

Wendell Berry

Quotes

*People, Thinking, World, Land, Men, Community, Nature, Animal, Agriculture,
Garden, Country, Mind, Long, Believe, War, Heart, Environmental, Lying,
Needs, Life*

People are fed by the food industry, which pays no attention to health, and are treated by the health industry, which pays no attention to food.

~Wendell Berry

The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy, and after all our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope.

~Wendell Berry

It may be that when we no longer know... which way to go we have begun our real journey. The mind that is not baffled is not employed. The impeded stream is the one that sings.

~Wendell Berry

Outdoors we are confronted everywhere with wonders; we see that the miraculous is not extraordinary, but the common mode of existence. It is our daily bread.

~Wendell Berry

Be like the fox who makes more tracks than necessary, some in the wrong direction. Practice resurrection.

~Wendell Berry

I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief.... For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

~Wendell Berry

We need better government, no doubt about it. But we also need better minds, better friendships, better marriages, better communities.

~Wendell Berry

You cannot save the land apart from the people, or the people apart from the land.

~Wendell Berry

Unexpected wonders happen, not on schedule, or when you expect or want them to happen, but if you keep hanging around, they do happen.

~Wendell Berry

Whether we and our politicians know it or not, Nature is party to all our deals and decisions, and she has more votes, a longer memory, and a sterner sense of justice than we do.

~Wendell Berry

Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you.

~Wendell Berry

Better than any argument is to rise at dawn and pick dew-wet red berries in a cup.

~Wendell Berry

It is certain, I think, that the best government is the one that governs the least. But there is a much-neglected corollary: the best citizen is the one who least needs governing.

~Wendell Berry

There are no unsacred places; there are only sacred places and desecrated places.

~Wendell Berry

Rats and roaches live by competition under the laws of supply and demand; it is the privilege of human beings to live under the laws of justice and mercy.

~Wendell Berry

There's nothing under the ground that's worth more than the little layer

of topsoil sitting on top of it.

~Wendell Berry

If a healthy soil is full of death, it is also full of life: worms, fungi, microorganisms of all kinds ... Given only the health of the soil, nothing that dies is dead for very long.

~Wendell Berry

I am not bound for any public place, but for ground of my own where I have planted vines and orchard trees, and in the heat of the day climbed up into the healing shadow of the woods.

~Wendell Berry

To cherish what remains of the Earth and to foster its renewal is our only legitimate hope of survival.

~Wendell Berry

For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

~Wendell Berry

When I rise up, let me rise up joyful like a bird. When I fall, let me fall without regret like a leaf.

~Wendell Berry

True solitude is found in the wild places, where one is without human obligation. One's inner voices become audible... In consequence, one responds more clearly to other lives.

~Wendell Berry

The soil under the grass is dreaming of a young forest, and under the pavement the soil is dreaming of grass.

~Wendell Berry

We learn from our gardens to deal with the most urgent question of the

time: How much is enough?

~Wendell Berry

Don't own so much clutter that you will be relieved to see your house catch fire.

~Wendell Berry

You can't know where life will take you, but you can commit to a direction

~Wendell Berry

The earth is what we all have in common.

~Wendell Berry

We can make ourselves whole only by accepting our partiality, by living within our limits, by being humans not by trying to be gods.

~Wendell Berry

I go among trees and sit still. All my stirring becomes quiet around me like circles on water.

~Wendell Berry

There is much good work to be done by every one of us and we must begin to do it.

~Wendell Berry

Be joyful because it is humanly possible.

~Wendell Berry

Love is what carries you, for it is always there, even in the dark, or most in the dark, but shining out at times like gold stitches in a piece of embroidery.

~Wendell Berry

I have always loved a window, especially an open one.

~Wendell Berry

It is only by understanding the cultural complexity and largeness of the concept of agriculture that we can see the threatening diminishment implied by the term 'agribusiness.'

~Wendell Berry

If we are serious about peace, then we must work for it as ardently, seriously, continuously, carefully, and bravely as we have ever prepared for war.

~Wendell Berry

The world is not given by our fathers but borrowed from our children.

~Wendell Berry

Under the pavement the dirt is dreaming of grass.

~Wendell Berry

If you don't know where you are, you don't know who you are.

~Wendell Berry

The past is our definition. We may strive with good reason to escape it, or to escape what is bad in it. But we will escape it only by adding something better to it.

~Wendell Berry

I believe that the world was created and approved by love, that it subsists, coheres, and endures by love, and that, insofar as it is redeemable, it can be redeemed only by love.

~Wendell Berry

Urban conservationists may feel entitled to be unconcerned about food production because they are not farmers. But they can't be let off so

easily, for they are all farming by proxy.

~Wendell Berry

To go in the dark with a light is to know the light. To know the dark, go dark. Go without sight, and find that the dark, too, blooms and sings, and is traveled by dark feet and dark wings.

~Wendell Berry

The soil is the great connector of our lives, the source and destination of all.

~Wendell Berry

If you eat, you are involved in agriculture.

~Wendell Berry

It may be that when we no longer know what to do, we have come to our real work, and that when we no longer know which way to go, we have begun our real journey.

~Wendell Berry

I dream of a quiet man / who explains nothing and defends nothing, but only knows / where the rarest wildflowers / are blooming, and who goes, / and finds that he is smiling / not by his own will.

~Wendell Berry

To be interested in food but not in food production is clearly absurd.

~Wendell Berry

Nobody can discover the world for somebody else. Only when we discover it for ourselves does it become common ground and a common bond and we cease to be alone.

~Wendell Berry

I don't believe that grief passes away. It has its time and place forever.

