

## VALUES PURSUED BY A COMMUNITY FARMLAND TRUST

Rural Revival, a non-profit working to revitalize the local Freeman, South Dakota community, is in the process of “spinning off” a new organization in the formation of a Community Farmland Trust. There are a number of key values being pursued by Rural Revival in the formation of a Community Farmland Trust related to the rural community, the land itself, and the farm families of the community. These values are informed by the religious traditions of the agrarian cultures represented in the community, particularly the dominant Christian faith.

- ❖ In relation to the rural community, Community Farmland Trust aims to:
  - Repopulate and revitalize the larger rural community in which it lives.
  - Preserve the traditional agrarian cultures of the larger community who bear in their heritage the agricultural wisdom and the faith tradition of the past.
  - Grow communities capable of welcoming and integrating diverse outsiders and relating hospitably and cooperatively with other communities locally and around the world.
  - Develop self-sustaining, subsistent rural communities not dependent on the imperial policies of government bureaucracies, global corporations, and the technological elite.
  - Provide opportunity for community members to farm ethically, holding the land in trust from God.
  
- ❖ In relation to the land, Community Farmland Trust aims to:
  - Preserve and improve the fertility of the earth and local farmland.
  - Take nature as the model and teacher in caring for the land, and avoid attempts to control nature technologically through the use of chemicals and genetically modified organisms.
  - Mitigate the effects of climate change by facilitating carbon sequestration.
  - Live within the constraints of the local environment and ecological biosphere.
  - Provide a refuge for natural and native floral and fauna to flourish.
  
- ❖ In relation to farm families, Community Farmland Trust aims to:
  - Enable farmers to participate in a local, sustainable food system to meet the human needs of the people and cities of the region.
  - Help farmers grow and produce high quality nutrient-dense foods for local consumption.
  - Make possible self-sustaining farms utilizing the gifts of the land by avoiding the debt encumbrances of land, machinery and input costs involved in current commodity-driven agriculture.
  - Provide a vehicle for generational land transfers to assure current farmers that their land will be preserved for agriculture and that the next generation will have access to and use of agricultural land.
  - Provide families the opportunity to live and work together in the rhythms of natural life.

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