems, we can take pride in the outcomes of our efforts, manifested by increased consumer interest in the products we've been promoting. We can take stock of the assets we have to work with to retool the food system: interested businesses along the food supply chain,



Mathew Jensen, sous chef, and Jim Kyndberg, executive chef, of Bayport Cookery hosted and participated in a Heartland Food Initiative dialogue.

experienced nonprofits, skilled university and public technical assistance providers, and a willing and productive local farming community. We can take heart that there are many opportunities to experiment, succeed and, yes, at times, fail. Most of all, we must take the leap by risking efforts that are outside our comfort zone. At the end, we might just see more farmers on the land, more good food in hospitals, schools and restaurants, and a new generation of good problems to have. ☘

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will skimp on food in order to save money to buy a guitar, make a bamboo flute or assemble a drum. How did those countries manage to do those things?

So what is a developed country and what is a developing country? I believe one has to say there are no developed nations; none of our countries has it all together yet. We are all fraught with incapacities, all needing to develop — “develop” meaning to grow intellectually and spiritually, to grow in wisdom, not just in knowledge or economics or military strength. When will we develop enough to bring our hearts into line with our heads, pull our generosity up to match our profit margins? What country does not need to develop that balance and harmony that have been the great hallmarks of cultural striving since the first humans gathered around a fire to tell stories and sing, decide where to hunt, teach their children respect for animals and one another, and mend their fragmentation?

In the glow of their firelight, how undeveloped we all appear, how much work we have to do on ourselves, how little time we have to spare for hatred, for intruding on the lives of others without an invitation or against their will, how much time we need — and therefore owe to others — to develop a good life for all the world’s creatures: animal, vegetable, mineral, and yes, human.

One of the real questions for America is whether we will

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Whalan’s Standstill Parade

by Mike McGrath

THE SIGN ON STATE ROUTE 16 SAYS, Whalan, population 64. Every spring, on the third Saturday in May, Whalan holds its annual fair and standstill parade. That’s right, a *standstill* parade.

Despite the fact that the Root River State Trail runs through the “downtown,” Whalan’s commercial activity is lean and seasonal, mostly being known for its pie shop. In the spring of 1996, some members of this quiet, Norewegian community thought that an annual fair and parade would be good for Whalan. But in discussing the parade, they realized that no street in town is longer than three blocks, so they quickly figured out that the front of any reasonably sized parade would reach the end of the street before the end of the parade got started, possibly causing a jam-up.

*spectators
began
walking
up and
down*

This presented a problem until someone came forward with the idea to line up all the entries for a few blocks and let the spectators walk past the parade. Thus, the first Whalan Standstill Parade was born.

Well, a few posters were made and the word went out, but about two weeks before the parade the float entries were coming in slowly, at best. There was interest, but a “standstill” parade?

Then it was announced that the CBS Evening News with Dan Rather had gotten wind of the standstill parade (from the friend of a producer who happened to see the poster at the pie shop in Whalan while on vacation) and was sending a news and camera team to cover it. From that moment on the parade entries poured in, especially from the politicians.

The first Whalan Standstill Parade turned out to be a huge success. It was a beautiful morning as the parade lined up with marching bands, horses and wagons, colorful floats and a legion color guard that proudly took their place at the front. At 11 A.M., the fire trucks blew their sirens and the spectators began walking up and down the street past the parade. It was all quite grand, and the CBS news coverage was fair, respectful, and humorous.

This year, the Standstill Parade celebrated its tenth run and without the fanfare of CBS news coverage, the parade has shrunk to a size more befitting of its setting.

Old cars, old tractors and steam engines, horses and petting zoos, and old folks showing old photos of the old days in Whalan are some of the classic highlights. Miss Minnesota was even there this year, along with the Buffalo Gals playing old time music.

This year it rained on the Standstill Parade, the first time it ever has. Maybe it was an omen, because there were also rumors that the parade might not happen next year because the planners are tired and no one has come forward to take the reins.

