

New day is dawning in the West

Are exploitive industries going the way of fast guns and saloon girls in the American West?

From grazing on public lands to strip mining, stream pollution, and irresponsible drilling, residents of the American West have typically viewed the land as something to plunder for fun and profit.

But a new day may be dawning in the land of the setting sun as more and more people realize that there is even more fun and profit in responsible land stewardship.

A new report released by the Sierra Club in August shows that the economics of the West have shifted dramatically over the past few decades. Mining, timber, and oil -- the industries that shaped the old West -- no longer drive the region's economy. Today, the report finds, recreational activities like camping, fishing, hunting, skiing, climbing, and boating support more sustainable jobs and economic growth than extractive industries.

The report, "The New Economy of the West: From Clearcutting to Camping," shows that increasingly, western communities depend on public lands for jobs, economic growth, and vital-

ity.

Some key findings in the report:

-One in 20 Americans rely in some manner on outdoor recreation to make a living

-In 2006, outdoor recreation in the West generated \$61 billion and 617,186 new jobs

-Communities that are closest to federally-protected public lands show the strongest economic growth

Despite their importance to the regional and national economy, today, western public lands still face threats from many fronts. Oil and gas drilling, runaway logging, and global warming

Please see PUBLIC, Page 2

Upcoming FWSC programs feature international trips, the area gas drilling boom, and GM's Green Initiative

The Sierra Club offers about 60 international trips per year to all continents.

The September Program for the Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club will describe the types of trips that are offered, their destinations, durations, and prices, and the trip leadership. Austin Brouns will show photographs from four of the International Trips he has participated in. They are:

-Treasures, Tigers, and the Taj Mahal, India (2005): Delhi, Agra, and the National Parks of India. Riding elephants to observe wild game was one of the trip highlights.

-Adventurer's Journey in Patagonia, Chile (2006): An 8-day trek in Laguna San Rafael National Park, followed by 4 days of rafting the Rio Baker. The photos include spectacular views of Patagonia's mountains and glaciers.

-Il Gran Paradiso National Park, Italy (1999): Day trips and hiking in the Italian Alps near the French border, including a cable car journey over the glaciers of Mont Blanc (France).

-The High Pyrenees, France (2002): Day trips and hiking in the National Park of the Pyrenees near the Spanish border.

Brouns joined the Sierra Club in the North Texas Regional Group in 1972. At that time, the Group boundaries extended to the Oklahoma and Louisiana borders, including both Dallas and Fort Worth. The monthly meetings were held at a Unitarian Church on Preston Road in Dallas.

In 1973, the Executive Committee petitioned the Sierra Club to split the Group into two regions, establishing the Dallas and Fort Worth Regional Groups.

The first Chairman of the Executive Committee of the new Fort Worth Group was Everett Harding. In the new Dallas Group, Brouns served as the first Chairman.

He also served as Outings Chairman for two terms and continued for many years to lead backpack and canoe outings and day hikes.

In 1999, Brouns signed up for his first International Sierra Club Trip, to Gran

Paradiso National Park in the Italian Alps. Since then, he has participated in at least one International Outing each year.

OCTOBER

For the October 17 meeting the FWSC will have a presentation regarding the recent drilling boom in the D/FW Metroplex. One of our members, Don Young, has made some significant discoveries regarding the drilling that could affect all of us.

NOVEMBER

The November 21st meeting would have fallen on the day before Thanksgiving had we followed the usual schedule of the third Thursday of the month.

To avoid that potential conflict, that meeting will be held a week earlier, on Nov. 14. At that time, we will have a speaker coming from Detroit, Mich., to discuss GM's green initiatives. Topics may include the progress of the Chevrolet Volt (up to 40 miles without gas), E85, hybrid models, upcoming clean diesel models, and other "green" initiatives. There will be a Q&A as well.

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Greater Fort Worth Sierra Club

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Mission statement

The purposes of the Sierra Club are: To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

-Public lands are a valuable recreation and economic resource in the west CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

all jeopardize the future of recreation in the West, and the long-term economic benefits that accompany it.

