

2003 NATIONAL SUMMIT

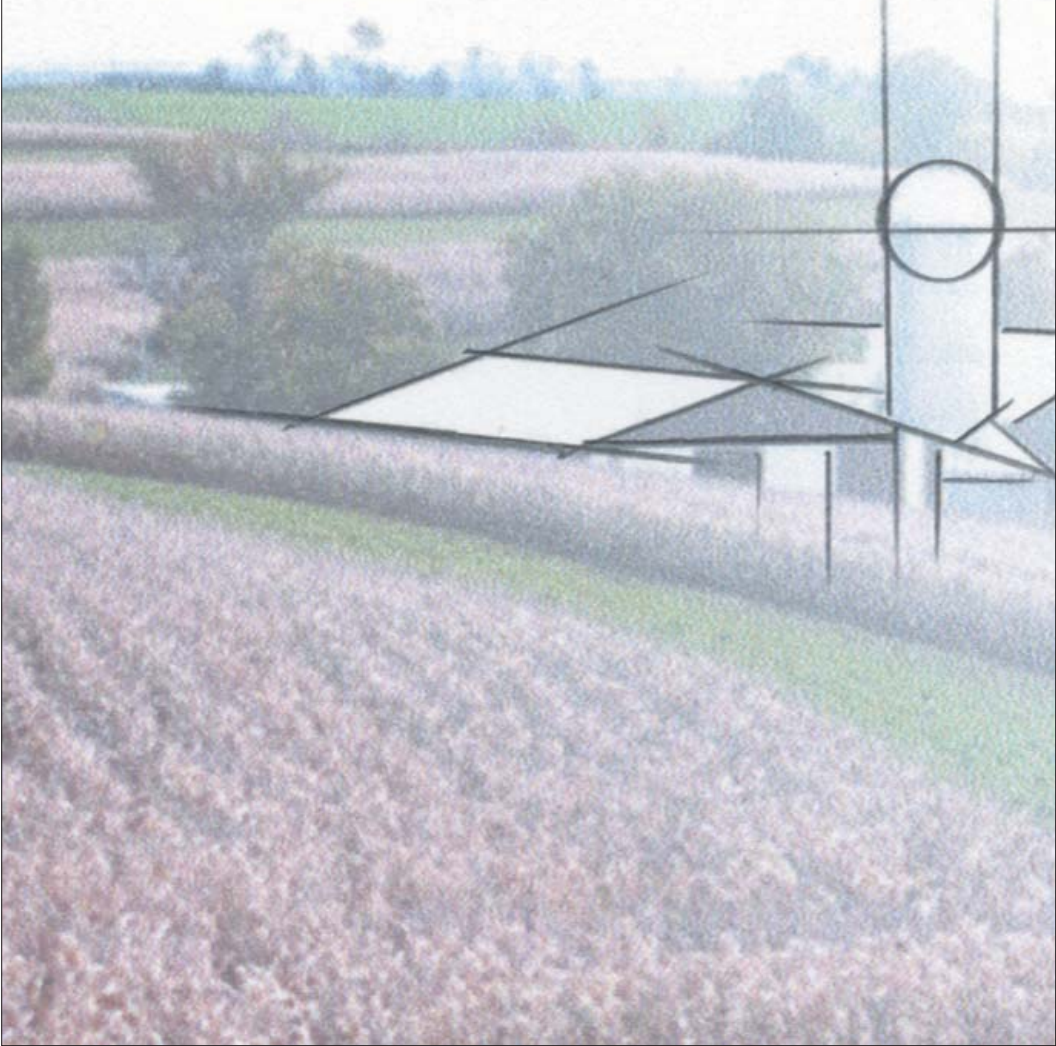
on  
**Agriculture & Rural Life**

*Building a Prosperous Rural Economy—Securing America's Future*

November 15  
Des Moines, Iowa



[www.leagueofruralvoters.org](http://www.leagueofruralvoters.org)



