

For Immediate Release

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Bringing Fair Trade Home: the Launching of the Domestic Fair Trade Association

In an historic coming together farmers, farmworkers, traders, processors, marketers and food system advocates sat down as equals to bring fair trade home to the US. After 3 years of groundwork, the Domestic Fair Trade Association (DFTA) is ready to welcome new members. The second official annual meeting took place December 7 and 8 in the snowy hills of the Driftless Region at the headquarters of Organic Valley in LaFarge, Wisconsin. The 35 founding members agreed to make it their mission to: "Promote and protect the integrity of Domestic Fair Trade principles through education, marketing, advocacy and endorsements."

DFTA is a coalition of 35 businesses, including marketing and retail coops, farmer, farmworker and indigenous peoples associations, and civil society organizations devoted to organic agriculture and coop development. In addition to Organic Valley, DFTA counts among its members the Northeast Organic Farming Association, Equal Exchange, the White Earth Land Recovery Project, Centro Campesino, CATA, the Rural Advancement Foundation International, the Organic Consumers Association, the Farmer Direct Coop, and the National Cooperative Grocers Association. These diverse groups share a vision of a world where:

The food system functions like a healthy community where neighbors look after and support each other, everyone feels safe, and all contribute to a clean and harmonious environment. Family-scale and community-scale farms thrive. All participants in the food system understand the realities, challenges, and effects of food production and distribution and choose to support fair trade every way they can.

Highlights from the DFTA Annual Meeting 12/6/08

Decisions:

- Amended and approved the Mission and Vision statement, and Bylaws.
- Newest member, Honest Weight Co-op, was approved.
- Peer review, and associate membership proposals were approved.
- Membership took the following immigration policy reform position, with a mandate to the organization to take a more detailed position in the next four months:
 - The DFTA endorses the reform of US immigration policy to conform with DFT principles.
- The membership elected the 2009 Board of Directors.

To learn about the DFT principles, see the full list of DFTA members, or apply for membership, please visit www.dftassociation.com.