

## **A Message from the NOFA Interstate Council Regarding the Latest Issue of The Natural Farmer**

January 2021

Dear NOFA Members,

You likely have already received the Winter 2020-2021 issue of The Natural Farmer; and if not, it should soon arrive in your mailbox. After discussion, we, the members of the NOFA Interstate Council, are writing to the NOFA membership to provide some context and response regarding the content of Section B, titled “Special Supplement on Who Owns Science?”.

As background, The Interstate Council provides coordination between the chapters and acts as an umbrella organization for projects of collective interest to NOFA chapters. In addition, it is the publisher of The Natural Farmer (TNF). The longtime editor of TNF, Jack Kittredge, has given much effort and many years of service to the NOFA community, and this Winter issue is his last as he has been planning to retire. We wish him well in his retirement and thank him for 32 years of service as editor for the paper.

Our concerns about the supplement are that the vaccine-related content does not provide enough context or a sufficiently broad spectrum of viewpoints to inform our readership on what is clearly a topic of immediate and national concern. That some of the information derives from sources that stand against some of our most deeply held values is additionally problematic.

Independent of whether the topic of vaccines even belongs in our farming-centered publication (a decision made for this issue, as for every previous one, independently by the editor), we feel that the only responsible way to have included such a topic would be to include vigorous comments from voices in mainstream public health to offer an alternative point of view. We deeply regret that was not done.

Going forward, we will develop a more thorough process for editorial review which will advise and support the incoming editor.

Thank you for your understanding. Please stay safe.

Warmly,

The NOFA Interstate Council

MA, RI, NJ, NH, NY, VT, CT