Although smaller this year, it was still quite grand. The crowning moment came not from Miss Minnesota, but when some tourists asked how they would know when the parade was over. The reply was quick, “That’s easy, the Standstill Parade is over when it moves.” 🐾

“It Isn’t a Waste of Time, It’s Democracy”

A Millville, Minnesota Conversation

by Beth Waterhouse and Loni Kemp

HOW CAN WE BETTER COMMUNICATE about our concerns, if voters respond to moral values more than to specific issues? *Connections'* winter issue featured Loni Kemp's column “Moral Values,” where she said, “What we are learning is that a successful movement speaks from the heart.” Those words sparked an all day conversation.

Jack Miller and Pauline Redmond hosted a dialogue on speaking from the heart in their home in Millville, Minnesota. Jack and Pauline helped produce the *North Country Anvil*, a “bellwether of the alternative press and the Midwestern left” from 1972 to the late 1980s in Millville, where they often hosted discussions on the issues of the day. In February, a group of thirteen gathered once again in Jack and Pauline’s living room, enjoying the Zumbro River glistening blue below.

Jack Miller, facilitating, brought us to the guiding question of the day. “Given the values that give us inspiration and hope, how can we speak heart to heart with each other?”

Beth Waterhouse read a letter from Joe Paddock, Litchfield writer, since he could not be there in person. “It strikes me that you might be discussing how to tell truth effectively to the massive deceptiveness we find coming at us

“We must be vigilant, and name the values that will motivate the electorate to take action.”

across the political-environmental front. The right-wing has gone to school to sell a majority of the people ideas that are not in their best interest, and have begun with corporate advertising techniques: simple, concrete, memo-

orable phrases, said over and over again and appealing to our ‘lizard brain.’”

Paddock called for “communication that focuses with emotional intensity on the things we want to say. We should not get bogged down with linear explanations.”

“We don’t really talk about democracy a lot,” remarked Pat Bailey of Winona. “Why in the world should we have to fight for the common good, for clean water?” Pauline reflected, “We must claim ‘our’ country, not blame ‘this’ country. This is our home. It’s our river.” Loni Kemp countered with, “We can’t assign our values to government, to take care of us. We must be vigilant, and name the values that will motivate the electorate to take action. The struggle isn’t a waste of time, it’s democracy.”

Don Maronde took us in a different direction with, “At the rock bottom, there is a total disconnect between the two world views regarding the planet. I don’t know where to begin to converse with some of my friends.” Sometimes it seems that democracy is competing with the free market economy as the dominant system of the country.

Gary Holthaus the writer, quiet for some time, now took the floor. “I’ve been in so many conversations like this. Yes, we are leaving a toxic burden to our children, but the worst pollution of all is language pollution. Language is critical to good government and the pollution of it obfuscates the reality of

what we have to deal with. If language is only used to persuade, convince, or sell something, then it is not an honest use of the word. Is our point to win? Or is our point to pursue the truth?”

To speak from the heart, you respect each other first, listen carefully, and then get off the linear or rational to what actually moves people.

Loni reminded us that speaking from the heart does not have to be about religion. “For some people,” she said, “motivating values are about food. Or water. Or land. Or the presence of the wild. Or community.”

Some of the women at the table brought us back to intuition... back to the lizard brain in another way. We used to be criticized for making an “emotional” argument. Now it seems that every issue is couched in gut-level emotional language. Yet, Loni reminded us, environmental issues should trigger fear, but the response can be turned to positive action. Are you afraid? Organize!

A day well spent. There should be more conversations like this, in home settings, for ordinary citizens to dig deeply into the use of language, into the ethical or environmental issues of the day, and to reflect on what gives us inspiration. It was democracy happening that day in Millville, not with an agenda to push, but big and whole-hearted democracy at work.

Editor’s Note: Those attending this day’s dialogue included: Pat Bailey, Gary Holthaus, Loni Kemp, Ralph Lentz, Don Maronde, Bill McMillan, Tom McMillan, Diana Nelson, Dick Nethercut, Margo and Jack Warthesen, Beth Waterhouse, Jack Miller and Pauline Redmond. ♣

FARMERS UNION PERSPECTIVE ON THE 2005 LEGISLATIVE SESSION ON ENERGY

by Doug Peterson, President
Minnesota Farmers Union

WHILE THE 2005 Minnesota Legislature did not finish all its business on time, it did work through a number of significant energy issues. I believe that we made good progress. What is most important to the Farmers Union is that we reduce our reliance on big companies and foreign countries to supply the energy that drives our economy. Wind, biomass and biofuels are the new markets and profit centers for farmers. By supporting farm-based energy, we can ensure that energy supplies are secure, affordable, and driving new income, industries and jobs in rural Minnesota.

