

# Small Farms Are Real Farms: Sustaining People Through Agriculture

**John Ikerd**

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In this collection of essays by one of America's most eloquent and influential proponents of sustainable agriculture, the multifaceted case for small farms is built using logic and facts.

Since the middle of the last century, American farm policy has taken the nation into the dead end of industrial farm production and food distribution. Farming, at its core a biological process, has been transformed into an industrial process, thus demolishing the economic and cultural values upon which the nation was founded. Along the way, small farms have been ridiculed and dismissed as inconsequential — but now the seeds of a rural renaissance are being planted, not by these industrial behemoths, but by family-scale farms.

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## **About the author:**

*Dr John Ikerd spent the first half of his thirty-year academic career as a traditional bottom-line agricultural economist. He served on the faculties of four major State universities during his career: North Carolina State University, Oklahoma State University, the University of Georgia, and the University of Missouri. Growing concerns for the lack of ecological, social, and economic sustainability of American agriculture during the 1980s led to broader concerns for the lack of sustainability of American society in general. Since retiring, Ikerd spends most of his time writing and speaking on issues related to sustainability with an emphasis on economics and agriculture. His other books include Sustainable Capitalism, A Return to Common Sense, and Crisis and Opportunity: Sustainability in American Agriculture.*

*Artur Pawłowski*