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# AGENDA

Saturday, November 15, 2003

**8:00-9:00 Check-in and Continental Breakfast**

**9:00-9:10 Welcome and Logistics**

State Side Ballroom

Niel Ritchie, Executive Director, League of Rural Voters

**9:10-9:30 Opening Remarks**

State Side Ballroom

Chris Peterson, Iowa Farmers Union

David Osterberg, Director, Iowa Policy Project

**9:30-10:15 Plenary: The State of the Rural America**

State Side Ballroom

Denise O'Brien, Women, Food & Agriculture Network

Charles W. Fluharty, Director, Rural Policy Research Institute

Ralph Paige, Executive Director, Federation of Southern Cooperatives

Mark Schultz, Organizer, Campaign for Family Farms

**10:30-11:50 Breakout Sessions**

**New Directions in Rural Development** — Room 302

Chuck Hassebrook, Executive Director,  
Center for Rural Affairs (moderator)

Bracken Hendricks, Executive Director, Apollo Alliance

Linda Meschke, Director, Rural Advantage

Lisa Davis-Cook, Co-Director, Iowa Citizen Action Network

**Rethinking U.S. Agriculture Policy** — State Side Ballroom

Larry Mitchell, Chief Executive Officer,  
American Corn Growers Association (moderator)

Dr. Daryll Ray, Director, Agriculture Policy Analysis Center

George Naylor, President, National Family Farm Coalition, Iowa CCI

**Healthy Environment and Healthy Communities** — Room 310

Matt Russell, Organizer, Iowa Citizen Action Network (moderator)

Rosie Partridge, Member, Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement

Dr. William Weida, Director, GRACE Factory Farm Project

Maria Weidner, Environmental Integrity Project

**Global Trade Policy and Rural America** — Wedgewood Room

Robert Gronski, Senior Policy Coordinator,  
National Catholic Rural Life Conference (moderator)

Bill Holland, Campaign Organizer, Iowa Fair Trade Coalition

Russ Kremer, President, Missouri Farmers Union

Dave Neil, President,

Iowa United Auto Workers State Community Action Program

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**12:00-1:15 Lunch and Keynote**

Grand Ballroom

*"Reclaiming Our Heritage, Securing Our Future"*

Mark Ritchie, President, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

**1:30-4:00 Plenary with Presidential Candidates**

Sstate Side Ballroom

**Plenary Welcome:**

The Honorable Leonard L. Boswell,

U.S. Representative, Iowa Third Congressional District

Jeneane Beck, Des Moines Bureau Chief, KUNI Radio (Moderator)

1:30 — Senator John Kerry

2:00 — Governor Howard Dean

2:30 — Representative Dennis Kucinich

3:00 — Representative Richard Gephardt

3:30 — Ambassador Carol Mosley Braun

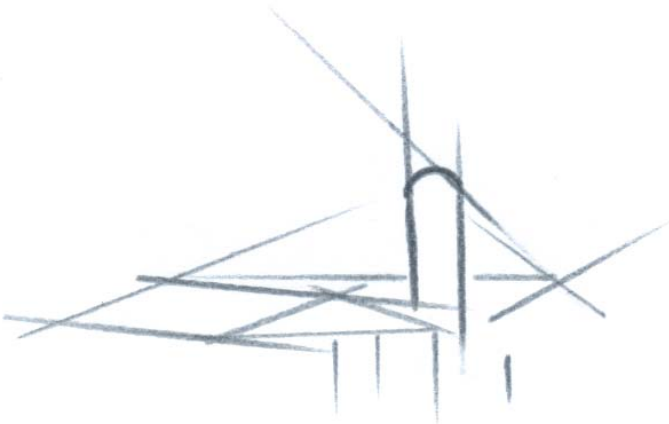
**4:00-4:15 Concluding Remarks**

State Side Ballroom

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Senior Attorney,

National Resources Defense Council

Niel Ritchie, Executive Director, League of Rural Voters



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# BIOGRAPHIES

Jeneane Beck,  
Des Moines Bureau Chief, KUNI Radio

Jeneane Beck joined the news staff for KUNI in early 1999 to serve as the Des Moines bureau chief. She covers Iowa's legislative and political news from a desk in the statehouse. She also hosts a monthly call in show with the Governor. A 1993 graduate of Iowa State University's journalism program, Beck came to KUNI after three years of news and political reporting for WHO-AM in Des Moines. Prior to that she had worked in the news departments of radio stations in Newton and Ames.

