

Keynote Speaker

Frederick L. Kirschenmann, Ph.D

Frederick L. Kirschenmann, a longtime leader in national and international sustainable agriculture, is Distinguished Fellow for the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University. From July 2000 to November 2005, he served as the Center's second director since its creation in 1987. Kirschenmann came to the Center from south central North Dakota where he operated his family's 3,500-acre certified organic farm. He continues to oversee management of the farm and has an appointment in the ISU Department of Religion and Philosophy.

Kirschenmann holds a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Chicago, and has written extensively about ethics and agriculture. He has held national and international appointments, including the USDA's National Organic Standards Board. In 2006 he was appointed to the 19-member National Commission on Industrial Farm Animal Production operated by the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and funded by Pew Charitable Trusts to conduct a two-year examination of key aspect in the farm animal industry.

He is also a board member for the Food Alliance, Silos and Smokestacks National heritage Area, The Nature Institute, and the Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture at the Rockefeller Center in New York. He chairs and is a charter member of the Whiterock Conservancy, a nonprofit organization that manages a 1,300-acre conservation area in west-central Iowa. Kirschenmann also helped convene and continues to be active in a multi-state task force, Agriculture of the Middle, that focuses on research and markets for midsize American farms.

Kirschenmann's academic credits include several years teaching and as administrator, culminating in a position as academic dean at Curry College in Boston, Massachusetts. In 1976 he returned to the family farm when his father became ill. By 1980 the farm was certified organic, one of the early operations to make the transition. The farm is a natural prairie livestock grazing system that combines a nine-crop rotation of cereal grains, forages, and green manure.

Kirschenmann Family Farms has been part of a number of research studies. It also has been featured in national publications including National Geographic, the Smithsonian, Audubon, Business Week, the LA Times and Gourmet magazine. In 1996 Kirschenmann was profiled in an award-winning video, "My Father's Garden," by Miranda Productions, Inc.

In 1978 Kirschenmann helped organize North Dakota Natural Farmers that later became the Northern Plains sustainable Agriculture Society. He helped found and for 10 years was president of Farm Verified Organic, Inc., an international private certification agency.

In 2001 Kirschenmann received the Seventh Generation Research Award from the Center for rural Affairs for his work in sustainable food and farming systems. He also was named a 2002 Leader of the Year in Agriculture by Progressive Farmer publications. His essay, "Ecological Morality: A New Ethic for Agriculture," appears in *Agroecosystems Analysis*, a monograph published by the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America and the Soil Science Society of America.

The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture was created by the Iowa Legislature to develop sustainable agricultural practices that are both profitable and conserve natural resources. Since his appointment to the Center, Kirschenmann has been a frequent speaker, engaging audiences to help shape a new vision for agriculture. New Center directions include research initiatives in marketing and food systems, ecology and policy.

Featured Speakers

Susan Roberts, J.D., M.S., R.D.

Susan Roberts is director of the Thomas Jefferson Agricultural Institute's Food & Society Policy Fellows Program, and principal of Sue Roberts Health Concepts, providing individual patient consulting, group seminars and workshops, employee wellness programs and consultation to food producers, processors and marketers. Roberts is a member of the Coordinating Council of the Farm and Food Policy Project.

Roberts is the former chief research dietitian for the clinical research center at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, and was director of public health nutrition for the State of Iowa. Roberts holds a law degree with special certificates in food and agriculture and legislative policy from Drake University School of Law.

Roberts serves as director of Iowa Network for Community Agriculture and director of the Women, Food and Agriculture Network. She also is chair of the Society for Nutrition Education's Advisory Council on Public Policy, and a member of the American Dietetic Association's Sustainable Food Systems Task Force and the Iowa Food Policy Council.

Roberts has received numerous awards including the State of Iowa Excellence in Public Health Nutrition Award and the State and Territorial Public Health Nutrition Director's National award for public health advocacy.

Dr. Allen Hance

Allen Hance is a senior policy analyst at the Northeast-Midwest Institute in Washington, DC. Hance directs the Institute's Agriculture and Food Policy Program, which researches federal agriculture programs and related legislation, analyzes trends, and distributes information to educate and inform congressional staff, state legislators, policymakers, and other stakeholders on a variety of agriculture-related issues, including conservation and sustainable agriculture policy. He is currently the project coordinator for the Farm and Food Policy Project, a national collaboration between environmental, anti-hunger, and family farm organizations united by the common vision of a more sustainable agriculture and food system for the United States.

Hance also oversees the Institute's River Basin Program, which informs and educates policymakers about watershed management, restoration, and protection issues affecting the Chesapeake Bay, Upper Mississippi, and several other major watersheds in the Northeast-Midwest region. Previously, Hance was a NOAA-Sea Grant Fellow for Representative Ron Kind (D-WI), coordinating activities for the bipartisan Upper Mississippi River Task Force. A former faculty member at the University of Illinois, he researched and taught in several fields including environmental ethics and policy.