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For immediate release

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‘DIRT! THE MOVIE,’ PANEL FEATURING NOBEL HONOREE
TO BE IN LAWRENCE MAY 24

LAWRENCE, Kansas – The notable documentary “Dirt! The Movie” will get a one-time screening at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 24, at Liberty Hall, 644 Massachusetts St., in Downtown Lawrence. After the movie, renowned soil scientist Charles W. Rice and farmers/activists Paul Johnson and Barbara Clark will discuss the movie and take audience questions. Films for Action and Local Burger are presenting the movie and the panel, and Local Burger will provide free snacks.

“Dirt: The Movie” tells the story of the glorious and unappreciated material beneath our feet. Inspired by William Bryant Logan's acclaimed book *Dirt: The Ecstatic Skin of the Earth*, “Dirt! The Movie” takes a humorous and significant look into the history and current state of the living organic matter known as soil.

Tickets for the evening are \$3, available at Liberty Hall box office now through Monday.

JUST THE FACTS

- **What:** Films For Action & Local Burger present: “Dirt! The Movie” followed by a panel discussion
- **When:** 7-9 p.m., Monday May 24th
- **Where:** Liberty Hall, 644 Massachusetts St., Lawrence <http://www.libertyhall.net/>
- **Tickets:** \$3 at Liberty Hall box office
- **Movie running time:** 86 minutes
- **Panelists:** Prominent soil scientist **Charles W. Rice**; farmer and activist **Paul Johnson**, farmer and activist **Barbara Clark**.
- **Refreshments:** Food from Local Burger, including bison meatballs, veggie burger bites, smoked tofu fries (all local) plus organic hummus and veggies.

ABOUT THE MOVIE

“**Dirt! The Movie**,” a 2009 film by Bill Benenson and Gene Rosow, was nominated for the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival and has been featured on the PBS series, “Independent Lens.” Narrated by Jamie Lee Curtis, the film demonstrates the value of soil and threats to its wellbeing. The film’s many luminaries include Kansan Wes Jackson. More information about the film is available at <http://www.dirtthemovie.org/>.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS

- **Charles W. Rice** is a University Distinguished Professor at Kansas State University specializing in soil microbiology in the Department of Agronomy. Rice teaches courses in soil microbiology and has conducted long-term research on soil organic dynamics and other topics. His recent research has focused on soil and global climate change. Rice served on the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and was among scientists recognized when the resulting report won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. Rice is president-elect of the Soil Science Society of America and chair of the Commission on Soils, Food Security and Public Health of the International Union of Soil Sciences. He serves on numerous other state, national and international research and policy groups. Rice is a Fellow of the Soil Science Society of America, American Society of Agronomy, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
- **Paul Johnson** is a founding member of the Rolling Prairie Farmers Alliance, one of the largest multifarm CSAs in the Midwest. He has been farming for decades and is active in promoting sustainable agriculture and addressing poverty issues.
- **Barbara Clark** is working to protect the largest continuous mass of class 1 and class 2 soils in Douglas County, Kansas. She and her husband, David Clark, operate Maggie’s Farm (www.maggiesfarm-ks.com/), where David combines Local Burger scrap and sheep manure from Maggie’s Farm to make compost. Barbara may arrive late because she will be attending a city planning meeting that evening, and the agenda there includes discussion on the future use of land containing the high-quality soil in Grant Township.

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS

- **Films for Action** is a Lawrence-based nonprofit dedicated to expanding the public discourse by presenting and lending independent films. Films for Action believes that independent media is essential to a healthy democracy. Read more at www.filmsforaction.org.
- **Local Burger**, 714 Vermont St., Lawrence, is a fast-food restaurant whose fare is fresh, organic, local and sustainable. The brainchild of chef and owner Hilary Brown, Local Burger will be offering free snacks from the restaurant at the screening. Those snacks are Sunset Ridge Bison Buffalo Balls <Unless that’s the official product name, I’d probably call them meatballs, lest the squeamish worry they might be eating testicles.> with Anthony’s Honey barbecue sauce, World’s Best Veggie Burger Bites and sauce, Central Soy Foods’ Smoked Tofu Fries and Sauce as well as organic hummus and vegetables. The restaurant’s website is www.localburger.com.