Beck is also an occasional guest on the Iowa Public Television Program "Iowa Press."

The Honorable Leonard L. Boswell,  
U.S. Representative,  
Iowa Third Congressional District

Leonard Boswell was first elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1996. He is a member of the Agriculture Committee, and serves on both the General Farm Commodities and Risk Management, and the Livestock and Horticulture subcommittees. Leonard also serves on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and is a member of the Aviation Subcommittee and the Subcommittee on Railroads. In 2001, Leonard was named a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Lisa Davis Cook,  
Co-Executive Director,  
Iowa Citizen Action Network (ICAN)

Lisa Davis Cook is the Co-Executive Director of Iowa Citizen Action Network (ICAN). She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and sociology from Drake University. She began her organizing career with ICAN in June 1997, working on energy, utility and environmental issues as well as lobbying. She left the staff in May 2000 and was subsequently appointed to the Iowa Environmental

Protection Commission, one of the governing bodies of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, as well as the Governor's Energy Policy Task Force, an ad hoc group charged with making recommendation about the state's energy future. In April 2001 she returned to ICAN as Executive Director and in June 2002 became Co-Director with Betty Ahrens.

Iowa Citizen Action Network is a statewide organization of progressives made up of 12,000 individuals and over 40 allied and affiliated organizations. ICAN works on a wide variety of issues that affect the lives of Iowans ranging from health care and energy policy to taxes, campaign finance reform and ag policy. ICAN believes that in Iowa and the United States we must respect human dignity; there must be social, racial, economic and environmental justice for all; citizens must be cared for and respected; and policies and decision must be responsible to future generations. In Iowa and the United States public resources must be committed to working for the public good, and community interests must be valued over narrow economic interests.

Charles W. (Chuck) Fluharty,  
Director, Rural Policy Research Institute

Chuck Fluharty is Director of the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI), the only national policy institute in our country solely dedicated to assessing the rural impacts of public policies. This comprehensive approach to rural policy analysis involves scientists from member institutions at Iowa State University, the University of Missouri, and the University of Nebraska, as well as numerous researchers, policy analysts and policy practitioners from other universities, research institutions, governments, and non-governmental organizations. To date, over 200 scholars representing 16 different disciplines in 80 universities, 40 states, and seven countries have participated in RUPRI projects.

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**Robert T. Gronski, Ph.D.,**  
Senior Policy Coordinator, National Rural  
Catholic Life Conference (NRCLC)

Robert Gronski joined the National Catholic Rural Life Conference in July 1999 and coordinates policy for NCRLC at federal and state levels. Policy positions deal with farm and rural life, land stewardship, water quality, global climate change, genetic engineering and community food security. Gronski has extensive rural development work experience overseas, mainly in the Asia-Pacific region; his doctorate is in rural sociology and the study of the global food system. Gronski continues to examine the impact of the global food system on rural communities through his active memberships in the Rural Sociological Society and Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society.

**Chuck Hassebrook,**  
Executive Director, Center for Rural Affairs

Chuck Hassebrook is Executive Director of the Center for Rural Affairs in Walthill, Nebraska. The center is a nationally recognized research, advocacy and rural development organization that promotes family farming and ranching, small business and sustainable development for agricultural communities.

Chuck has served on the University of Nebraska Board of Regents since 1994 and is a past chairman. He served on former Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman's National Commission on Small Farms and was vice chairman of the USDA Agricultural Science and Technology Review Board. He also has served as co-chairman of the National Sustainable Agriculture Coordinating Council and Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture, co-chairman of the USDA Low Input Sustainable Agriculture Research Program's North Central Region Technical Committee and as a board member for Bread for the World, an ecumenical Christian organization that is an effective anti-hunger lobby in Washington.

**Bracken Hendricks,**  
Executive Director, Apollo Alliance

Bracken Hendricks is the Director of the New Growth Initiative, a joint project of the Institute for America's Future and the Center on Wisconsin Strategy, and Executive Director of the Apollo Alliance. Hendricks served in the Clinton Administration with Vice President Gore's National Partnership for Reinventing Government and as a Special Assistant to the Department of Commerce where he worked served on the President's Council on Sustainable Development, the White House Liveable Communities Task Force, and with the US EPA Smart Growth Network, as well as working on issues of climate change and trade and environmental policy.

