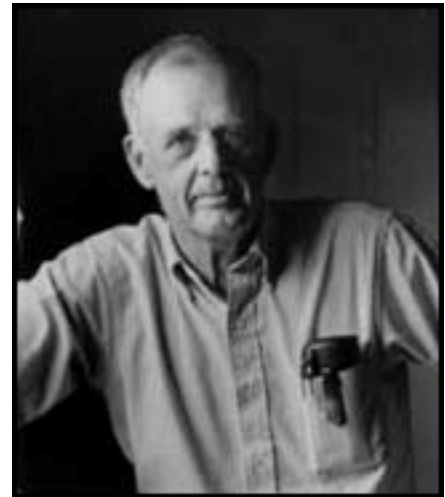


Wendell Berry's Vision of Local Economy

Wendell Berry is one of the most influential writers in the country defending the small family farm, community, connection to place, local economics and appropriate technologies as opposed to globalization, industrial farming and environmental destruction.

"The promoters of the so called global economy ... believe that a farm or a forest is or ought to be the same as a factory; that care is only minimally involved in the use of the land; that affection is not involved at all; ... that the topsoil is lifeless and inert; that soil biology is safely replaceable by soil chemistry; ... that there is no value in human community or neighborhood," wrote Berry in an essay called "Conserving Communities."

He said the country's farm population declined by an average of almost a half-million people a year for forty-one years. Moreover, he says this demise



happened on purpose: "It was the result of great effort and of principles vigorously applied," said Berry. It has been achieved "with the help of expensive advice from university and government experts" and by the "tireless agitation and exertion of the agribusiness corporations."

Berry has written more than 40 books. He is a small family farmer in Henry County Kentucky that plows his land with horses and is a teacher of literature and education at the University of Kentucky.