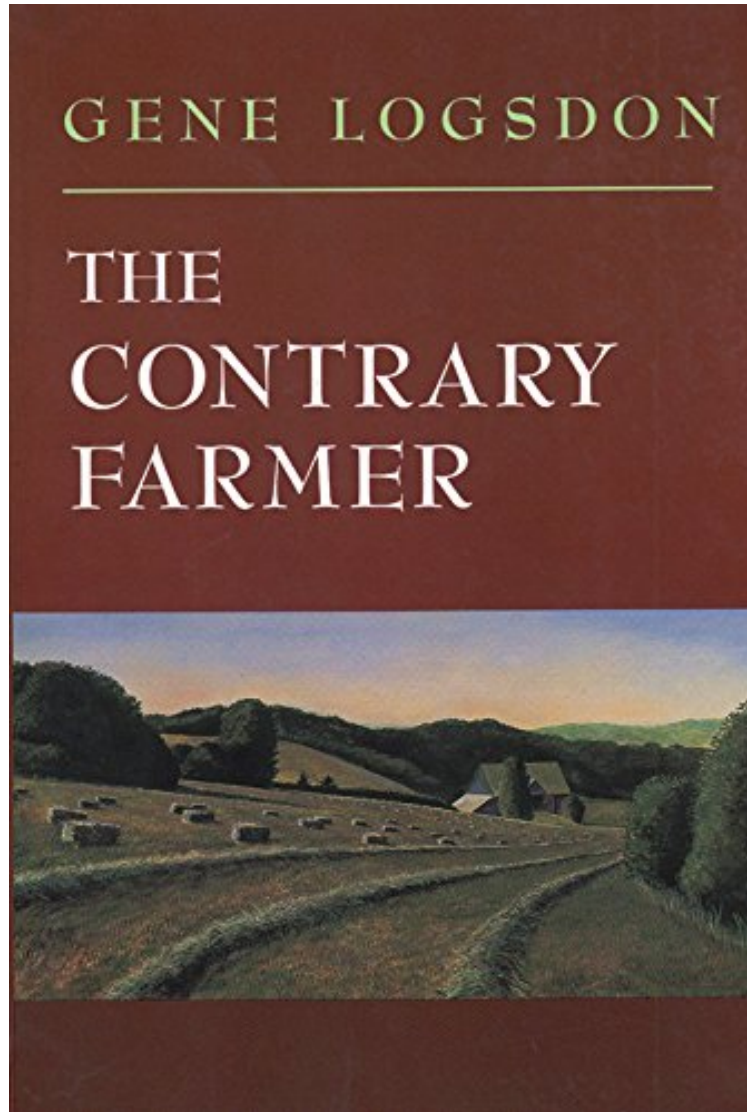


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Gene Logsdon

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#372142 in Books Chelsea Green Publishing 1995-05-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.02 x .63 x 6.021, .87 #File Name: 0930031741256 pages | File size: 78.Mb

Gene Logsdon : The Contrary Farmer (Real Goods Independent Living Book) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Contrary Farmer (Real Goods Independent Living Book):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. More why to be a cottage farmer than how to be one. By Psin Khan This is more of a philosophical book on why cottage farming is good for the farmer and society as a whole. There are a few helpful hints and advice on what to do or not to do. The author is for the most part a skilled word smith well practiced in his art with extensive knowledge on his subject. I will keep the book in my library to loan to my friends