The Apollo Alliance is working to build alliances for energy efficiency and regional economic development that creates high skill employment while providing environmental benefits. The Apollo Alliance is a broad coalition of the labor, environmental, business, urban and faith communities in support of good jobs and energy independence. A new Apollo Project provides a hopeful and forward-looking message for investing in communities, rebuilding our economy, and ensuring a healthy environment - while reshaping political coalitions and restoring the national commitment to a positive role for government in meeting major challenges.

**Bill Holland,**  
Campaign Organizer, Iowa Fair Trade Coalition

Bill Holland serves as Campaign Organizer for the Iowa Fair Trade Campaign. Prior to working on the campaign, Bill was the Grassroots Organizer with ForestEthics where he helped lead the successful effort to convince Staples, Inc to dramatically increase their sale of recycled paper and protect endangered forests. Before joining ForestEthics, Bill served as Lead Organizer with GreenCorps, the nation's leading grassroots environmental training program. Bill graduated from Grinnell College.

The Iowa Fair Trade Campaign brings together a coalition of labor unions, family

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farmers, members of the faith community, environmental groups and minority /immigrant rights advocates fighting for trade agreements that support workers, family farmers and our environment. The campaign, sponsored by Americans for Democratic Action, works to ensure the Democratic nominees for President oppose failed trade models and support fair trade and a just global economy. Across the state, the Iowa Fair Trade Campaign is working to raise the issue of global trade through community workshops, media outreach and candidate forums.

**Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.,**  
Senior Attorney,  
National Resources Defense Council

In addition to his work with NRDC, Kennedy JR. serves as Chief Prosecuting Attorney for the Hudson Riverkeeper and President of the Waterkeeper Alliance. He is also a Clinical Professor and Supervising Attorney at the Pace Environmental Litigation Clinic at Pace University School of Law in New York.

Earlier in his career he served as Assistant District Attorney in New York City. He has worked on several political campaigns and was state coordinator for Edward M. Kennedy's 1980 Presidential Campaign. He has worked on environmental issues across the Americas and has assisted several indigenous tribes in Latin America and Canada in successfully negotiating treaties protecting traditional homelands. He is credited with leading the fight to protect New York City's water supply. The New York City watershed agreement, which he negotiated on behalf of environmentalists and New York City watershed consumers, is regarded as an international model in stakeholder consensus negotiations and sustainable development. He helped lead the fight to turn back the anti-environmental legislation during the 104th Congress.

**Russ Kremer,**  
President, Missouri Farmers Union

Russ Kremer is a diversified family farmer from Osage County, Missouri and president of the Missouri Farmers Union. He is a member of the board of directors of the

National Farmers Union and serves on their Cooperative Development, Legislative, and Farm Bill committees. A past president of the Missouri Pork Producers Association, Kremer has served on the agricultural advisory committee of five different Missouri governors. He is actively working with various community based, value added, cooperative projects such as cooperative distribution; sustainable production, processing and marketing of livestock; organic dairy and vegetable processing; and biomass recovery.

Missouri Farmers Union was founded March 24, 1999, by Missouri family farmers concerned with the lack of profitability in production agriculture, dwindling market opportunities and deteriorating conditions in rural Missouri. The mission of Missouri Farmers Union is to protect and enhance the economic interests and way of life of family farmers and ranchers and the rural communities they represent.

**Linda Meschke,**  
Executive Director,  
Blue Earth River Basin Initiative

Linda and her husband David raise corn, soybeans and hogs on their family farm near Welcome, Minnesota, which has been in David's family since 1883. In her role as both a family farmer and executive director of the Blue Earth River Basin Initiative, a non-profit organization focused on implementing conservation practices and changing the landscape to improve water quality in south central Minnesota, Linda has been a leader in efforts to identify viable alternative crops for the region, having already organized some informational meetings about third crops in the area. Linda also has a long history of promoting educational efforts among farmers, from her work in the 1980s as a vocational agricultural instructor and FFA advisor to her current efforts in working with area farmers on third crops and water quality.