Renewable Fuel Standard:

In a strong bi-partisan effort, the Legislature passed a 20% ethanol Renewable Fuel Standard. In 2010, 20% of the gasoline used in Minnesota will come from clean burning ethanol. We have come a long way since I first introduced a bill calling for a 10% standard in 1991. Since then, a lot of people that criticized that first ethanol bill have become supporters of ethanol. The Minnesota ethanol industry is a model for building renewable energy supplies in a way that ensures our farmers and rural communities fully benefit.

Renewable Electricity Standard:

The Farmers Union also worked with the Sustainable Energy for Economic Development Coalition

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FOXTAIL

She'd sit there hour
after hour in the dirt,
pulling up one,
then another:
pigweed, timothy,
chamomile, foxtail,
wild potato-vine,
clover, plantain.
She swirls them in the fine,
cool dust, humming and swaying.

Everybody else
is working in the fields.
Boys ride row after long row
on the Allis Chalmers,
the yellow-green corn
slicing the hot day into haze,
cultivator blades gouging weeds
from the soil. Or they're walking
bushy aisles of blue-green soybeans,
pulling up volunteer corn.
Then there's always the baling.
With any luck, three times a summer,
three different winners in the quarrel
over who drives tractor, who rides
loose-kneed on the rack, who grapples

each bale from the chute, timing hook
and swing, stacking crisscrossed rows,
their sweat and nostrils collecting
green dust, their movements smooth,
regular as the machine,
the whole chain running
under Dad's command.

She gets out of this,
at the moment, makes dolls
from weeds, twirls them
as if life were some grand ball.
But only till she's found,
and set to work:
gathering eggs,
picking beans, weeding
potato rows, bringing clothes in
off the line.
Yet for now,
behind the corn crib,
an inner music,
a dancing,
dusty skirts.

— Morgan Grayce Willow

Morgan Grayce Willow grew up in Iowa on this farm where the barn was, in many ways, the emotional as well as the economic heart of the place. Besides writing and publishing poems, Morgan enjoys bringing poetry to audiences through the Poetry in Motion[®], which places poetry posters in Metro Transit buses and trains. Her new chapbook, Arpeggio of Appetite, will be published by Finishing Line Press in the fall of 2005.

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To order your copy of the CERTs CD: contact Margaret Broeren at mbroeren@mnproject.org, call at 651/645-6159 ext 126, or send in the form below to: M. Broeren, The Minnesota Project, 1885 University Ave W. #315, St. Paul, MN 55104. ☛

The Pleasure Principle

by Loni Kemp

HOW DO WE CHANGE THE WORLD?

I take my morning coffee out to observe the garden. With the eye of a co-creator, I assess what could be. Let mulch cover all the weeds in the asparagus bed. Let that over-sized catmint be divided. Let this rose bush be moved to a place with room to breathe. Banish the ladybells — though their blooms form a beautiful blue haze, they invade ruthlessly with both runners and taproots. Let there be dozens of daisies, but dozens more yanked out. Let there be potatoes here, corn there, each rotated in their season.

Then I sit back in awe and behold that it is good. Nature and I have co-created a garden of scents, sounds, tastes and visual beauty.

“An environmentalist who is not into pleasure is a sad environmentalist,” said Carl Petrini, Italian founder of the Slow Food movement. Speaking recently at the Food and Society conference in Washington DC, Petrini spoke vividly to my heart.

“We can stop seeing ourselves as helpless consumers who buy from anonymous producers.”

stop seeing ourselves as helpless consumers who buy from anonymous producers. Eating is part of agriculture and we give our implicit approval to how that food was grown, processed and delivered.

Tasting is knowledge that enjoys, according to Petrini. I might add that if we find the ways to have a human relationship with the farmer, or with our own plot of soil, then a sustainable food system appears.

Petrini went on to outline the elements of a slow food system, which is also a sustainable food system. Taste, in which we savor our daily meals, includes respect for the culture that surrounds food. Environmental quality, that is food produced with respect for the earth, is nothing less than a precondition for good food, both for us and generations to come. And justice — paying farmers a fair price for what they produce — is the only way to demonstrate that their product is valued.

