As discussed by the strategy panel on "Reclaiming Local..." they discuss various tasks, includ-
ing saving seeds and raising livestock, and depict the harvest and preparation of produce for their CSA boxes through a short video. Their interest in developing a forum for conversation and analysis is unique and important.

John Ikerd delivered a thoughtful presentation on one's consideration for becoming a farmer. He noted: 'Ironically, much of my 30-year academic career was focused on changing farming from a purposeful way of life to a bottom-line, profit-driven agribusiness. We told farmers to either 'get big or get out,' because only large farms could achieve the economies of scale needed to be competitive. However, during the farm financial crisis of the 1980s, I was forced to confront the reality that there was no future in this kind of farming. I eventually understood that in order for some farmers to 'get big,' others inevitably had to 'get out' - even if they had to be forced out. If this process contin-
ed, I could see that eventually there would be no farmers left - just a handful of large corporate agribusinesses. Then, no one would have the choice of being a farmer.'

This is the road described for many young and beginning farmers, yet it is impossible for most. Farming families are often weighed down by debt from one year to the next; beginning farmers cannot even access the credit nec-
essary to get started, or are given ridiculous goals to pay back their loans. As John said, 'Fortunately the sustain-
able agriculture movement emerged in the 1980s. It was a response not only to the demise of family farms but also a variety of growing environmental and societal concerns. Sustainable agriculture is about meeting the basic food needs of all in the present while leaving equal or better opportunities for both farmers and consumers in the future. The sustainable agriculture movement gave a new sense of purpose and direction to my professional and personal life; it has for many farmers.'

We are fortunate that people like John Ikerd and John Kinsman became involved with and promoted sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty when they did. As discussed by the strategy panel on 'Reclaiming Local Democratic Control Through Food Sovereignty' with Dr. Ikerd; Tressie Kamp, attorney with Midwest Environmental Advocates; Jim Goodman, organic farmer and board member of Family Farm Defenders; and Patty Lovera, assistant director of Food and Water Watch, we have opportunities to advance food sovereignty despite corpo-
rate agribusiness pressure to the contrary. Promoting education and mentorship, as well as establishing markets and processors for local foods (exemplified in the array of meats, cheeses, produce and breads served for the luncheon meal), supports a local food economy and a healthier regional economy, overall.

John Ikerd said, 'I have proposed an Ethic of Sustainability: 'A thing is right when it tends to enhance the quality and integrity of life on earth by honoring the unique responsibilities and rewards of humans as members and caretakers of the earth's integral community. A thing is wrong when it tends otherwise.'"