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**Insight: In "Green Wheat" drive, Wal-Mart may transform farming**

By [Michael Hirtzer](#) CHICAGO | Thu Jun 21, 2012 1:09am EDT

(Reuters) - Wal-Mart Stores Inc has long used its commercial might to forge a global supply chain with ruthless efficiency. It now has a new target: U.S. wheat fields.

As part of efforts to reduce its carbon footprint and burnish its image as an environmentally responsible company, the huge retailer is sending senior employees into the fields for the first time ever, looking for ways to help farmers reduce their use of carbon-intensive fertilizer or improve logistics.

"We don't have a lot of visibility in the supply chain, so we started in the field," says Robert Kaplan, a sustainability manager at the Bentonville, Arkansas-based firm. "I hadn't seen a wheat field before and I wanted to find out how we go from a green crop in the fields to flour on our shelves."

This May, Kaplan and a colleague were the first Wal-Mart employees ever to attend the annual crop tour across the No. 1 winter wheat state Kansas, a rite of passage for traders, analysts, academics and buyers for the past 55 years.

The aim is simple: use Wal-Mart's commercial muscle to get its Great Value-branded flour and wheat products from field to shelf more efficiently, using less carbon.

In the process, however, Wal-Mart may end up initiating transformative changes in the way U.S. farmers grow wheat, lowering costs and improving yields for a crop that has failed to keep pace with the dramatic improvements in sustainability of other commodities such as corn and cotton.

There are some relatively easy wins: convincing more farmers to abandon the practice of plowing their fields after each harvest, and using satellite imagery to optimize fertilizer use.

But the challenge is substantial. Wheat is already one of the least-intensive crops in terms of nitrogen fertilizer, using half as much as corn to produce an acre of grain.

"Wheat is relatively low input. There are not a lot of corners that can be cut," says Jason Kelley, a wheat and corn extension agronomist at the University of Arkansas.

## LAGGING EFFICIENCY

In the last three decades, better farming practices, such as reducing tillage, have resulted in a 15 percent drop in greenhouse gas emissions in each bushel of wheat grown in the United States, according to a soon-to-be-released study by Field to Market, an alliance of national farm groups and more than 40 companies including Cargill and Kellogg's (but not Wal-Mart) that are seeking to enhance sustainability.

But those gains pale in comparison to other major crops. The amount of water needed to irrigate cotton fields has dropped by 30 percent, according to the study; soil erosion in corn farming has declined by 67 percent since 1980.

As it continues to buy more and more wheat to support its in-house brand, Wal-Mart believes it can use its muscle to bring changes to the agricultural landscape by getting farmers to adopt more progressive techniques and labeling the flour they sell as a sustainable product.

In 2010, Wal-Mart's store brands had a 4.4 percent share of the \$14.35 billion U.S. packaged and industrial bread market, up from a 3.7 percent market share in 2006, according to research firm Euromonitor International.

About 40 percent of U.S. wheat is used for food. Wal-Mart declined to specify how much wheat it buys directly or through its suppliers.

Tim Robinson, the company's senior buyer of baking commodities, joined Kaplan on the trip.

He said that, while it is still in the fact-finding phase of its wheat work, Wal-Mart is likely to promote "precision farming" which uses satellite-guided planting to improve yields and no-till methods which proponents say reduce soil erosion and maintain land quality.

Roughly 75 percent of wheat farmers plow, or till, their fields in Arkansas, says Kelley. Abandoning that practice could require them to rotate crops regularly and take greater care in planting to avoid stunting plant growth.

"Wheat is one of the later adopters to no-till or zero-till," said Stewart Ramsey, a senior economist at analytics firm IHS who works with Field to Market.

## NEW INEFFICIENCIES

If anyone can drive efficiency into the generations-old practices of U.S. farmers, it's Wal-Mart.

"Having world class logistics and distribution is the core of their business and what they've increasingly been doing is looking to apply those capabilities across the broader supply chain, going further upstream into production and processing," says Stewart Samuel, a senior analyst at global food and research firm IGD.

The company has embarked on an effort to eliminate 20 million metric tons (22 million tons) of greenhouse gas emissions from its global supply chain by the end of 2015, the equivalent of taking nearly 4 million cars off the road for a year. It declined to say how much of the company's total emissions that represented.

Last year, the company installed more efficient lighting in its stores in the United States and Mexico and also delivered more goods even as its truck fleet drove fewer miles.

## IDEAS SPROUT

May's crop tour has already yielded new ideas.