Oil drilling, for example, fragments wildlife habitat and destroys hunting opportunities. By and large, the report shows, the oil industry imports highly-skilled workers from other parts of the country, employing few local workers. Oil companies also turn to counties to fund services like road repairs and waste disposal, while doing little to boost jobs and income locally. Meanwhile, recreation and tourism provide a long-term, locally-based source of jobs and income. In Colorado's Roan Plateau, hunting alone generates nearly \$4 million a year.

"Our public lands are one of our nation's most valuable economic assets," said Sierra Club Conservation Organizer Keren Murphy, who au-

thored the report. "The economy of the West has changed, and so should the way we manage it."

"Public lands drive the tourist-based economies in our western states. If we protect special places like Colorado's Roan Plateau and New Mexico's Valle Vidal, they'll provide a source of income and enjoyment for generations to come," Murphy said.

"The heart of America's wild legacy lies in the forests, mountains and deserts of the West. Unchecked logging, oil drilling and mining no longer have a place on our last remaining wild lands. We have a choice to make, between treating our public lands as a giveaway to special interests, or as a gift to our children and grandchildren."

To view the report, visit: <http://www.sierraclub.org/wildlegacy/downloads/2007publicwildlandsreport.pdf>.

More diversity throughout the entire organization is goal of Sierra Club

The Sierra Club's Diversity Council has announced several steps in an effort to internally diversify the Club around the country. While the Sierra Club remains the nation's largest and most effective grassroots environmental advocacy organization, work remains ensure it reflects all the diverse communities found across America. The Sierra Club Board of Directors established the Diversity Council in 2006 to help craft a strategy for diversifying the Sierra Club and demonstrating a commitment to diversity from the national to the local level.

"The Diversity Council has been working hard over the past year because if we do not diversify, we won't meet our conservation goals as an organization," said Diversity Council Co-Chair and Sierra Club Board member Sanjay Ranchod.

Within the past year, the Sierra Club Board of Directors has approved an official Diversity Statement that reflects Sierra Club's commitment to diversity at the staff, volunteer and membership levels. The statement was circulated to Sierra Club leaders across the country for their feedback and consensus via an online bulletin board.

The Diversity Council also con-

ducted an online survey of Sierra Club volunteer and staff leaders to find out how they felt about efforts to diversify the Sierra Club. Survey results indicated that 70% of respondents agree that Sierra Club needs to diversify to achieve our conservation goals.

"Sierra Club leaders know in their hearts that change is needed," said Mark Walters, Diversity Council Co-Chair and a volunteer leader of the Sierra Club's Inner City Outings Program. "But to change, folks simply need to know how to and that is where we can help."

With a clear mandate from Sierra Club leaders around the country to act, the Diversity Council met in Memphis, Tennessee last month to begin drafting a plan to diversify the Sierra Club nationally and locally. Council members will seek comments after a draft plan is presented to the Board of Directors at their October 2007 board meeting. Until then, the Diversity Council urges all Sierra Club leaders to do their part to make the Sierra Club reflect the face of America and educate themselves about efforts to diversify the Sierra Club.

For more information, visit www.clubhouse.sierraclub.org/diversity or www.sierraclub.org/diversity.

Upcoming Sierra Club Events

September 8, Saturday

Want to meet members and get the inside information on outings and other Sierra Club programs? Join us for a cookout in Fort Worth at member's home with hot dogs and fixings to be provided. Bring your own utensils, lawn chair, beverage, and a side dish to share. To reserve your spot, call Tolbert Greenwood (817) 737-8698 or tol@greentol.com or Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242. Need head count by Thursday, Sept. 6.

September 16, Sunday

Sustainable Sunday Lunch. Plant-based, all-you-can-eat buffet from 12 noon until 2 p.m. Regularly \$9, \$1 off for Sierra Club. New Start Veg, (972) 243-0507) 2330 Royal Lane, ste 900, Dallas 75229. Just west of I-35 on the south side of Royal. Organizers: Terry Jensen, email: fw.sierra.sustainability(AT) gmail.com and James Bisby 469-371-1938(H)

September 19, Wednesday

Sierra Club Dinner at Spiral Diner, Magnolia and 6th, Fort Worth. We arrive between 5 and 5:30, then leave around 6:30 for Sierra Club general meeting. Look for Sierra Club sign on table (probably handwritten)

September 19, Wednesday

Fort Worth Sierra Club General Meeting at 7 p.m. Sierra Club International Outings, a slide show presented by: Austin J. Brouns, a Dallas Sierra Club member. Botanic Garden, 817 871-7686, 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard at University, north of I-30, Fort Worth.

