

Fertile Ground USA...Celebrating the people behind the plow
a zine investigating the sustainability of sustainable agriculture
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sowing seeds: news of inspiration
sixth annual national glynwood harvest awards



[GLYNWOOD HARVEST AWARDS](#) HONORS INNOVATION AND LEADERSHIP IN THE SUSTAINABLE FOOD MOVEMENT

The Sixth annual awards' Celebration Luncheon took place on October 27 in New York City at [Beacon](#) restaurant where Fred Kirschenmann, Organic Farmer, Educator, Distinguished Fellow at the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture and the President of Stone Barns, was presented the first Glynwood Medal for Distinguished Leadership in Sustainable Agriculture.

In his keynote speech, Fred Kirschenmann stated that we have an "incredible new challenge" in attracting new and young farmers alike: "As of the 2002 AG Census Data, only 5.8% of farmers were under age 35 and 27% were over age 65." But the good news is that the number of young farmers in the US of A seems to be increasing. Fred wrote me later in an email: "We won't get new official data until the 2007 ag census data are published---probably early in 2009. But there is anecdotal evidence suggesting that there are a lot of young people in various parts of the country who now want to farm."

Quoting Milton Friedman that "change rarely happens with out crisis," Fred went on to say that "the era of cheap stored energy is over" and that we "must fundamentally change our focus and move from an energy intensive farming system to alternative energy."

The winners of the 2008 Harvest Award all reflect those changes that are underway. More will be written about them in the weeks ahead.