



Center for Environmental Farming Systems to Celebrate Twentieth Anniversary with Sustainable Agriculture Pioneer Fred Kirschenmann

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Raleigh, NC: The Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS), one of the nation's foremost centers for research, extension, and education in sustainable agriculture and local food systems, will be hosting sustainable agriculture pioneer Fred Kirschenmann as part of its twentieth anniversary special events.

Mr. Kirschenmann, Distinguished Fellow at the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture and President of Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture, will deliver a lecture entitled "The Future of Food and Agriculture" at 5 pm on Saturday, October 18, 2014 at Witherspoon Theatre on NC State Campus. He is also one of the featured speakers for CEFS' SOILbration at its Goldsboro research farm on October 17.

A longtime national and international leader in sustainable agriculture, Mr. Kirschenmann is a professor in the Iowa State University Department of Religion and Philosophy and holds a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Chicago. He has held numerous appointments, including the USDA's National Organic Standards Board and the National Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production operated by the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and funded by Pew Charitable Trusts. He also continues to manage his family's 1,800-acre certified organic farm in south central North Dakota.

He converted his family's farm in North Dakota to a certified organic operation in 1976. He developed a diverse crop rotation that has enabled him to farm productively without synthetic inputs (fertilizers or pesticides) while simultaneously improving the health of the soil.

Kirschenmann's farm has been featured in numerous publications including *National Geographic*, *Business Week*, *Audubon*, the *LA Times* and *Gourmet* magazine. In 1995 it was profiled in an award-winning video, *My Father's Garden* by Miranda Smith Productions, and is still widely used as a teaching tool. Kirschenmann also has been advisor for several documentaries including *American Meat* and *Symphony of the Soil*.

Kirschenmann served as the Leopold Center's second director from July 2000 to November 2005 and has been recognized widely for his work. He was one of the first 10 recipients of the James F. Beard Foundation Leadership awards in 2011 and received the 2012 Sustainable Agriculture Achievement Award from Practical Farmers of Iowa.

This event is FREE but pre-registration is required; please visit <http://go.ncsu.edu/lecture>. For more information contact Lisa Forehand, CEFS Extension and Outreach, at 919-513-0954 or lisa_forehand@ncsu.edu.

The Center for Environmental Farming Systems is a partnership of North Carolina State University, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. CEFS' mission is to develop and promote just and equitable food and farming systems that conserve natural resources, strengthen communities, improve health outcomes, and provide economic opportunities in North Carolina and beyond. For more information about CEFS please visit <http://www.cefs.ncsu.edu>.