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Larry Mitchell,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
American Corn Growers Association

Larry Mitchell serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the American Corn Growers Association (ACGA), one of the country's most respected voices for corn growers and producers of all crops and livestock. ACGA has 15,000 active members in 35 states.

Mitchell previously served as Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Deputy Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation. As Deputy Administrator, he was responsible for converting farm program legislation into working policies and procedures that regulate the delivery of FSA's conservation, commodity and emergency programs.

Prior to working with FSA, Mr. Mitchell served as Vice President of Government Relations for the National Farmers Union (NFU) in Washington, D.C. His primary duties were serving as Chief Administrator of NFU's Washington office and as their head government relations representative. His areas of responsibility were crops, taxes, aging, farm credit, banking, trade and the futures market.

George Naylor,  
President, National Family Farm Coalition

George Naylor raises 470 acres of corn and soybeans near Churdan, Iowa, with his wife Peggy and two young sons. Soon after coming back to the family farm in 1976, Naylor was elected to the first Iowa Corn Promotion Board and began driving tractors in tractorcades with the American Agriculture Movement. From 1989 through 1991 he served on the Executive Committee of the Iowa Chapter of the Sierra Club. Naylor was a member of Governor Vilsack's Ag Taskforce in 1999 and currently represents Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement on the board of the National Family Farm Coalition. Naylor is a plaintiff in a class action lawsuit against Monsanto and other biotech companies dealing with the negative economic impacts on family farmers by the introduction of genetically modified crops.

The National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC), founded in 1986, brings together farmers and others to organize national projects focused on preserving and strengthening family farms and rural communities. The organization's mission is to serve as a national link for grassroots organizations working on family farm issues. NFFC membership currently consists of 30 grassroots farm, resource conservation, and rural advocacy groups from 32 states. NFFC coordinates grass roots efforts on the following issues: farm and trade policy centered on cost of production plus profit pricing at the farm level; equal access to farm credit programs; environmental stewardship; an affordable food supply; educational campaigns about biotechnology and corporate control of food production.

David G. Neil,  
President,  
Iowa UAW State Community Action Program

David Neil is the president of the Iowa UAW State Community Action Program, a position he has held since 1995. He was hired at the Waterloo John Deere Tractor Works in 1960, where he was a member of UAW Local 838. From 1960 to 1978, Mr. Neil held various union positions, including steward, financial secretary, vice president, divisional steward, full-time committeeman, elected negotiator, and secretary treasurer of the UAW Agricultural Implement Council. During those years he also farmed.

The Iowa UAW Community Action Program (CAP) was created in the 1960's to develop and advance policies that improve social and economic conditions and enrich the quality of life for all people.

Denise O'Brien,  
Coordinator,  
Women Food and Agriculture Network

Denise O'Brien has been an organic farmer in southwest Iowa for 28 years. In addition to serving as Coordinator for Women Food and Agriculture Network, an organization she co-founded in 1997, O'Brien also serves on the Iowa Food Policy Council, the Agriculture

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Product Advisory Council, the Advisory Board of the Henry A. Wallace Endowed Chair for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University, and is the President of the Iowa Association of County Conservation Boards. She also is on the board of the Community Food Security Coalition and Agriculture Missions, Inc.

Women, Food and Agriculture Network is a membership organization that "links and amplifies women's voices on issues of food systems, sustainable communities and environmental integrity." WFAN publishes a quarterly newsletter and manages a listserv for members. WFAN's program areas include working with women landowners on natural resource and conservation management, participating in national and international fora on agriculture policy and globalization, leadership development, and providing on farm experiences and mentoring for young women.

**David Osterberg,**  
Director, Iowa Policy Project

David Osterberg of Mount Vernon, Iowa, is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health in the University of Iowa College of Public Health. A six-term member of the Iowa House of Representatives from 1983-94, he was a candidate for the U.S. Senate in 1998. In 1999 and 2000, he was a consultant on global climate change and renewable energy for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. In 2000, Osterberg helped to found the Iowa Policy Project, a nonpartisan, nonprofit research organization that produces reports on a variety of issues facing Iowa policy makers, including taxes, renewable energy and trends in Iowa income and jobs. IPP's current research and projects include animal agriculture, water quality, and funding of environmental programs, as well as continued attention to tax policy and employment issues.

