

Where a village is tended a toxic waste dump cannot grow.

1. Modern agriculture-based villages are a "natural branch" of a peaceful "cultural tree," and a necessary part of a comprehensive response to the crises of our times.
2. Modern agriculture-based villages can provide jobs. There are advantages to de-mechanizing farms to provide jobs. We ought to know what those advantages are, and when it is appropriate to realize their potential.
3. Modern agriculture-based villages can have a positive effect on nutrition, exercise, stress, pollution, social activity, criminal activity, violence, agricultural productivity, employment, energy efficiency, scientific innovation, justice, democracy, education, art, and the likelihood of peace in our times. And modern agriculture-based villages can provide homesteading apprenticeship programs that can be developed quickly, and at a low cost. As such, modern agriculture-based villages can be learning centers with as much to offer as vocational schools or universities..
4. Modern agriculture-based villages can generate small businesses, all mutually supportive and dependent on the quality of life the village as a whole represents. In such a village, everyone will know where the resources are, and who is responsible for maintaining them.
5. Modern agriculture-based villages can be a tax shelter, in the sense that individuals, health care organizations, businesses, and corporations need not pay taxes to the government if they invest enough in modern agriculture-based villages-- and therefore help create a safety net that does not require the expense of extravagant infrastructures in order to be useful.
6. Modern agriculture-based villages can be a part of the healing process for cities-- if we would admit that part of what needs to be healed in cities is that our ambitions have exceeded the capacity of the social and environmental conditions which support them. In other words, we want more than we are capable of successfully providing. My question is this: how overwhelming do the problems in the cities need to get before reviving "the good and simple life" becomes a legitimate part of a comprehensive response to those problems?

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Freedom of Speech
Norman Rockwell (1894-1978)