September 25, Tuesday

Newsletter Folding Party at 6 p.m. Braum's Restaurant, 6770 Bridge St. at Loop 820, Fort Worth.

September 30, Sunday

An Outings Leader Training Class will be offered for any person desiring to become an outings leader. Want to help with outings and learn more about the outings program? This training to lead dayhikes and car camps will be at the home of Claudia Blalock and will last approximately two hours, beginning at 3 p.m. For more information, call 817-924-6242.

October 2, Tuesday

Sierra Club Excom Meeting, 6 p.m. Spiral Diner & Bakery, 1314 W. Magnolia Av at 6th, Fort Worth. All Sierra

This is an all-inclusive list of activities of the Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club. Check the group website for updates. Most activities are free and open to all. No pets, firearms or radios are allowed on Sierra Club outings. All children (17 years or less) must be accompanied by a parent on any outing. All overnight trips require preregistration with the trip leader. A donation of \$5 per person to the Fort Worth Sierra Club is requested for all overnight trips.

Club members and interested parties are invited to attend this meeting and help shape the policies and events of the Fort Worth Sierra Club.

October 5-7 Friday-Sunday

Hiking at Petit Jean State Park and camping nearby in Morrilton, Ark., gateway to the Ozarks. Arkansas's first and flagship state park includes a spectacular waterfall, Cedar Falls. This trip is in conjunction with the Wichita Falls Sierra Club and all are invited. Since there is a two-night minimum camping requirement in this park for the weekend, we will camp at KOA in Morrilton (Morrilville/Conway KOA (800) 562-9038 or (501) 354-8262) approx. 25 minutes away to allow flexibility for persons who will arrive on Sat. Must contact leader to reserve your reservations for camping: This park is approx 6-7 hours from Fort Worth. Contact Jimmy Brown, (940) 781-7383 or jbrown93@sw.rr.com by Sept. 15 to reserve your space. Park website is www.petitejeanstatepark.com.

October 6, Saturday

Day Hike at Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge Hike 3.5 miles on the natural surface Cross Timbers Trail. Hike through ancient forest. Difficulty level is easy. Please no dogs or strollers, but children welcome. Our 3-year-old will be hiking. Meet at 9 a.m. in the Hardwicke Interpretive Center parking lot. Look for gold Toyota Corolla. Hike cancelled if raining at the Nature Center. No reservations needed, just show up. Entrance fee required. Bring water, snacks, hat and sunscreen. Directions: From Loop I-820, exit Hwy 199 (Jacksboro Highway) and go west 4 miles. Exit Confederate Park Rd. Stay on service road. Turn right at the stop sign. Take Buffalo Road to Fossil Ridge Rd. Turn right onto Fossil Ridge Rd. Drive up the hill to the parking area. Walk up the hill to the pebbled sidewalk. The Hardwicke Interpretive Center is at the end of the sidewalk.

Leader: Scott Carpenter 817-253-0158 (Phone calls before 8 p.m.) or adventureman1@hotmail.com More info: <http://www.fwnc.org/index.php>

October 7, Sunday

Sustainable Sunday Lunch Thai plant-based buffet at Thai Jasmine, (817) 283-8228, 3104 Harwood at Hwy 121, SW corner, Bedford. This all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$9 for adults, \$5 for children. Separate Sierra Singles table. Organizer: Terry Jensen, email: fw.sierra.sustainability(AT) gmail.com

October 13-14, Saturday-Sunday

Car Camp and Day Hike at Tyler State Park in east Texas. This park is about two hours east of Fort Worth with lovely hardwood trees, a lake, and nice hiking trails. Plan to arrive by 1 p.m. Saturday afternoon. We will hike on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning on trails in the state park and camp that evening. Families are welcome. You will be asked to prepay your part of the camping fees to reserve your space (est. \$10 per person). To reserve your place, contact leader: Claudia Blalock, 817-924-6242. Trip limited to 12 persons.