**Ralph Paige,**  
Executive Director, Federation of Southern Cooperatives/ Land Assistance Fund

Ralph Paige has worked for the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund (Federation/LAF) for the past 28 years. For the last fourteen years, he has served as Executive Director of this unique cooperative economic development organization serving black family farmers and other low-income people across the rural South. Throughout the years, he has helped to create cooperatives for low-income people, encompassing credit unions, agricultural, housing and worker cooperatives, and alternative agricultural development for minority farmers throughout the southeast United States. His work also includes international cooperative development in South Africa & The Gambia. The Federation/LAF works with 75 low-income cooperatives and which collectively create millions of dollars in development in rural communities on an annual basis.

**Rosie Partridge,**  
Member,  
Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement

Rosie has been a factory farm fighter since 1995 when she joined Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement. Rosie has been an outspoken proponent of strong air quality rules for factory farms for over three years. Rosie and her husband own a small business and live in Wall Lake, Iowa.

Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement's purpose is to empower and unite grassroots people of all ethnic backgrounds to address problems in their communities and win social, economic and environmental justice. We began organizing farmers in 1981 during the farm crisis and currently our members are concerned with corporate concentration in agriculture. We are focused on halting the spread of corporate factory farms and protecting our environment. We support sustainable family farmers. Iowa CCI is also a member of two national coalitions: the Campaign for Family Farms and the National Family Farm Coalition.

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**Chris Peterson,**  
Vice President, Iowa Farmers Union

Chris was elected vice president of the Iowa Farmers Union in 2000 and re-elected in 2002. He and his wife Kristi have operated a diversified family farm in Clear Lake, Iowa for the past 28 years, raising corn, soybeans, hay, hogs and children. Chris is active in the National Farmers Union, Clean Water Network, Sierra Club, Iowa CCI, and the Center of Rural Affairs. He also serves on the boards of Iowa Citizen Action Network and Friends of Rural America.

**Dr. Daryll Ray,**  
Director, Agriculture Policy Analysis Center,  
University of Tennessee

Daryll Ray is a professor of Agricultural Economics at The University of Tennessee and Director of the Agriculture Policy Analysis Center at the University of Tennessee. Dr. Ray is the author of *Rethinking U.S. Agriculture Policy: Changing Course to Secure Farmer Livelihoods Worldwide*, a new report published by APAC this past September. Previously on the Oklahoma State University faculty, Dr. Ray received his B.S. and Ph.D. from Iowa State University.

The Agricultural Policy Analysis Center (APAC) was created in 1992 at the University of Tennessee around the newly-established Blasingame Chair of Excellence in Agricultural Policy. The Center resides in the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Tennessee. For more than a decade, farmers, policy makers, analysts and others interested in and affected by agriculture-related policies have come to recognize and to depend on the reliable information APAC delivers. They use this information to interpret how external factors will influence their agricultural business decisions.

**Mark Ritchie,**  
President,  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

Mark Ritchie is the President of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and serves as the policy consultant to the W.K. Kellogg

Foundation's new Food and Society Initiative. For the past 30 years he has been active in a wide range of campaigns on environmental, health, hunger, and social issues ranging from the Nestle Boycott in the 1970s to current campaigns addressing trade and globalization, human, plant and animal genetic engineering, human health threats from factory farming and aquaculture, and the economic destruction of rural communities in the U.S. and abroad.

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy works for the economic, social and environmental health and well being of rural people, communities and regions as an independent, non-profit research, education and advocacy organization. Operating on local, national and international levels, we address key issues on food safety, security and health; conservation-based agriculture and forestry; rural development; agricultural trade; and civil society. Throughout our work, we advocate for openness and democracy in global agencies and decision-making, using information technology to raise non-governmental organizations' (NGOs) capacities.

**Niel Ritchie,**  
Executive Director, League of Rural Voters

Niel Ritchie is the Executive Director of the League of Rural Voters, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to increasing the representation of rural people in the policymaking process.

Prior to that Niel has served as the National Organizer for the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and was responsible for outreach and networking among U.S. Farm Groups, and for building relationships with non-farm group partners including environmental, consumer, business, labor and church groups.

