

**Introduction to lecture by Joel Salatin entitled "How can we afford it?"
Dr. Miles Silman, Director of the Center for Energy, Environment, and Sustainability
August 25, 2013 - Wake Forest University**

Good afternoon, and welcome to today's presentation, "How can we afford it?" a look at sustainable food the true costs of food in our society.

I'm Miles Silman, director of the Wake Forest Center for Energy, Environment, and Sustainability, and on behalf of the Summer Academic Project, the Center, and the Office of Service and Social Action, I'd like to welcome you to the capstone event for orientation and into the intellectual life of Wake Forest.

I don't know if you've been told this, but Wake Forest University started out as the Wake Forest Manual Labor Institute. And if you were in the class of 1834, you showed up to school with your brain and your smarts and a shovel and an axe. All four were required equipment. And at the Wake Forest Manual Labor Institute you'd spend half your day learning--living the life of the mind--and half your day working, the life of doing.

I think this is a great metaphor. Because regardless of what you've been told or what you might have read, a university isn't just a place to come and fill your brain with knowledge and turn yourself into an academic commodity.

It's a place where we--not just the faculty, but we together--find the frontiers of knowledge, the sticking points of society. Where we think deeply about problems to understand them. What you hear less about is that this university is also where we do the hard labor and the happy labor of working to change things. [You should never forget that we started as a Labor Institute.]

Sustainability in the broad sense holds some of the world's largest problems, and some of our greatest opportunities--food, energy, climate, water, justice, markets, and private enterprise. It isn't just something that you can have an interest in--it is something that you can do. We want you to be disruptive, provoked, and, most importantly, do something. We'll help you, even if everything you want to do is illegal.

Today's speaker, Joel Salatin, is a 3rd generation farmer from Virginia and one of America's great innovators and leaders in sustainable farming and food. He calls himself a Christian libertarian environmentalist capitalist lunatic. He has done what people said couldn't be done and taken a locally produced organic, ethical farming to scale. He has also authored eight books on farming and food, been featured in Smithsonian Magazine, National Geographic, Gourmet, and every serious book about movie about food justice and the local food movement. And he is a hero to all farmers who love the land and love their animals.

You've been reading and discussing the perverse problem that right here in Winston Salem we're in one of the richest food producing regions and yet have the highest rate of food insecurity in the nation. Today you'll hear from a problem solver who is the best person to give an answer. A man who uses his brains, his smarts, a shovel and an axe. Please join me in welcoming Joel Salatin.