**What Does A Sustainable Food System Look Like?**

**Class activity for Chapter 15**

***Food, Farms and Community***

**Material Requirements: None**

**Time Requirement: 20-30 minutes**

Break students into small groups of three to five, and invite them to explore what a sustainable food system would look like. Throughout *Food, Farms, and Community*, many features of food systems have been described, so this is an opportunity for students to reflect critically on which of these is most important to them and how to translate their values into a vision of how a food system might function. Some of the most vital issues that students should consider revolve around food system *scale* and involve questions such as: How large should food enterprises be? How much land or market share should be controlled by an individual company? How much political influence should food-related companies be allowed to exert?

Once students have an opportunity to ponder their ideas about sustainable food systems, bring the class back together and offer them a chance to share their views and compare them to those offered by other students. Are the ideas of different groups fairly homogeneous, or is there a lot of diversity? Either way, probe students as to why that homogeneity or diversity would be present in a class like this.

Finally, invite students as a class to consider what changes must be made to push today’s food system closer to something they see as sustainable. How diverse are the strategies that emerge from this?