

# Appendix A *Core Values of the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture*

## **The Family Farm Structure of Agriculture**

- We value the family farm system of production and believe it is cost effective, profitable, and resource conserving when operated under the principles of sustainability
- We value the quality of life that sustainable farms provide, including: being a good place to raise children; giving people the opportunity to connect with nature; and providing a clean environment
- We value policies that provide support for family farmers to diversify with alternative production and marketing practices
- We value information and education drawn from farmers' experiences

## **A Fair Playing Field**

- We value a secure future and a fair playing field for independent farmers and ranchers
- We believe that the cost of food does not currently reflect the costs associated with its production. These costs include natural resource degradation, loss of land, out-migration, and an increasing concentration of power within the food system
- We value open and fair competitive markets free of monopolistic power
- We value policies that are scale/size neutral
- We value an agriculture that does not exploit land or people
- We value policies that allow farmers to pass their land and knowledge down to new farmers at affordable prices

## **Public Research for the Public Domain**

- We value public research at universities which is freely available in a timely manner to the public
- We value the utilization of broad stakeholders' input in developing research agendas
- We value annual financial disclosures by university funding sources and transparency in university administrations regarding potential conflicts of interest
- We value the development of affordable, realistic technologies and cultural practices that benefit the entire farming community

## **The Enhancement and Protection of Natural Resources**

- We value farming methods that are ecologically sound, regenerative, and resource conserving
- We value protecting farmland from development pressures
- We value economic support of farmers for protection of natural resources as opposed to support for overproduction of agriculture commodities
- We value having a series of biologically diverse farms rather than large farms that are primarily monocultures
- We value research and subsidies designed to enhance proven technologies and better model natural systems

## **Respect for Nature**

- We value the humane and ethical treatment of animals
- We value the indigenous wisdom of people from all parts of the world
- We value basing an agricultural system on natural cycles where waste is nonexistent
- We value collaborating with nature and the free services that nature provides as a way to restore natural systems rather than dominating nature

## **Local Food Systems and Better Communities**

- We value ensuring food security through regional/local food systems which support local economies and provide fresh produce for entire communities
- We value capturing a greater share of food market dollars for farmers
- We believe that society benefits from communities that are self-sufficient.
- We believe that our country needs a comprehensive vision for shaping rural areas