

Landmark Hemp Harvest in Colorado



In the fall of 2013, industrial hemp was harvested in Colorado. It was the first hemp to be commercially harvested in the U.S. in over fifty years. The fifth annual Hemp History Week campaign this year (June 2–8, 2014) will celebrate this milestone and advocate for federal policy change to further facilitate the reintroduction of this eco-friendly and versatile crop. **Find an event near you, learn more and watch the campaign video, and get involved today at: www.hemphistoryweek.com.**

Support for Raising Minimum Wage Gains Momentum

The Miller-Harkin Fair Minimum Wage Act, introduced in 2013, would raise the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10 per hour over a three-year period, and it would also raise the tipped minimum wage from \$2.13 per hour to 70% of the regular minimum wage. Raising the minimum wage would benefit twenty-nine million low-wage workers, while costing consumers an average of just ten cents per day. As legislators consider raising the federal minimum wage, significant progress has been made in efforts to raise the minimum wage locally, including a law in California raising the state minimum wage to \$10.00 per hour by 2016 and a vote by the Washington, DC City Council to raise the minimum wage there to \$11.50 per hour. **Learn more and get involved through the Food Chain Workers Alliance at: www.foodchainworkers.org.**



Domestic Fair Trade Association Launches Certification Evaluation

Six major certifiers have been evaluated by the Domestic Fair Trade Association (DFTA) based on their principles, including the rights of farmworkers. The group believes that these efforts will contribute to lasting change in the marketplace with benefits to farmers, farmworkers and mission-driven businesses. **Find out more at: www.thedfta.org/what-we-do/evaluations.**

Report Exposes Violations on Palm Oil Plantations

A joint report by Sawit Watch and the International Labor Rights Forum, based on case studies at three palm oil plantations, recently revealed the prevalence of human rights abuses, including labor trafficking, child labor, unprotected work with hazardous chemicals and long-term abuse of temporary contracts. All three plantations were also certified under the voluntary Roundtable and Sustainable Palm Oil Program which forbids these practices. Palm oil is found in many processed foods, including most snack foods, and is primarily grown on plantations in Indonesia and Malaysia. Get updates from the International Labor Rights Forum at: www.laborrightrights.org.

GMO Labeling Initiative Barely Loses in Washington State; Fight Continues in Other States

I-522, the Washington state ballot initiative to label foods containing genetically modified organisms (GMOs), was narrowly defeated by a vote of 51–49%. The fight to label GMOs, however, continues with increasing momentum in other states. Connecticut and Maine have already passed laws that will require GMOs to be labeled once a critical mass of states pass similar laws. Vermont, Oregon and New York have introduced strong, promising bills and represent key markets, and other states have ongoing labeling initiatives as well.

2014 Named Year of the Family Farmer



2014
International Year of
Family Farming

The UN General Assembly has designated 2014 as the "Year of the Family Farmer" as a way to highlight the 85% of the world's farmers who farm on a small scale, as well as their roles in food security, food sovereignty, sustainable agriculture and community development.

New Film Highlights Plight of U.S. Farmworkers

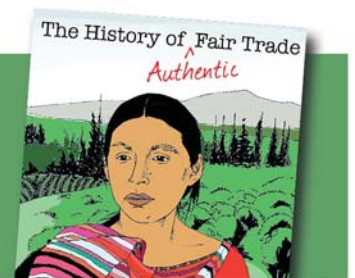
The new film *Hungry for Justice: Spotlight on the South* provides a snapshot of the injustices present in our current food system and introduces one of the promising market-based solutions that has arisen — Food Justice Certification, a project of the Agricultural Justice Project. It tells the story of a farm in the South and their commitment to focusing on social justice issues for their farmworkers by seeking this certification and market label. The sixteen-minute film will launch during Farmworker Awareness Week (March 24–31, 2014). **Contact littlebeanproductions@gmail.com if you would like to host a screening.**

Mixed Results for Sustainability and Fairness in New Farm Bill

After dramatically failing to pass a Farm Bill in the summer of 2013, Congress finally passed a new Farm Bill in early 2014. At that time, Fair World Project joined over 400 other organizations in outlining the need for a full and fair bill. The new bill sets domestic agriculture policy, including subsidies and other benefits for large-scale commodity farmers, programs to benefit smaller-scale and sustainable farmers, including conservation programs, and the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) which assists forty-seven million low-income people in meeting their basic needs. The final Farm Bill included some promising language for new farmers and those committed to sustainability, hemp research and livestock welfare, though it fell short in protecting all conservation programs and SNAP benefits, and in reforming farm subsidies. **Get further information and analysis at: www.sustainableagriculture.net/blog/2014-farm-bill-outcomes.**

History of Authentic Fair Trade Comic Book Published

Phyllis Robinson and Nicholas Reid of Equal Exchange teamed up with illustrator Vendela Larsson to create a comic book version of the history of authentic fair trade. Equal Exchange pioneered fair trade coffee in the U.S., and it is by focusing on coffee with an engaging style that they tell the story of the history and vision of the heroes, villains and events that have led us to today in the movement. The book is available for free as a download from Equal Exchange's Web site, or for \$3.00 in hard copy. **Get more information at: www.equalexchange.coop/comicbook.**



Announcing Fair World Project Fair Trade Coffee



Fair World Project is bringing some of the best coffees from small-scale farmers — and their cooperatives around the world — to you! The "Fair Americas" coffee comes from the Oro Verde Cooperative in the Andean highlands of Peru, the "Fair Africa" coffee comes from the Oromia Cooperative in Ethiopia, and the "Fair Asia" coffee comes from the KKKO Cooperative in Sumatra, Indonesia. The "Fair Americas" coffee is also certified with the Small Producer's Symbol, a distinction that identifies and was created by organized, small-scale producers themselves. We donate \$3.00 from every bag sold of our "Fair Africa" coffee to directly support our work with the Food Chain Workers Alliance, a coalition of worker-based organizations whose members plant, harvest, pack, transport, prepare, serve and sell food, as well as organize to improve wages and working conditions for all workers along the food chain.

Order now at: www.deansbeans.com/coffee/products/fairworldproject.html.