October 17, Wednesday

Sierra Club Dinner at Spiral Diner, Magnolia and 6th, Fort Worth. We arrive between 5 and 5:30, then leave around 6:30 for Sierra Club general meeting. Look for Sierra Club sign on table (probably handwritten)

October 17, Wednesday

Fort Worth Sierra Club General Meeting at 7 p.m. Several speakers discuss the oil drilling now occurring in Tarrant County. Botanic Garden, 817-871-7686, 3220 Botanic Garden Boulevard at University, north of I-30, Fort Worth.

October 21, Sunday

Sustainable Sunday Lunch. Plant-based, all-you-can-eat buffet from 12 noon until 2 p.m. Regularly \$9, \$1 off for Sierra Club. New Start Veg, (972) 243-0507) 2330 Royal Lane, ste 900, Dallas 75229. Just west of I-35 on the south side of Royal. Organizers: Terry Jensen, email: fw.sierra.sustainability(AT) gmail.com and James Bisby 469-371-1938(H)

October 26-28, Friday-Sunday

Canoe and camp at Caddo Lake State Park/Goat Island. This park is about 3

Please see MORE, Page 5

True cost of food much more than your grocery bill

In the 1928 presidential campaign of Herbert Hoover, a newspaper advertisement promised prosperity in the form of “a chicken in every pot and a car in every backyard, to boot.” That prosperity has arrived in spades with food and with cars. Yet worries about global warming and suburban sprawl are making most Sierrans doubt the wisdom of cars, suggesting we should often forego the private automobile in favor of public transportation or bicycles.

It now seems that we should often forego the chicken, too. Despite the assurance of “Big Agribusiness” that our food is the most affordable in history, the Sierra Club’s True Cost of Food campaign exposes the hidden costs to our planet of our meat-rich, pesticide-laden, and transportation-heavy diet.

At the end of 2006, the UN released a report: *Livestock’s Long Shadow – Environmental Issues and Options*. This report had a stunning conclusion: “The livestock sector emerges as one of the top two or three most significant contributors to the most serious environmental problems.” It turns out that raising animals for food is a primary cause of land degradation, air pollution, water shortage, water pollution, loss of biodiversity, and not least of all, global warming.

Following are findings of the Report:

Air Damage

Animal agriculture is responsible for 18 percent of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions as measured in CO₂ equivalents. By comparison, all transportation emits 13.5% of the CO₂. In addition to CO₂, environmentally toxic gases produced by livestock include nitrous oxide, methane, and ammonia generated from the animals’ intestines – belching, flatus, and manure.

Livestock

–Produces 65 percent of human-related nitrous oxide, which has 296 times the Global Warming Potential of CO₂.

–Accounts for 37 percent of all human-induced methane (23 times as warming as CO₂).

–Generates 64 percent of the ammonia, which contributes to acid rain and acidification of ecosystems.

Diversity Damage

Livestock’s very presence in vast tracts of land and its demand for feed crops also contribute to loss of other plants

and animals; livestock is identified as a culprit in 15 out of 24 important ecosystems in decline. The loss of species is estimated at 50 to 500 times higher than background rates of the fossil record.

Water Damage

The livestock business is among the most critical users of the earth’s increasingly scarce water resources; in addition, contributing to water pollution, excessive growth of organisms, depletion of oxygen, and the degeneration of coral reefs, among other things.

Major water-polluting agents are animal wastes, antibiotics, hormones, chemicals from tanneries, fertilizers, and pesticides sprayed on feed crops.

In the US, livestock is responsible for 55 percent of the erosion and sediment, 37 percent of the pesticide use, 50 percent of the antibiotic use, and a third of the load of nitrogen and phosphorus put into freshwater sources.

Widespread overgrazing disturbs water cycles, reducing replenishment of above and below ground water resources. Significant amounts of water are withdrawn for the production of feed.

Land Damage

The total area occupied by grazing livestock is equivalent to 26 percent of the ice-free terrestrial surface of the planet. In addition, the total area dedicated to producing feed crops for these animals amounts to 33 percent of the total arable land.