As one farmer told Robinson and Kaplan about how he used manure from nearby cattle feedlots to fertilize his fields, they wondered about the feasibility of hauling manure from U.S. poultry producers -- predominately in the mid-South -- to farmers elsewhere in that region or to the U.S. Corn Belt.

"We're an expert in transportation. What if we could find empty trucks going from one place to another that will help farmers get something they need?" Robinson said.

Tanner Ehmke, who grows wheat in western Kansas and met with Wal-Mart during the tour, said: "From the farmer's perspective that is a great idea. Manure is a fantastic fertilizer."

"The question is whether it would pencil out, costwise," Tanner said.

He's not the only one asking that question.

"Hopefully, sustainable flour becomes an everyday business practice," said Robinson as the tour paused in Wichita, Kansas. "We can't do this if it costs more."

(Additional reporting by [Jessica Wohl](#) in Chicago; editing by [Jim Marshall](#))

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## **Can Caring Across Generations Change the World?**

A recent article in the Nation asked, "Can Caring Across Generations Change the World?" As co-directors of that campaign, we say the answer is yes! We invite you to join us in changing the world as we know it, and changing the way we care in this country. Right now you can [take action to create 2 million new jobs and quality in-home care](#).

It's simple really. Every 8 seconds another American turns 65. The number of people who need care, support and services is expected to more than double in the coming decades, as the baby boom generation ages up. But, as a country, we do not have enough workers in the field to meet our growing needs.

In this challenge there is a huge

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<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/06/14/executive-order-accelerating-broadband-infrastructure-deployment>

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## **“Are You Here to Save Face Or Save Us?” Teen Brittany Trilford Tells Rio+20 World Leaders**

Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez [Democracy Now!](#) / Video Report Thursday 21 June 2012  
“17-year-old environmental activist Brittany Trilford addressed more than a hundred heads of state at the opening plenary of the Rio+20 U.N. Earth Summit.”

On Wednesday, 17-year-old environmental activist Brittany Trilford of Wellington, New Zealand, addressed more than a hundred heads of state at the opening plenary of the Rio+20 U.N. Earth Summit, the largest United Nations gathering ever. "We are all aware that time is ticking, and we are quickly running out," Trilford said. "You have 72 hours to decide the fate of your children, my children, my children's children. And I start the clock now."

### **Transcript:**

**JUAN GONZÁLEZ:** Leaders from more than a hundred countries are gathered in Brazil for the Rio+20 Earth Summit, the largest United Nations conference ever. The gathering comes 20 years after the 1992 U.N. Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, when leaders pledged to protect the planet by endorsing treaties on biodiversity and climate change. Since then, few of the development goals have been reached in areas like food security, water, global warming and energy. On Wednesday, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff welcomed world leaders under a cloud of criticism that this new summit will fall far short of its promise to establish new goals.

**PRESIDENT DILMA ROUSSEFF:** [translated] We know that the cost of not acting will be greater than taking the necessary actions, even though they may face resistance and may end up being politically complicated.

**JUAN GONZÁLEZ:** A new report by Friends of the Earth International warns that multinational corporations such as oil giant Shell have an undue influence over the Rio+20 Earth Summit. Negotiators had already agreed on a draft before the heads of state arrived Wednesday. Many groups working on environmental and poverty issues have criticized the agreement for being too weak. This is Greenpeace political director Daniel Mittler.

**DANIEL MITTLER:** Any progress that you hear about in press conferences is about progress to water down the text, to avoid commitment, and to—in reality, governments are clearly here to do nothing and to commit to doing nothing.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Well, 20 years ago, a 12-year-old rocked the Earth Summit in Rio with a plea to world leaders to get serious about saving the planet. Her name was Severn Suzuki, and she'll join us later in the broadcast. She is back in Rio. But first we turn to another young

environmentalist, 17-year-old Brittany Trilford of Wellington, New Zealand. On Wednesday, she addressed more than a hundred heads of state at the opening plenary of the Rio+20 U.N. Earth Summit. Listen carefully; the audio has some technical imperfections.

**BRITTANY TRILFORD:** Thank you, Secretary-General and leaders, for the opportunity to address this plenary. *Tena koutou* from New Zealand.

My name is Brittany Trilford. I'm 17 years old. I'm a child. Today, in this moment, I'm all children, your children, the world's three billion children. Think of me as half the world.

I stand here with fire in my heart. I'm confused and angry at the state of the world, and I want us to work together now to change this. We are here today to solve the problems that we have caused as a collective, to ensure that we have a future. You and your governments have promised to reduce poverty and sustain our environment. You have already promised to combat climate change, to ensure clean water and food security. Multinational corporations have already pledged to respect the environment, green their production, compensate for their pollution. These promises have been made, and yet still our future is in danger. We are all aware that time is ticking, and we are quickly running out. You have 72 hours to decide the fate of your children, my children, my children's children. And I start the clock now. Tick, tick, tick.

