

From: Steven Read
Sent: Friday, November 04, 2011 1:31 PM
To: Friends of Shepherd's Way Farms
Subject: Giants Among Us

During the last week, I have been fortunate to attend the 25th anniversary celebrations of two fantastic organizations - the Institute for Agriculture Trade and Policy (IATP) and the Farm Legal Action Group (FLAG) both based here in the Twin Cities. The dedicated staff of these groups, by protecting family farms and rural communities, by promoting fair trade and food policies, work to affect change at the one on one level, the grass roots community level, the national and the global levels. It is sometimes easy for me to be immersed in fighting the good fight for Shepherd's Way and forget those giants that stand with me and why they do so.

Last night, at the FLAG event, Dave Frederickson, a man who has been fighting for farmers as a legislator, Farmers Union president at the state and national levels and now as our State Commissioner of Agriculture, quoted one of FLAG's honorees Betty Puckett as explaining:

"Farming is a special way of life. Helping farmers stay on their land and continue farming is a matter of social justice for me. It's in my blood"

There are far too many names that were mentioned at these events - farmers, activists, lawyers, writers, chefs, academics, supporters - to list all of them without forgetting many. Instead I'll thank them for their passion, their perseverance, their patience and their protection. And I thank you too who stand with all of us as well.

Steven

Steven Read
Shepherd's Way Farms
8626 160th Street East
Nerstrand, MN 55053-2309
612-306-4210
www.shepherdswayfarms.com