

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 30, 2018

### **Family farmers and ranchers tell their stories**

*Billings, Mont.* — A new multimedia project launched today tells the stories of family farmers and others challenging the corporate control and increased industrialization of U.S. food and agriculture.

*Homegrown Stories* features primarily stories based in Colorado, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota and Wyoming. The *Homegrown Stories* website tells the stories through photographs, videos, audio and text interviews. The series is a project of the Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC).

“These stories spotlight farmers, ranchers and rural residents working to rebuild local and regional food systems to sustain independent family farmers and feed local communities,” said Wink Davis, a WORC member and farmer from Hotchkiss, Colorado. “The series shows people working for a better future for their communities.”

*Homegrown Stories* covers a range of issues affecting family agriculture and rural communities, including local food production, livestock markets, trade agreements, healthy soil, confined animal feeding operations, sustainable agriculture, and alternative markets.

“Big Ag has, for too long, controlled the narrative to make it sound like U.S. farmers and consumers should value cheap food and should strive to feed the world,” Davis said. “On this website, farmers and ranchers tell their own stories, including how food sold locally, often directly to eaters, is a growing opportunity that benefits local farmers and consumers alike.”

The launch presents nine stories:

- Mabel Dobbs, *Agriculture Today*, Weiser, Idaho
- Steve Charter, *Soil Regeneration*, Shepherd, Montana
- Luc and Rachel Bourgault, *Local Market Farmers*, Clearmont, Wyoming
- Rick Schwab, *When A CAFO Comes to Town*, Devils Lake, North Dakota
- Doug Yankton, *Spirit Lake Nation*, Crow Hill, North Dakota
- Jenny Bartell, *Connecting Consumers to Producers*, La Grande, Oregon
- Kristi Mogen, *Debunking Myths about CAFOs*, Reville, South Dakota
- Wink Davis, *Direct Marketing*, Hotchkiss, Colorado
- Aaron Johnson, *Organic Producer*, Madison, South Dakota

The series plans to produce 40 stories in 2018.

*Homegrown Stories* is available at [www.homegrownstories.org](http://www.homegrownstories.org).

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*Based in Billings, Mont., the Western Organization of Resource Councils is a seven-state network of grassroots community organizations working to strengthen communities and shape policies on energy and agriculture.*