

## Winter Farmers' Markets and Meals

Thank you for being a partner in our Winter Farmers' Markets and Meals program! Our partnership seeks to:

- help local farmers sell their products and generate income during the winter months
- help faith community members and others purchase local, sustainably-raised products in the winter
- offer a delectable meal, made with local and sustainably-produced foods
- educate community members about the importance of buying local and sustainably-raised products
- give communities a chance to stand on the side of stewarding our land and promoting economic justice for farmers
- foster community and spirituality by building relationships with farmers and among community members

The markets offer a range of products: grass-fed meats and poultry, cheese, yogurt, soap, honey, sorghum, maple syrup, apples, apple cider, eggs, jams, jellies, bakery items, canned goods, wool, yarn, wool clothing. All products are produced locally on farms or small farm cooperatives that take pride in their efforts to use sustainable, organic practices.

The meals are carefully prepared by local chefs or food-savvy members of congregations using savory local foods. Our goal is to foster a sense of community while showcasing high quality, locally-produced ingredients. Many of the foods served can be purchased from the vendors at the Winter Farmers' Markets. Purchasing their products is one of the best ways to sustain our land and foster economic justice for farmers.

The Winter Farmers' Market vendors are asked to donate 10% of their proceeds to the Harvest of Hope Fund, a faith-based farm crisis fund (see below). Thus, every purchase you make from market vendors directly helps two farmers: the farm vendor and a Harvest of Hope recipient. The meal proceeds are split evenly between the congregation and the Food, Faith and

Farming Network, formerly known as Churches' Center for Land and People (CCLP), thus supporting the work of the faith community and our organization.

### Partners in this Project

The Food, Faith and Farming Network is a faith-based organization working to bring forth earth stewardship, economic justice, community and spirituality around issues related to agriculture and food in Wisconsin. In March 1989, a group of 40 church and rural leaders met at Sinsinawa, Wisconsin to discuss how best to respond to a deepening economic struggle in the farming community. Leaders of the involved groups signed a Call Statement to work together and the Churches' Center for Land and People was incorporated. Now known as the Food, Faith and Farming Network, our organization has representatives from several denominations seated on our board. The Network remains true to CCLP's mission, staying attuned to rural realities and providing opportunities to support social and economic justice for farmers in Wisconsin.

The Harvest of Hope Fund (HOH) is an ecumenical, faith-based organization that provides financial help and hope to Wisconsin farm families in difficult situations. The fund provides gifts to farm families needing assistance with emergency needs for food, home heating fuel, medical or veterinary expenses, electric power cut-offs, feed for cattle, machinery repair, spring planting, or to address crises resulting from climatic conditions (drought, floods, frost, hail). HOH is administered by the Madison Christian Community which covers all administrative costs, so every dollar contributed to the fund goes directly to Wisconsin farm families in need. Since the fund was created in January 1986, it has granted over 1645 gifts totaling more than \$1,060,000 to Wisconsin farm families in distress.