Let us think back 20 years ago, well before I was even an inkling in my parents' eyes. Think back here to Rio, where people met at the first Earth Summit in 1992. The people at the summit knew there needed to be change. All our systems were failing, collapsing all around us. And these people came together to acknowledge these challenges, to work for something better, to commit to something better. They made great promises, promises that, when I read them, still leave me feeling hopeful. These promises are left not broken, but empty. How can that be, when all around us there is knowledge that offers us solutions? Nature, as a design tool, offers insight into systems that are whole, complete, that give life, create value, allow progress, transformation and change.

We, the next generation, demand change, demand action, so that we can have a future. We trust you, in the next 72 hours, to put our interests before all other interests and boldly do the right thing. I am here to fight for my future. That's why I'm here. And I would like to end today by asking you to consider why you're here and what you can do. Are you here to save face? Or are you here to save us? Thank you.

**AMY GOODMAN:** That was 17-year-old Brittany Trilford, a young environmentalist from Wellington, New Zealand, addressing more than a hundred world leaders, business representatives, NGOs, during the opening plenary of the Rio+20 U.N. summit, the largest U.N. summit ever. She's joining us now from Rio de Janeiro, where the Rio+20 summit is taking place.

Brittany, welcome to *Democracy Now!*

**BRITTANY TRILFORD:** Hi.

**AMY GOODMAN:** What was it like to be up there? You're addressing the majority of the world's leaders. What do you expect to come from your speech and this summit?

**BRITTANY TRILFORD:** Well, it felt amazing. It was very nerve-racking, but very, very exciting. I hope that the world leaders can listen to my speech, that they feel what I was trying to say, that they understand the atmosphere and the ideas that I was trying to portray there, and that they're driven to fulfill the promises that I asked of them: to act now, to act urgently, and to act boldly.

**JUAN GONZÁLEZ:** And, Brittany, can you tell us something of your—how you first became involved in environmental activism, what prompted you, and how you ended up being chosen to make this presentation?

**BRITTANY TRILFORD:** Oh, sure. Well, I've always been really into youth affairs and giving youth a voice. And I received an email from one of the networks that I'm part of about this Date with History competition. And it's run by TckTckTck, a collaboration of over 300 NGOs. And they asked me to give a two-minute speech to the world leaders about the future that I want. And I completely jumped at it, because I have a lot to say about the future that I want. I have a lot of demands. And so, I thought, "Well, this is perfect." This is the—this is the audience that needs to hear this.

**AMY GOODMAN:** And how did you make your way from New Zealand to Rio? Were you a group of high school students? Who paid your way?

**BRITTANY TRILFORD:** Well, it was just me that went with the Date with History competition, and I joined the TckTckTck team over in Rio here. And I came along with my dad, as well, so he's here in Rio with me.

**AMY GOODMAN:** And in terms of what you hope to see take place, the whole issue of climate change, how does climate change affect New Zealand, where you come from, Wellington, New Zealand?

**BRITTANY TRILFORD:** OK, well, climate change affects everywhere in the world very dramatically, and it will continue to progress and sink deeper and deeper, and more of our systems will fail and collapse. So I think that in terms of how it affects Wellington, I think it affects Wellington just as much as other places all over the world. I mean, every day when I'm in Wellington, I see the effects of climate change. I can—it's snowing in Wellington. It hasn't snowed in Wellington for the last 50 years. So that's—it's just little things like that that are going to build and build into something really big and really irreversible, and something really awful.

**JUAN GONZÁLEZ:** After your presentation, did any of the delegates come up to you, talk to you directly or comment on your presentation and its impact, if any, on their work there?

**BRITTANY TRILFORD:** Yeah. I think—well, lots of the delegates and lots of people watching on TV and things like that responded really well. I think what I said, because it was so simplistic, because it was a 17-year-old's view of the moral truths of what is happening here, they could really relate to what I was saying, and I think it resonated with a lot of people. I think the delegates that did come up and comment to me, because it was so simple, they understood what I was trying to say, and they felt the passion, not just of me, but of all the youth that I was trying to share there.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Finally, Brittany, you only got five minutes, but that was five minutes where you were addressing the world. Is there anything you didn't get to say in that address that you had to edit out for time, and especially as you address young people around the world, many of whom may feel whatever they do does not make a difference?