Clearing forests to create new pastures is a major source of deforestation, especially in Latin America where, for example, some 70 percent of former rainforests in the Amazon have been turned over to grazing. The forests are the major “sinks” for removing the greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

University of Chicago Study

The journal *Earth Interactions* published a study on diet, energy and global warming by Pamela Martin and Gidon Eshel, Assistant Professors in Geophysical Sciences at the University of Chicago.

The study compared the energy consumption and greenhouse-gas emissions that underlie five diets: average American, red meat, fish, poultry and vegetarian all equaling 3,774 calories per day.

The vegetarian diet turned out to be the most energy-efficient, followed by poultry and the average American diet. Fish and red meat virtually tied as the least efficient. The scientists concluded that the food people eat is just as important as what kind of cars they drive when it comes to creating the greenhouse-gas emissions that many scientists have linked to global warming.

The average American drives 8,322 miles by car annually, emitting 1.9 to 4.7 tons of carbon dioxide, depending on the vehicle model and fuel efficiency. Meanwhile, Americans also consume an average of 3,774 calories of food each day.

In 2002, energy used for food production accounted for 17 percent of all fossil fuel use in the United States. And the burning of these fossil fuels emitted three-quarters of a ton of carbon dioxide per person.

That alone amounts to approximately one-third the average greenhouse-gas emissions of personal transportation. But livestock production and associated animal waste also emit greenhouse gases not associated with fossil-fuel combustion, primarily methane and nitrous oxide. While methane and nitrous oxide are relatively rare compared with carbon dioxide, they are far more powerful greenhouse gases than carbon dioxide. A single pound of methane, for example, has the same greenhouse effect as approximately 50 pounds of carbon dioxide.

Said Eshel: “However close you can be to a vegan diet and further from the mean American diet, the better you are for the planet. It doesn’t have to be all the way to the extreme end of vegan. If you simply cut down from two burgers a week to one, you’ve already made a substantial difference.”

Individual Choices

We can help the planet by shifting our food choices towards more:

- Plant-based
- Organic
- Locally-grown

This is nothing doctrinaire, simply the more you make these choices the better. How much better, you ask? The Club’s True Cost of Food campaign wants you to know that your individual food choices definitely make a difference in planetary health, either positive or negative.

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club

More Fort Worth Sierra Club events, outings

hours from Fort Worth near Marshall in East Texas and is Texas' only natural lake complete with Spanish moss. Errie place for Halloween! Plan to arrive early (daylight) if you wish to canoe and camp on Goat Island on Fri. night or for late arrivals car camp at Caddo Lake State Park on Friday. Otherwise on Saturday, we will canoe to Goat Island to spend the night. A potluck affair complete with campfire and ghost stories is planned for Saturday night. Canoe rentals are available through Pine Needles Lodge, but must contact Marilyn Turnage for contact information prior to trip. Canoe rentals are limited. For Friday night camping at the state park, phone Texas State Park Reservations for camping (phone 512-389-8900 or email www.tpwd.state.tx.us). This trip is open to families. Trip ends with a catfish lunch at noon on Sunday. Leader: Marilyn Turnage, 817-491-2382, (email marilynturnage@msn.com). Email is preferred.

November 4, Sunday

Sustainable Sunday Lunch Thai plant-based buffet at Thai Jasmine, (817)

283-8228, 3104 Harwood at Hwy 121, SW corner, Bedford. This all-you-can-eat buffet is served from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$9 for adults, \$5 for children. Separate Sierra Singles table. Organizer: Terry Jensen, email: [fw.sierra.sustainability\(AT\)gmail.com](mailto:fw.sierra.sustainability(AT)gmail.com)

October 30, Tuesday

Newsletter Folding Party at 6 p.m. Braum's Restaurant, 6770 Bridge St. at Loop 820, Fort Worth.

November 3, Saturday

Step It Up 2007. Information, tabling, speakers, rallies designed to help persuade our leaders to Step It Up for 2007. Sierra Club and several environmental groups participating. Healthy Approach Market, 5100 Hwy 121, Colleyville, 76034. 12 noon until 3 p.m. West side of freeway between Hall-Johnson and Glade Roads.