Niel was a founding member of the Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue, serving as the US Co-chair of the Trade Policy Working Group for three years. He launched Minnesotans for Safe Foods, a consumer coalition working to improve food safety through best practices in on-farm management of livestock and improved processing techniques. Niel has managed a

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number of political campaigns in the upper Midwest and is the author of numerous articles and op/eds on food and farm policy.

**Mark Schultz,**

Director, Policy and Organizing Program of the Land Stewardship Project

Mark Schultz directs the Policy and Organizing Program of the Land Stewardship Project (LSP) in Minnesota. The program has a dual focus – stopping factory farms and the corporate consolidation of agriculture, while promoting democratic participation in societal decisions and forging sustainable family farm alternatives in policy and practice. He has 22 years of experience in both rural and urban organizing. From 1987 through 1989, Mark directed LSP's Farmland Investor Accountability Program, which successfully challenged the farm investment management policies and practices of major life insurance companies who were foreclosing on family farmers and abusing the land. In 1993, Mark began working with LSP members in Minnesota communities to stop factory farms and fight the corporate takeover of the livestock industries. In 1995, Mark co-founded the Campaign for Family Farms and the Environment, which is a major effort by family farm organizations to confront and stop corporate-controlled factory farms, corporate concentration, and the organizations that front for them.

The Campaign for Family Farms and the Environment (CFFE) was formed in 1995 by midwestern farm groups working to stop factory farms and protect and promote family hog farmers. Iowa CCI has been a part of CFFE for the past 6 years working with Missouri Rural Crisis Center, Land Stewardship Project (Minnesota), Illinois Stewardship Alliance and Farmers' Legal Action Group (Minnesota).

**Matt Russell,**

Organizer, Iowa Citizen Action Network

Matt Russell, an organizer with Iowa Citizen Action Network, works on policy and grassroots organizing in the health care arena. Prior to coming to ICAN in July, Matt's background has been in food, agriculture, and rural life. He has worked as an organizer for National Catholic Rural Life Conference, will receive his MS in rural sociology from Iowa State University in December, and continues to be involved with his family's farm in southwest Iowa.

**Dr. William J. Weida,**

Director, GRACE Factory Farm Project

Bill Weida is Director of the GRACE Factory Farm Project. He was born and raised in Idaho Falls, Idaho, and recently retired as a Professor of Economics and Business at The Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO, where he specialized in regional economics, statistics, and econometric modeling. In his role as Project Director of the Grace Factory Farm Project Dr. Weida assists communities that are evaluating large agricultural projects. He acts as an expert witness in permit hearings and provides analysis of economic impacts, nutrient management calculations, and water use impacts.

The GRACE Factory Farm Project was established in 1996 to eliminate factory farming in favor of a sustainable, economically viable and environmentally sound agricultural sector. The GRACE Factory Farm Project (GFFP) works to create a sustainable food production system that is healthful and humane, economically viable, and environmentally sound. When invited by regional or grassroots groups, the GFFP helps rural communities, family ranchers and farmers around the country oppose the spread of new factory farms, and close down existing operations that adversely affect the health and well-being of communities.

Maria Weidner,  
Field Coordinator,  
Environmental Integrity Project (EIP)

In her role as EIP's Field Coordinator, Ms. Weidner works with state, local and grassroots groups in dealing with issues involving Clean Air and Clean Water Act enforcement, with an emphasis on CAFOs and oil refineries. Before joining EIP, Ms. Weidner was a Policy Advocate at Earthjustice, where she ran White House Watch-a program dedicated to responding to anti-environmental Bush administration actions, including nominations and administrative issuances.

The Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization established in March of 2002 to advocate for effective enforcement of federal environmental laws. Eric Schaeffer founded the organization with support from the Rockefeller Family Fund and other foundations. EIP's objectives are: To provide thorough and fair analyses of how failure to enforce or implement environmental laws increases pollution and adversely impacts the public's health; to hold government agencies and individual corporations accountable for failing to enforce or comply with environmental laws; and to help local communities obtain the full protection of environmental laws.