**BRITTANY TRILFORD:** OK, well, something I have said in the other speeches, but not—that I couldn't particularly portray in the U.N. plenary was that this power of youth, this absolute—it's such a powerful force. And sometimes I think they underestimate themselves. We have tools and technologies available to us, like social media, like radio and TV, where we can share ideas, where we can communicate, where we can educate. And it's such a valuable, powerful tool. The voice of youth is so strong, so clear, so truthful. And I think that they can really not only speak truth to power like I did at the U.N. plenary, but they can take power. And I think that's really important to look at, and I think that's really something that the youth should take on board, should get involved with, should engage with. And I think it's really something I wanted to share at the U.N. plenary, for sure. And I think I'll continue to share that message through media like yourselves.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Well, Brittany Trilford, I want to thank you very much for being with us, from Wellington, New Zealand, now in Rio de Janeiro at the largest U.N. summit ever. Brittany was the winner of the Date with History competition, which is how she ended up giving this address to the world and the world's leaders. The competition asked young people to tell world leaders what they want for the future. I want to end up with a clip of those voices.

**CLAIRE:** You, me and seven billion human beings on this planet, we're pushing the limits.

**BRITTANY TRILFORD:** Our future is in danger.

**ANDREW:** We should be acting urgently, as if there is no tomorrow.

**ANNIE:** The earth is the most treasured possession that we have. There is nothing more precious or worth caring for.

**FRANCISCO:** We must do enwind the environment and the people, the same way the clownfish clings to the anemone for a support and survival of the two.

**CAROLINE:** The evolving technology today has presented us with opportunities to turn situations around to our benefit.

**ALEXANDRA:**\* I see a world where we can better understand human nature, and not see the relationship as humans and nature or humans or nature, but just nature.

**ANNIE:** A world where we don't take our resources or each other for granted.

**ELLIE:** A world with biodiversity that is respected and protected.

**PRASHANTH:** I envision a world where an environmentally conscious mindset has taken root.

**KHUSHALI:** To see a future which sustains life.

**KOLAWOLE OREOLUWA:** Where green jobs and green products are available for human consumption.

**KATHRYN:** I want a future where no one goes to bed hungry at night, where everyone has access to education, and where there's no first world or a third world, there's just a world.

**AMY GOODMAN:** Young people talking about a Date with History. This is *Democracy Now!*, [democracynow.org](http://democracynow.org), *The War and Peace Report*. We're broadcasting to you with guests from Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, where the largest U.N. summit is taking place. Back in a minute.

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**[Are you scientifically literate? Take our quiz](#)**

[www.csmonitor.com](http://www.csmonitor.com)

[You may have an opinion on climate change, evolution education, stem-cell research, and science funding. But do you have the facts to back up your opinion? This quiz will test your basic scientific literacy.](#)

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**[Nevada Diabetes Association](#)**

**Did you know there is a special college scholarship fund that high school seniors with Type 1 diabetes can apply for to help with their college education?**

**[Diabetes Scholars Foundation - Home](#) [www.diabetesscholars.org](http://www.diabetesscholars.org)**

[The Diabetes Scholars Foundation funds scholarships for families and young adults to attend Children with Diabetes conferences. Scholarships are available for families who have a child with type 1 diabetes and to young adults with type 1 diabetes.](#)

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From Ricki Y. Barlow, LV Councilman:

There are opportunities coming up for job seekers, those saving for college, family fun and summer camp for youth that I will share in this message. I hope you see something of benefit for your family or neighbors!

A free "Job Seekers Workshop" is scheduled for Wednesday, June 27, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the Bill & Lillie Heinrich YMCA. See the [flier](#) for details. Call (702) 224-5566 to register by 3 p.m. June 26 or register [online](#).

The open enrollment period for Silver State Matching Grant Program applications for up to \$300 in matching college tuition funds available to Nevada families closes June 30. For more information on the program, call (702) 486-2025 or go [online](#).

Registration for weekly summer camps is still open at Lied Discovery Children's Museum. Go [online](#) or call (702) 382-3445 for more information.

A week of summer fun for parents and children to enjoy together is planned July 9-13 in the Las Vegas Cultural Corridor. See the [Camp Corridor flier](#) for all the details.

Come dressed for a professional interview to the Career Fair at The Orleans, noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday, July 10. See the [flier](#) or call (702) 224-5587 for more information.

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## June 25, 1876

A large band of Plains Indians under the leadership of Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull overwhelm and defeat federal troops led by Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer near the Little Bighorn River in Montana Territory. Custer is among 210 U.S. casualties, and the battle would so stun and anger the United States government that federal troops soon flooded the area, forcing the Dakota Sioux and Northern Cheyenne into surrender.