when they need an interesting read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A must have
By Clark's Custom Carpentry Repairs
I love this book. From beginning to end, Gene spins a tale that seems almost fictional at times. Although the advice is very practical and informative, his way with words lets your mind delve into the story like some type of 'Alice in Wonderland' amusement park ride. You're not just reading this book, you're living it. Even the most basic mundane chores and uninviting tasks that he discusses in the myriad of rural farming seem to turn into some magical experience that you see yourself in, watching him, copying his every move, modeling after him like he was your father or grandfather, and you wanted nothing more than to be by his side, spend time with him; become him. The only thing that could make this book better would be photos. He spends a great deal of time talking about crops, insects, trees, weeds and birds, and unless you've spent many, many years in nature you may not know exactly what each one looks like, (I sure don't) and he mentions tons of them. I would definitely buy this book again as is, but a second printing with a color glossary or embedded images would be a cottage framer's go-to encyclopedia for sure.
Well done, Mr. Logsdon. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Really enjoyed the book
By "slu"
Really enjoyed the book. There is a lot of practical knowledge and a lot of philosophy for someone striving to be a "cottage farmer". The book is a welcome addition to other works espousing the sustainable lifestyle. The "cottage farm" is one that is not mono-product. It is diversified, producing various grains, several types of livestock, vegetable crops, and its own energy for heating/cooking/income. The "cottage farm" is one which is much like, if not a reflection of the farmsteads of the last century and years prior. It could be several acres to several hundred. It could well be the practical example of the future of agriculture.

Gene Logsdon has become something of a rabble-rouser in progressive farm circles, stirring up debates and controversies with his popular New Farm Magazine column, The Contrary Farmer. One of Logsdon's principle contrarities is the opinion that--popular images of the vanishing American farmer, notwithstanding--greater numbers of people in the U.S. will soon be growing and raising a greater share of their own food than at any time since the last century. Instead of vanishing, more and more farmers will be cottage farming, part-time. This detailed and personal account of how Logsdon's family uses the art and science of agriculture to achieve a reasonably happy and ecologically sane way of life in an example for all who seek a sustainable lifestyle. In The Contrary Farmer, Logsdon offers the tried-and-true, practical advice of a manual for the cottage farmer, as well as the subtler delights of a meditation in praise of work and pleasure. The Contrary Farmer will give its readers tools and tenets, but also hilarious commentaries and beautiful evocations of the Ohio countryside that Logsdon knows as his place in the universe.

.com Gene Logsdon offers an alternative to the decline of the family farm by explaining how to successfully engage in what he calls "cottage farming" part-time for enjoyment as well as profit. This book gives readers the tools and information they need to grow their own food in a sustainable and Earth-friendly fashion, but it also tells some great, hilarious stories and includes some truly beautiful and evocative writing. This is not a dry, "how-to" book; it's a really great read even if you haven't a clue about (or any interest in) farming. From Publishers Weekly "Cutting down a large tree should be an act charged with ritual." Why? Farming columnist Logsdon (Organic Orchardng) points to the tree's "wonderful accomplishment" and to its "feat of survival" as models for ourselves. Then he goes on to discuss ways of felling trees that have come to the end of their lives and can therefore spare their wood for fuel. This collection of essays recommends cottage farming--the small-scale, part-time growing that aims to reduce food expenses and increase pleasure in living--in a tone that combines even-handed pragmatism, idealism ("Measure the value of products in human terms," he urges) and impatient realism ("Let those who put their faith in fancy threads laugh at your jeans"). The author rejects "institutionalized claptrap" for the greater benefits of rural independence and freedom, and outlines ways we can pursue these. "Flee the evils that centralized power always generates," he advises, calling himself an investor in "the tools that make sweat more productive." Logsdon raises a sanely unruly voice in a society where life too often only seems civilized. His correctives are not easily applied, but their promise and appeal (like his own) are powerful. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Logsdon is a writer for New Farm magazine and author of several books on small-scale farming and American agriculture, including At Nature's Pace: Farming and the American Dream (LJ 12/93). He is also a farmer, and experiences from his small Ohio farm provide much of the the subject material for The Contrary Farmer, which explains how he deals with crops, animals, machinery, the weather, and the neighbors. Just what is a contrary farmer? Among other things, one who is not afraid to go against the grain of conventional agricultural wisdom, who does not believe that bigger is always better or that no-till chemically maintained monocultures are superior to crop rotations and diversified farming. Logsdon is as staunch an advocate for the small family farm or acreage ("cottage farm" in his parlance) as you are likely to find. His latest book is thoughtful, entertaining, often irreverent, and brimming with ideas and practical advice. For public and academic libraries. William Wiese, Iowa State Univ. Lib., Ames Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.