November 7-11, Wednesday-Sunday

Big Bend National Park Van Trip. Join us for a long weekend in one of the nation's most scenic national parks, about 9 hours away from Fort Worth. We'll travel by van, leaving early Wednesday a.m. and arriving before sunset. We will return before midnight on Sun,

Nov. 11. Detailed trip descriptions will be provided in future announcements. The cost remains at \$175 per person – a real bargain with the price of gas. Mail checks prior to Oct. 31, payable to Fort Worth Sierra Club, to Todd Nichols, 200 Hibiscus Dr. Arlington 76018. For more information contact Todd at 817-937-5217.

Classifieds

1st Edition Ed Abbey

Rare, first edition of Ed Abbey's *Cactus Country: The American Wilderness*. Prices for this out-of-print edition range from \$89.99 to \$350 on Amazon. Buy for \$50 and make your money do double duty. You'll have the book and, at the same time, contribute to the Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club, which will receive the money. Email jmoody166@mac.com.

Garmin GPS Unit

Garmin GPSMap 76S with detailed moving map, electronic compass, altimeter, and large, high-resolution display. Will not work with my Mac. Best offer with money going to FW Sierra Club. jmoody166@mac.com.

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Membership

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Annual dues include subscription to Sierra (\$7.50) and chapter publications (\$1.00). Dues are not tax deductible.

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Mail to Sierra Club Member Services, 85 Second St.
2nd Floor, San Francisco, Calif. 94105-3441

Forming an organic group co-op has never been easier

It is really easier to form a local organic produce co-op in your area than you might think. You can buy what you want and pay a local farmer directly. Simplicity is the order of the day.

1. Form a group of 3 to 6 families. If you need help finding people to participate or a group to join, click <http://dfwnetmall.com/earth/coop-buying-club.htm>

2. Work out a driving schedule within your group and have everyone understand they will take a turn driving as there is no delivery service. A van or truck isn't needed. A small car is fine.

3. Name a contact person to organize the group and schedule drivers, etc.

4. The contact person can also call the farmer before each visit to see what is available. Tell the farmer what you want to buy on the following Saturday no later than Wednesday morning.

5. Handle payment either before or after pick-up. Payment to the driver is the decision of each individual group.

6. Early arrival is important to pick up the produce, particularly when there is no prior order.

7. The driver takes the produce home,

sorts it out, and each person picks up their produce at a group delivery time. Delivery at a later date means the driver must use refrigeration or ice chests to keep the produce cold.

8. Farm fresh produce normally last two or more weeks so there is no need for a group to drive more often than every two weeks. With four people, each person will only drive 4-5 times in a 7 month growing season. Get six people and you will cut driving times even more. More than 6 families is a hassle, plus the amount of food ordered may be too much for a small car.

9. You buy only what you want, pay the farmer directly, and don't pay any processing or middle-man fees.

10. A few local farmers are supported. Hopefully that list will grow.

11. This will not take the place of the grocery store. It will give you farm-fresh, local, certified organic or naturally-grown produce in season and the satisfaction of supporting your family's health and the health of our planet.

Where to Buy

Certified Organic Farmer: Located in Old Town Coppell at Bethel and

Coppell Roads, the Coppell Farmer's Market can be reached from LBJ Fwy or Hwy 121. 455 W. Bethel Road, one mile west of Denton Tap Road. 8 a.m. until sellout. Phone 972-304-7043 farmersmarket@ci.coppell.tx.us

Natural Farmers: 325 S. Main St. (behind the gazebo downtown). Saturday, 8 a.m. to sellout; 817-410-3185 or 1-800-457-6338. Paradise Hill Specialties and Les and Dolly Orrell have booths and both say they use no chemicals at this time. However, both said they may have to use chemicals to control grasshoppers soon so ask before you buy.

Natural Farmers: Several farmers sell local, natural produce at Elizabeth Anna's Old World Garden, 2825 8th Av, Fort Worth from 6 p.m. until sell-out.

Natural Farmer: Nature's Harvest Community Market, Spiral Diner, Sunday, 11 a.m. until sellout. 1314 W. Magnolia.

Natural Farmer, as we define it, is a farmer who states that he/she does not use chemical fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides. Although, we believe this to be true, unfortunately, we have no way of verifying it.

The Greater Fort Worth Group of the Sierra Club