## The National Summit on Agriculture & Rural Life

Was sponsored in large part by the:



FAIR PRICES • FAIR WAGES • FAIR TRADE

The League of Rural Voters is a non-partisan organization dedicated to increasing the representation of rural people in the policymaking process. Its goals include raising awareness of the political roots of the rural economic crisis; increasing rural residents' participation in elections, and increasing rural community representation in debates over agriculture, energy, environment and economic policy.

P.O. Box 80259 • Minneapolis, MN 55408  
Phone: (612) 270-0276 • Fax: (612) 823-5029 • email: [info@leagueofruralvoters.org](mailto:info@leagueofruralvoters.org)

[www.leagueofruralvoters.org](http://www.leagueofruralvoters.org)

...add your voice to a growing chorus for change!

# 2003 NATIONAL SUMMIT ON Agriculture & Rural Life

*Building a Prosperous Rural Economy—Securing America's Future*

The League of Rural Voters would like to thank the following organizations for their support in hosting the 2003 National Summit on Agriculture and Rural Life.

Agriculture Policy Analysis Center  
[www.agpolicy.org](http://www.agpolicy.org)

Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and  
the Environment  
[www.asje.org](http://www.asje.org)

American Corn Growers  
Association [www.acga.org](http://www.acga.org)

Apollo Alliance  
[www.apolloalliance.org](http://www.apolloalliance.org)

Blue Earth River Basin Initiative  
[www.berbi.org](http://www.berbi.org)

Campaign for Family Farms

Center for New Community  
[www.newcomm.org](http://www.newcomm.org)

Center for Rural Affairs  
[www.cfra.org](http://www.cfra.org)

Clean Water Action  
[www.cleanwateraction.org](http://www.cleanwateraction.org)

Defenders of Wildlife  
[www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org)

Environmental Integrity Project  
[www.environmentalintegrity.org](http://www.environmentalintegrity.org)

FarmAid  
[www.farmaid.org](http://www.farmaid.org)

Federation of Southern  
Cooperatives  
[www.federationsoutherncoop.com](http://www.federationsoutherncoop.com)

Food and Allied Service Trades-  
AFL-CIO  
[www.fastaflcio.org](http://www.fastaflcio.org)

GRACE Factory Farm Project  
[www.factoryfarm.org](http://www.factoryfarm.org)

Humane Society of the U.S.  
[www.hsus.org](http://www.hsus.org)

Institute for Agriculture and Trade  
Policy  
[www.iatp.org](http://www.iatp.org)

Iowa Citizen Action Network  
[www.yawp.com/ican](http://www.yawp.com/ican)

Iowa Citizens for Community  
Improvement  
[www.iowacci.org](http://www.iowacci.org)

Iowa Environmental Council  
[www.earthweshare.org](http://www.earthweshare.org)

Iowa Fair Trade Coalition  
[www.fairtradenow.org](http://www.fairtradenow.org)

Iowa Farmers Union  
[www.iafu.org](http://www.iafu.org)

Iowa Policy Project  
[www.iowapolicyproject.org](http://www.iowapolicyproject.org)

Iowa Rural Development Council  
[www.iowarural.org](http://www.iowarural.org)

Iowa UAW State Community  
Action Program  
[www.uaw.org](http://www.uaw.org)

Land Stewardship Project  
[www.landstewardshipproject.org](http://www.landstewardshipproject.org)

Minnesota Rural Partners, Inc.  
[www.minnesotaruralpartners.org](http://www.minnesotaruralpartners.org)

Missouri Farmers Union  
[www.missourifarmersunion.org](http://www.missourifarmersunion.org)

Missouri Rural Crisis Center  
[www.morural.org](http://www.morural.org)

National Catholic Rural Life  
Conference  
[www.ncrlc.org](http://www.ncrlc.org)

National Family Farm Coalition  
[www.nffc.net](http://www.nffc.net)

Renewing the Countryside  
[www.renewingthecountryside.org](http://www.renewingthecountryside.org)

Rural Advocacy 2000  
[meshke@bevcomm.net](mailto:meshke@bevcomm.net)

Rural Policy Research Institute  
[www.rupri.org](http://www.rupri.org)

Waterkeeper Alliance  
[www.keeper.org](http://www.keeper.org)

Women, Food & Agriculture  
Network  
[www.wfan.org](http://www.wfan.org)

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