

Letters

Posted April 10, 2008

War Is Not The Answer

The Board of ALBA is concerned that the Weekly presented the complaints of two of ALBA's 24 tenants in a hostile manner ["Land War," April 3-9]. The facts in this situation do not support the dramatic headline. There is no war, and ALBA has certainly not geared up for any battle.

Despite assertions to the contrary, ALBA remains fully committed to its mission to advance economic viability, social equity, and ecological land management among limited-resource and aspiring farmers. To fulfill that mission we must serve as wise stewards of our resources. We share that duty with ALBA farmers through our expectation that they fulfill their contractual obligations.

ALBA strives to treat all of its students and tenants with respect. We are fully aware of the differences that can arise across the several cultures represented within the ALBA family. When these differences lead to misunderstanding and conflict, it saddens all of us. Yet we must expect all farmers to adhere to appropriate and effective farming practices.

In this way, farmers will achieve their goals and ALBA will continue to attract the resources needed to continue its educational programs.

We appreciate all points of view regarding ALBA and its work. Learn more at albafarmers.org and please send your comments to my attention at ALBA.

***Edward Moncrief, board president, Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association
(ALBA)***