

# Farm-to-Consumer Legal Defense Fund Newsletter

## A letter of Thanksgiving

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## Thank You

**By: Taaron Meikle**

Words cannot express the thanks I have for each and every one of you. Our dairy farmers that are providing wholesome raw milk, our farmers who have raised their animals with a respect unknown to the big confinement operations, the fruit and vegetable farmers who stand up against the GM seed companies and continue to provide us with wholesome fruits and vegetables, the consumers, who are continually discovering the benefits of local, sustainable foods and to the many donors our organizations have had during this year.

You have held rallies all over our great country, you have defended your farmers, you have written letters to your government and, for these actions, we are incredibly thankful. A heart-felt thanks goes to our legal team who has worked many long hours to keep our farms free from government harassment - many of those hours being pro-bono.

I am continually amazed at the passion and dedication these two organizations have had. Our country has gone through a lot of trials over the past year. We have not always gotten the results that we wanted. Right always does win over wrong and we will win in the end. I believe that with all of my heart.

We have a long road to go, still. Financial support is needed now more than ever. We have launched a national campaign against NAIS (National Animal Identification System) and we have many other big issues that we really must take on to gain true freedom for our sustainable farms. Thank you for supporting our organizations as this amazing year comes to an end!

## The End of an Era

The end of an era comes to the Fund and the Foundation this month as Taaron Meikle steps down as

president of both boards. When the Fund was formed back in November 2006, we were in search of an intrepid leader to take on the responsibility of shaping a fledgling non-profit organization dedicated to defending our right to produce and consume nutrient dense foods. Taaron was that leader.

Since assuming the role of president, Taaron has been tireless in shaping policy of the fund, motivating other board members to think about long-term strategy, organizing teleconferences to educate members, interviewing and hiring publicists, web masters, administrative assistants and accountants. Taaron has conducted board meetings, legal committee meetings, and smooth ruffled feathers during times of growing pains. Taaron achieved all of this while home-schooling her four boys in Northern Virginia. We are very grateful for her dedication, her contributions, her vision, her tireless energy and her constant optimism. We will truly miss her as president. Taaron will continue to serve on both boards as an officer.

Taaron stepped down effective November 1st. Taking her place as interim president for the Fund will be attorney Pete Kennedy and as interim president of the Foundation will be dairy farmer Tim Wightman. Both Pete and Tim are original members of the board, are also tireless in their efforts to promote the interests of both organizations, and bring excellent credentials to their positions. We are pleased to have Pete and Tim take over the reins from Taaron.