

Family Farm Defenders
PO Box 1772
Madison, WI 53701



Phone/Fax 608.260.0900

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As President of the Family Farm Defenders I have had the opportunity to work with, learn from, and visit the Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (MST). In every regard, from presentations at international farmers meetings, to their depth of preparation for land occupations, they offer lessons in both creating democratic change, and what land reform can look like. In each of my encounters with them they have demonstrated a commitment to democracy, and to enriching the human connection to the land.

Family Farm Defenders works to keep farmers on the land and to reverse the loss of farming from the fabric of our society. Our struggle is similar to that of the MST, who are putting people eager to work onto unproductive land. Their work is a model for anyone interested in keeping farming a human endeavor rather than one driven by technology. Their story has value to us in that it is a inspiring demonstration of what perseverance, and grassroots organizing can accomplish. The realities of life in the 'global south' are distant and often difficult to understand. The accomplishments of the MST demonstrate in very human terms the nature of the divide between north and south. On the ground interviews and honest storytelling in trying circumstances can bring a compelling glimpse of the future I believe they are building.

During a recent encounter with the Projectile Arts filmcrew at the 30th of May encampment of the MST recently in Brazil I was able to see them at work and hear of their future plans for telling the MST story. Their work has the cooperation and blessing of the MST, and their method will create a fascinating look at the struggle for land reform in Brazil, with luck it will demonstrate that it can be done everywhere. Family Farm Defenders is not able to fund this project but it is our hope that this letter can aid their fundraising efforts and that once completed, this film will communicate the MST story to the world.

Sincerely,

John Kinsman
President, Family Farm Defenders