

The book was found

Civic Agriculture: Reconnecting Farm, Food, And Community (Civil Society: Historical And Contemporary Perspectives)



Synopsis

While the American agricultural and food systems follow a decades-old path of industrialization and globalization, a counter trend has appeared toward localizing some agricultural and food production. Thomas A. Lyson, a scholar-practitioner in the field of community-based food systems, calls this rebirth of locally based agriculture and food production civic agriculture because these activities are tightly linked to a community's social and economic development. Civic agriculture embraces innovative ways to produce, process, and distribute food, and it represents a sustainable alternative to the socially, economically, and environmentally destructive practices associated with conventional large-scale agriculture. Farmers' markets, community gardens, and community-supported agriculture are all forms of civic agriculture. Lyson describes how, in the course of a hundred years, a small-scale, diversified system of farming became an industrialized system of production and also how this industrialized system has gone global. He argues that farming in the United States was modernized by employing the same techniques and strategies that transformed the manufacturing sector from a system of craft production to one of mass production. Viewing agriculture as just another industrial sector led to transformations in both the production and the processing of food. As small farmers and food processors were forced to expand, merge with larger operations, or go out of business, they became increasingly disconnected from the surrounding communities. Lyson enumerates the shortcomings of the current agriculture and food systems as they relate to social, economic, and environmental sustainability. He then introduces the concept of community problem solving and offers empirical evidence and concrete examples to show that a re-localization of the food production system is underway.

Book Information

Series: Civil Society: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Tufts (June 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1584654147

ISBN-13: 978-1584654148

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #91,755 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #59 in Books > Business &

Money > Industries > Agriculture #62 in Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > Sustainable Agriculture #113 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Natural Resources

Customer Reviews

"An eye-opening read recommended for collections on agriculture, community development, economics of food production and sociology." •Academia•[Lyson] provides an excellent historical context on how Northeast growers, who traditionally sold their products in local urban markets, have been able to resist somewhat the pressures to "go corporate" and in the current century, preserve their land by embracing the CSAs, farmers' markets, and other forms of civic agriculture. •The Community Farm

5 1/2 x 8 1/2 trim. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a great book if you don't know a lot about what's wrong with the current food system and if you want to learn more about small-scale agriculture. If you already know a lot on the topic, it might be boring. It's a short, fast read and it can be dry but it is a lot of good information. I already knew a lot on the topic from reading "Eating Animals" by Jonathan Safran Foer (which I highly recommend), but as a text for one of my classes, this was helpful as a refresher. Don't get too downtrodden from the first few chapters; Lyson gets to the revival of civic agriculture in the later chapters.

This book was purchased for a class I am in. Of all the books I have had to read for school this was the most straight forward, easy to read and informational.

Informative and useful for my class in civic agriculture

The issues that are addressed by Thomas Lyson in this small volume are important and becoming more so. He describes in adequate detail the progression from subsistence farming of our great grand parents to the industrial farms of today. He goes on to discuss how feeding and clothing the world's growing population in that manner is becoming more and more problematic and shows how the development of community based agriculture provides a path out of that morass. One need not be an agronomist or agricultural economist to appreciate Professor Lyson's statement of the problem and its possible solution. In fact, the non-technical reader could well perceive this book as a

good starting point for participation in this most important discussion.

In 2005, Thomas Lyson published an article "Civic Agriculture and Community Problem Solving" in the journal "Culture & Agriculture" (vol 27 no2 pages 92-98). In this short article, he articulates all of the important points of his book with the same title. I really enjoyed the article and hoped to find more in the book, but it mostly just adds history and background detail about the food system in general that can be found in most books on the subject.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Civic Agriculture: Reconnecting Farm, Food, and Community (Civil Society: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives) 6 books in 1 - Agriculture, Agronomy, Animal Husbandry, Sustainable Agriculture, Tropical Agriculture, Farm Animals, Vegetables, Fruit Trees, Chickens, ... Tomatoes, Cucumbers (How To Do Agriculture) Honda Civic & CR-V - Acura Integra: Honda Civic - 1996 thru 2000 - Honda CR-V - 1997-2001 - Acura Integra 1994 thru 2000 Uncharitable: How Restraints on Nonprofits Undermine Their Potential (Civil Society: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives)

From the Farm to The Table, Healthy Foods from the Farm for Kids - Children's Agriculture Books

Food Truck Business: How To Start Your Own Food Truck While Growing & Succeeding As Your Own Boss (Food Truck, Food Truck Business, Passive Income, Food ... Truck Startup, Food Truck Business Plan,) School and Society: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives Frankenstein:

Complete, Authoritative Text with Biographical and Historical Contexts, Critical History, and Essays from Five Contemporary Critical Perspectives (Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism)

HOMESTEADING: Farming For Beginners (Animal Books, Food, Farming, Beekeeping, Animal Farm) (Breeding Animals, Backyard, Farming Books, Farming for Dummies, ... Agriculture

Business, Mini Farming Book 1) Pedagogy of Freedom: Ethics, Democracy, and Civic Courage (Critical Perspectives Series: A Book Series Dedicated to Paulo Freire) Handbook of Research on the Facilitation of Civic Engagement through Community Art Organic Agriculture: Protecting Our

Food Supply or Chasing Imaginary Risks? (USA Today's Debate: Voices & Perspectives) Civil War:

American Civil War in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Confederate States

(War Books, Civil War History, Civil War Books) (History in 50 Events Series Book 13) The

Agricultural Groundwater Revolution: Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture (Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture Series) (v. 3)

Agriculture: Spiritual Foundations for the Renewal of Agriculture Whole Food: The 30 day Whole Food Ultimate Cookbook 100recipes (Whole Food Diet, Whole Food Cookbook, Whole Food Recipes, Clean Eating, Paleo, Ketogenic) The History of Agriculture (Food and Society) The New

Analog: Listening and Reconnecting in a Digital World The Jewish Jesus: Reconnecting with the Truth About Jesus, Israel, and the Church Home Grown: Adventures in Parenting off the Beaten Path, Unschooling, and Reconnecting with the Natural World

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)