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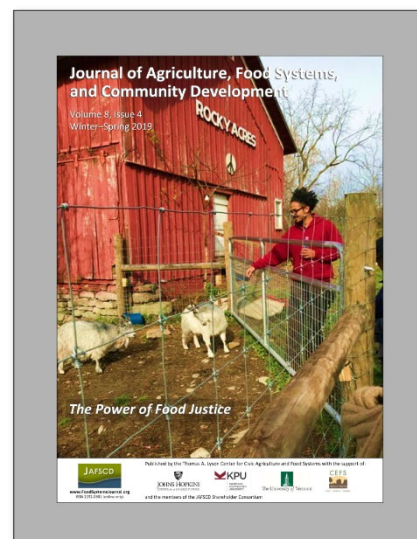
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IN THIS ISSUE  
DUNCAN HILCHEY

## The power of food justice



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In this winter-spring issue, we feature a number of papers that illustrate *The Power of Food Justice*, including two papers about young African American farmers as well as the perspectives of food project stakeholders of color and of farmworkers. As depicted on our cover, farmers of color are growing as a share of all farmers in the United States, despite daunting challenges for these intrepid *agripreneurs*.

We begin the issue with columns that raise two very provocative questions. In *A New Day for Dairy?* **Teresa Mares** and guest co-columnist **Brendan O'Neill** continue to highlight the work of the grassroots group Migrant Justice and the Milk with Dignity program to bring economic justice to dairy farmworkers in Vermont. Can a price premium for milk produced under fair labor conditions move the needle in a positive direction for the ailing dairy industry? By the way, in her newly published book, *Life on the Other Border: Farmworkers and Food Justice in Vermont* (University of California Press), Teresa describes the difficulties of immigrant farmworkers living near the Canadian border.

In *The Future of Food: Separation or Integration?* **John Ikerd** reveals the dangers of attempting to separate food production from nature. As a means of mitigating challenges posed by nature, such separation may create, in fact, unintended consequences.

Our columns are followed by two commentaries. The first is by **Carol Hamilton** of Clemson University and **Brian Raison** of Ohio State University entitled *Understanding Food Labels*. The second is our inaugural JAFSCD Shareholder Commentary, from **Megan Carney**, director of the Center for Regional Food Studies at the University of Arizona, and **Keegan C. Krause**, a graduate student at UA.

Next, we present two **Voices from the Grassroots** essays: *The EarthBox Project in Grayson County, Virginia*, by **Kathy Cole** and **Liza Dobson**, who helped food pantry clientele discover the joys of container gardening;

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*On our cover:* Rafael Aponte is the owner and operator of Rocky Acres Community Farm in the town of Freeville, just northeast of Ithaca, New York. In this photo from fall 2017, Aponte gives a tour of his 10-acre (4-hectare) operation, explaining the cultural significance of raising goats for Black and other communities of color in central Upstate New York. See the article *Building Emancipatory Food Power: Freedom Farms, Rocky Acres, and the Struggle for Food Justice*, by Bobby J. Smith, II, in this issue (<https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2019.084.009>). Photo credit: Bobby J. Smith, II; used with permission.

and *The Time for Macroeconomics in Municipal Food Policy* by **Shellye Suttles**, an African American food policy council coordinator who keeps her eye on the financial big picture as she navigates the complex food policyscape of the city of Indianapolis, Indiana.

In this open call issue, we present a number of peer-review papers intersecting with the theme of the power of food justice. In *Building Emancipatory Food Power: Freedom Farms, Rocky Acres, and the Struggle for Food Justice*, **Bobby J. Smith, II**, presents—through both historical and contemporary cases—the dual nature of food justice that includes dismantling oppressive forms of food power while building emancipatory forms of food power.

This is followed by **Leslie Touzeau's** *“Being Stewards of Land is Our Legacy”: Exploring the Lived Experiences of Young Black Farmers*, in which the young black farmers she interviews, unlike their forebearers, share a sense of empowerment in becoming self-sufficient and autonomous.

In *What Can Be: Stakeholder Perspectives for a Sustainable Food System*, **Jesus Garcia-Gonzalez** and **Hallie Eakin** remind us that the critical first step in community organizing around food is providing the space for potential program participants to reflect on their interests, agency, and capacities in the food system space—before any efforts to build consensus and take collective action.