More time is added to it; it becomes a story within a story. But grief and griever alike endure.

~Wendell Berry

For the true measure of agriculture is not the sophistication of its equipment the size of its income or even the statistics of its productivity but the good health of the land.

~Wendell Berry

We cannot know the whole truth, which belongs to God alone, but our task nevertheless is to seek to know what is true.

~Wendell Berry

A corporation, essentially, is a pile of money to which a number of persons have sold their moral allegiance.

~Wendell Berry

These are people who are capable of devotion, public devotion, to justice. They meant what they said and every day that passes, they mean it more.

~Wendell Berry

It is easy for me to imagine that the next great division of the world will be between people who wish to live as creatures and people who wish to live as machines.

~Wendell Berry

If we do not serve what coheres and endures, we serve what disintegrates and destroys.

~Wendell Berry

The constructions of language, which is to say the constructions of thought, are formed within experience, not the other way around.

~Wendell Berry

A significant part of the pleasure of eating is in one's accurate consciousness of the lives and the world from which food comes.

~Wendell Berry

The promoters of the global economy...see nothing odd or difficult about unlimited economic growth or unlimited consumption in a limited world.

~Wendell Berry

A man with a machine and inadequate culture is a pestilence.

~Wendell Berry

It is wrong to condemn people for doing a thing and then offer no alternative but failure. A person could get mad about that.

~Wendell Berry

All right, every day ain't going to be the best day of your life, don't worry about that. If you stick to it you hold the possibility open that you will have better days.

~Wendell Berry

How do we submit? By not being radical enough. Or by not being thorough enough, which is the same thing.

~Wendell Berry

If conservationists will attempt to resume responsibility for their need to eat, they will be led back fairly directly to all their previous concerns for the welfare of nature.

~Wendell Berry

...I was a young man. I hardly knew what I knew, let alone what I was going to know.

~Wendell Berry

Individualism is going around these days in uniform, handing out the party line on individualism.

~Wendell Berry

People need to feed themselves, next they need to feed their own communities.

~Wendell Berry

What can't be helped must be endured.

~Wendell Berry

To work without pleasure or affection, to make a product that is not both useful and beautiful, is to dishonor God, nature, the thing that is made, and whomever it is made for.

~Wendell Berry

Condemnation by category is the lowest form of hatred, for it is cold-hearted and abstract, lacking even the courage of a personal hatred.

~Wendell Berry

It is, of course, one of the miracles of science that the germs that used to be in our food have been replaced by poisons.

~Wendell Berry

The cloud is free only to go with the wind. The rain is free only in falling.

~Wendell Berry

The primary motive for good care and good use of the land-community is always going to be affection, which is too often lacking.

~Wendell Berry

Again I resume the long lesson: how small a thing can be pleasing, how

little in this hard world it takes to satisfy the mind and bring it to its rest.

~Wendell Berry

Don't pray for the rain to stop; pray for good luck fishing when the river floods.

~Wendell Berry

At night make me one with the darkness In the morning make me one with the light.

~Wendell Berry

You have to be able to imagine lives that are not yours.

~Wendell Berry

The incarnate Word is with us, is still speaking, is present always, yet leaves no sign but everything that is.

~Wendell Berry

One cannot be aware both of the history of Christian war and of the contents of the gospels without feeling that something is amiss.

~Wendell Berry

There is no sense and no sanity in objecting to the desecration of the flag while tolerating and justifying and encouraging as a daily business the desecration of the country for which it stands.

~Wendell Berry

Our obsession with security is a measure of the power we have granted the future to hold over us.

~Wendell Berry

The Christian gospel is a summons to peace, calling for justice beyond anger, mercy beyond justice, forgiveness beyond mercy, love beyond forgiveness.

~Wendell Berry

A sustainable agriculture is one which depletes neither the people nor the land.

~Wendell Berry

There comes . . . a longing never to travel again except on foot.

~Wendell Berry

...And we pray, not for new earth or heaven, but to be quiet in heart, and in eye clear. What we need is here.

~Wendell Berry

Praise ignorance, for what man has not encountered he has not destroyed.

~Wendell Berry

What could be more superstitious than the idea that money brings forth food?

~Wendell Berry

The mind that is not baffled, is unemployed

~Wendell Berry

The freedom of affluence opposes and contradicts the freedom of community life.

~Wendell Berry

I believe in thrift as I believe in freedom, but I don't support the plutocratic hostility to taxation, regulation, and protections of land, water, and air.

~Wendell Berry

The more artificial a human environment becomes, the more the word

â€˜natural' becomes a term of value.

~Wendell Berry

We live the given life, and not the planned.

~Wendell Berry

We have neglected the truth that a good farmer is a craftsman of the highest order, a kind of artist.

~Wendell Berry

There are moments when the heart is generous, and then it knows that for better or worse our lives are woven together here, one with one another and with the place and all the living things.

~Wendell Berry

In living in the world by his own will and skill, the stupidest peasant or tribesman is more competent than the most intelligent worker or technician or intellectual in a society of specialists.

~Wendell Berry

In the dark of the moon, in flying snow, in the dead of winter, war spreading, families dying, the world in danger, I walk the rocky hillside, sowing clover.

~Wendell Berry

If you can read and have more imagination than a doorknob, what need do you have for a 'movie version' of a novel?

~Wendell Berry

We are far more concerned about the desecration of the flag than we are about the desecration of our land.

~Wendell Berry

It's the impeded stream that sings

~Wendell Berry

But the only possible guarantee of the future is responsible behavior in the present.

~Wendell Berry

A good community insures itself by trust, by good faith and good will, by mutual help. A good community, in other words, is a good local economy.

~Wendell Berry

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