*a feature story on the famous battle and see how June 25, 2012*

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### **14th National Tribal Preservation Conference**

(previously referred to as the 14th Annual NATHPO Meeting)

-- Important Weblinks --

NATHPO announces the 14th National Tribal Preservation Conference to be hosted by the Suquamish Tribe of Washington state the week of September 10, 2012.

Link to the meeting invitation (includes preliminary agenda):

<http://www.nathpo.org/PDF/NATHPOInvite2012Front.pdf>

If you are interested in presenting during the conference, please complete and return a form at your earliest convenience. Link to the Presenter Proposal:

<http://www.nathpo.org/PDF/PresenterProposal14thmtg.pdf>

Transportation and Lodging Information link for the Clearwater Resort:

<http://www.nathpo.org/PDF/Transportation14thMtg.pdf>

Registration Form for the 14th National Tribal Preservation Conference:

<http://www.nathpo.org/PDF/RegistrationForm14thmtg.pdf>

For all conference information, please see the NATHPO website:

<http://www.nathpo.org>

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A tribute to a great indian cowboy and gentleman. RIP Jr. Adams, and may our creator be with your family and friends during this difficult time. The milky way became one star brighter! [http://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=315865121838323&id=124460910978746&refid=17&m\\_sess=sozztaKd-HRtgl\\_Yh&ft=fbid.315865121838323](http://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=315865121838323&id=124460910978746&refid=17&m_sess=sozztaKd-HRtgl_Yh&ft=fbid.315865121838323)

### [Western States Indian Rodeo Association](#)

WHITE SWAN - On June 21, 2012 George L. Adams Jr. died at age 72 after a long battle of congestive heart failure at his home in White Swan, WA surrounded by his family and friends. Jr.

was born on May 12, 1940 to Annie Belle (Hoptowit) and George L. Adams Sr. Jr. lived most of his life in Yakima, WA (Ahtanum) before retiring to White Swan, WA where he built a roping arena and retired to ranching raising cattle and horses.

Jr. attended John O'Connell Vocational School in San Francisco, CA where he received his welding certification. He worked many years as an ironworker welder in San Francisco, Seattle, Tri-Cities and the Yakima area. He was a proud enrolled member of the Yakama Nation that held his traditional beliefs close to his heart. He also was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles 2229 of Toppenish where he made new friends & enjoyed visiting.

Jr. loved all sports and was a natural athlete and participated in basketball and football, but rodeo was his favorite. A true cowboy, Jr. traveled the rodeo circuit throughout the western states & Canada and won many all-around cowboy buckles and saddles competing in calf roping, wild cow milking, and team roping. He also was one of the top muggers & steer wrestling hazers. His horses were well trained and mounted by many cowboys throughout the rodeo circuit. He served stints as president of the White Swan Rodeo Association and the Western States Indian Rodeo Association. He was also an avid boxing and horse racing fan and loved watching his children and grandchildren play basketball, rodeo, football and various other sports. He rarely missed a family birthday and loved spending party time with his family where he taught us how to play nickel ante poker. He also enjoyed long drives in the closed area of the Yakama Nation to go camping, fishing and huckleberry picking. He was most proud of the fact that all of his children graduated from high school.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth, of Yakima, WA and five children, June Adams (Yakima, WA), Alice Adams (Yakima, WA), Tim (Leonette) Adams (Harrah, WA), Shannon Adams (Harrah, WA) and Andrea (James) Matheny (Yakima, WA); twelve grandchildren Robert Jr., Mariah, Jay Walter, Sabrina, Latisha, Jeremy, Liz, Aryell, Drea, Ally, James Jr., and Alexa; and three great grandchildren Tayah, Addisyn & Amera and two sisters Velma Swan (Wapato, WA) and Donna Lallashute (Toppenish, WA).

He was preceded in death by his parents Annie and George Adams and one son Ryan George Adams, one grandson, Ethan Adams, two sisters, Bernadine Sampson and Emily June Adams, and a brother who died at birth.

Junior lived and enjoyed life fully and did it his way, always a fighter 'til the end. He was such a proud father and grandfather and leaves behind his family and numerous friends and relatives who will know a world without Jr. living in it, will never be quite the same. We will miss his smile, laughter and coy sense of humor dearly. We will "See you later Cowboy."

Rosary services will be at Colonial Funeral Home, Toppenish, WA Monday, June 25th at 6:30 PM. Funeral services will be Tuesday, June 26th 10:00 AM, St. Mary's Catholic Church, White Swan, WA and burial at Yemowat Cemetary, Yakima, WA near his family home in Ahtanum, WA. Yesterday at 8:33pm · [Like](#)