Next **Nadine Lehrer, Colleen Donovan, and Maureen Gullen** apply a Q study methodology to engage stakeholders in a dive deep to identify and address divergent viewpoints, in their paper *Pairing a Q Study with Participatory Decision-making around Farmworker Safety: A Case in Washington's Tree Fruit Industry*.

*A Case Study of Transitions in Farming and Farm Labor in Southwestern Idaho* by **Lisa Meierotto** and **Rebecca L. Som Castellano** explores the fascinating relationship between demographic trends and crop type in Idaho, and the implications for future applied research.

In another paper from the Pacific Northwest dealing with crop diversification, *Stakeholder Perceptions of the Impact of Cannabis Production on the Southern Oregon Food System*, **Vincent M. Smith, Maud Powell, David Mungeam, and Regan Emmons** identify a number of potential environmental and social impacts from cannabis production that need further exploration.

In *Establishing Sustainable Food Production Communities of Practice: Nutrition Gardening and Pond Fish Farming in the Kolli Hills, India*, **Suraya Hudson, Mary Beckie, Naomi Krogman, and Gordon Gow** assess the different approaches used by groups of home gardeners and fish farmers, discovering that form follows function in what works for each CoP.

**James R. Farmer, Angela Babb, Sara Minard, and Marcia Veldman** then discover that more than economic incentives may be required to attract some segments of the SNAP user population to farmers markets in *Accessing Local Foods: Households Using SNAP Double Bucks and Financial Incentives at a Midwestern Farmers Market*.

*Net Yield Efficiency: Comparing Salad and Vegetable Waste between Community Supported Agriculture and Supermarkets in the UK*, by **Nigel Baker, Simon Popay, James Bennett, and Moya Kneafsey** uses the innovative and comprehensive Net Yield Efficiency approach to show that CSAs produce significantly less waste than the mainstream supermarket-oriented supply chain. Note that this work is published posthumously to carry on the work of lead author Nigel Baker at the behest of his partner and co-authors.

In our last paper in this issue, *Challenges and Sustainability of Wheat Production in a Levantine Breadbasket: The Case of the West Bekaa, Lebanon*, **Salwa Tohmé Tawk, Mabelle Chedid, Ali Chalakh, Sarah Karam, and Shadi Kamal Hamadeh** identify important challenges facing the sustainability of wheat production. These include farmers resorting to hybrid wheat varieties, their dependence on wheat subsidies as an incentive, the lack of land tenure security, and the virtual absence of well-organized cooperatives.

We round out the issue with a veritable feast of book reviews:

**Danielle Robinson** reviews *Good Apples: Behind Every Bite*, by Susan Futrell.

**David Cleveland** reviews *Meat Makes People Powerful: A Global History of the Modern Era*, by Wilson J. Warren.

**Jennifer Sumner** reviews *Agri-Food and Rural Development: Sustainable Place-Making*, by Terry Marsden.

**Amy Crone** reviews *Good Food, Strong Communities: Promoting Social Justice through Local and Regional Food Systems*, edited by Steve Ventura and Martin Bailkey.

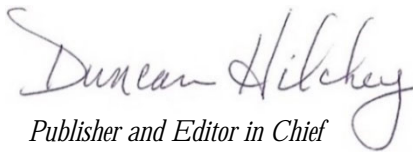
**Thomas Bolles** reviews *SOIL: Notes Towards the Theory and Practice of Nurture Capital*, by Woody Tasch.

**Nevin Cohen** reviews *From Farm to Canal Street: Chinatown's Alternative Food Network in the Global Marketplace*, by Valerie Imbruce.

**Branden Born** reviews *Everyday Experts: How People's Knowledge Can Transform the Food System*, edited by the People's Knowledge Editorial Collective.

I am completing this editorial as I wrap up a nine-hour layover in Philadelphia on my way to Clermont-Ferrand, France, on a Fulbright specialist project. Managing editor (and my wife) Amy Christian is joining me on this trip to evaluate a program developed at VetAgro Sup (<http://www.vetagro-sup.fr/>) that helps farmers and cooperatives do strategic planning to increase their social, economic, and environmental resilience. I am also hoping to bring back some ideas to North America that will strengthen our midlevel supply chains. The French are way ahead of the rest of the developed world in terms of agriculture and rural development. While there is a “McDo” in every larger town, the French still care about and are proudly connected to their food—and the people who produce it—in ways that are truly foreign to those of us from elsewhere. There is a lot to learn from such an agri-culinarily advanced culture.

With appreciation,



*Duncan Hilkey*

*Publisher and Editor in Chief*