The sustainable agriculture movement was created through many different visions. The Minnesota Project started with a vision of clean water, now enhanced with the many elements of a working landscape that can be produced along with food. Others started with a vision of family farmers, aiming to produce profitable farms and vital rural communities.

Food itself may turn out to be the most widely accessible vision to inspire people to become part of the creation of sustainable agriculture. Healthy, delicious food and all the pleasure it brings may ultimately motivate a critical mass to change the world through how we eat. 🐾

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continue to develop, or whether the American experiment is over. Good while it lasted, never perfect or fully developed in its democracy, but a great try for a while. Some marvelous achievements, some tragic mistakes and misdeeds.

Can we, through our own introspection and self-cultivation, become a developing country again? If we can, will we continue to be a developing country? Can we come to see our “developing” as a hopeful sign that we have acquired a bit of the humility, grace and self-discipline required to keep us working on ourselves instead of on everyone else? Will our citizens, another generation or two down the road, look back and think, “That’s where — yes, sometime around the end of that last millennium and the beginning of this one — where our people quit growing, quit developing into something more than a machine for economics and war, and now...” Or will they think, “How wise our grandmothers were! How long ago they learned what development really means, how we still enjoy the fruits of their concern for the world, so now we can continue to ...” Looking back from that vantage, we might at last be able to say that we worked toward a sustainable culture, becoming a truly developing nation.

Editor’s Note: Gary Holthaus is author of Farm Stories, a three-year project initiated in 2002 by the Experiment in Rural Cooperation. For two years, Holthaus visited almost 40 farm families in SE Minnesota, Northern Iowa, and Western Wisconsin. Gary Holthaus proves in Farm Stories that he has a good ear for listening to such stories and a good eye for seeing the landscape in which they live. “We come to understand,” writes Holthaus, “that we cannot create a sustainable community or a lasting culture without all of us — no matter how far we live from the nearest farm — supporting a sustainable agriculture.” 🐾

the MINNESOTA PROJECT

working for strong local economies,
vibrant communities, and a healthy environment

Community Connections is published by the Minnesota Project each quarter. The Minnesota Project connects people with policy to nurture collaborations that build strong local economies, vibrant communities and a healthy environment. For more information visit www.mnproject.org.

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FARMERS UNION ON THE SESSION *continued from page 6*

(SEED) to advance a Renewable Electricity Standard this year. Our members understand that a broad renewable energy industry is good for rural Minnesota. If passed, the Renewable Electricity Standard would have worked like the ethanol standard by ensuring that 20% of electricity sales in the State are supplied with renewable energy. This would protect Minnesota's energy supply, create new markets for our farmers and new jobs in our towns.

Community Ownership: As the renewable electricity industry grows in this state, we are able to take advantage of another important ethanol lesson. Ownership matters. We see local ownership being just as important in the wind industry as it is in the ethanol industry. The Community-Based Energy Development Tariff, which did pass, establishes a process to secure contracts for wind projects owned and developed by farmers and other people rooted in our communities. This is a critical step toward ensuring that Minnesota's communities fully benefit from this growing industry.

Land Owner Compensation: Finally, the Farmers Union and individual landowners forced a discussion about how landowners are paid when the power companies decide to place power lines on their land. More has to be done to recognize the rights of landowners and to compensate them for the loss of land. Farmers should not be taken advantage of when they are contributing to the public good by accepting a power line on their land. This year we got the issue on the table. The Legislature set up a process to study the issue. Farmers Union and our partners will be at that table working for a new and fair set of rules that protect the rights of all property owners impacted by transmission lines.

We have to look down the road when it comes to energy. We, in Minnesota, have the resources that can be grown and are renewable to meet our energy needs. In a changing agricultural economy, rural communities must be able to latch onto those markets and profit centers. As we build our own home grown energy industries, farmers, rural communities and the state of Minnesota will benefit through clean air, clean water, jobs.

Director's Note: The Minnesota Project, working with fellow SEED member Farmers Union, supported the Renewable Energy Standard and Community Ownership. We are interested in ethanol to reduce reliance on petroleum and improve local economies, yet at the same time ensuring that all feedstock is grown in the most sustainable manner to protect soil vitality, prevent run off, and reduce chemical applications. 🍌

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