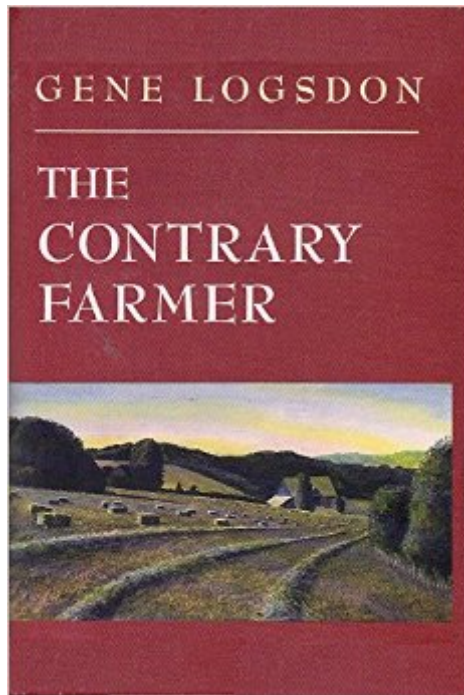


The book was found

The Contrary Farmer (The Real Goods Independent Living Books)



Synopsis

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. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

Series: The Real Goods Independent Living Books

Hardcover: 208 pages

Publisher: Chelsea Green Pub Co; 1st Edition edition (April 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0930031679

ISBN-13: 978-0930031671

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 6.2 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (48 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #828,644 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #335 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Rural](#) #4330 in [Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences](#) #5506 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design](#)

Customer Reviews

This is a highly enjoyable book about how to make a profit on a small farm. The author's contention is that few people will ever get rich any more farming, but a family that's willing to work hard should be able to earn the money they need on a farm with considerably less than 100 acres. Logsdon stresses that if you calculate a dollar value for your labor, you'll find that your hourly wage is rather

low, but on the other hand, if you enjoy what you're doing, then perhaps it isn't really valid to calculate the hourly wage anyhow. There's no arguing that farm labor is hard work, but how many city people pay large sums of money for gym memberships in order to get the exercise that they miss while sitting at their desks? Hoeing a garden provides great exercise at no cost, as well as an income when the produce is sold. However, on a huge factory farm, weeds must be controlled with herbicides or expensive gas-driven machinery, which brings down the profitability of the enterprise as well as damaging the environment. Logsdon's golden rule is never to finance farming by borrowing. He points out that "rates of money growth (interest) seldom match rates of biological growth," so borrowing money to buy farm or equipment or land is almost always the start of a losing proposition. After the first few chapters about what he terms "pastoral economics", Logsdon devotes separate chapters to each of the parts of his small farm ecosystem, the garden, the animals, water, meadows, trees, corn, mechanics, and pastures. Although he eschews wide-spread use of pesticides, he's not an organic purist, which may rub certified organic farmers the wrong way. He's very keen on maintaining animals like some sheep and chickens, a few pigs, and a cow or two.

I am interested in starting up a small farm, and Logsdon's book offers a lot of old-friend advice on how to keep a farm without going broke or biting off more than you can chew. He draws from almost thirty years of experience to tell the reader the best way to raise livestock, maintain pasture and cultivated land, dig a pond, fell trees, and well, you get the idea. It makes me want to put into practice what I read as soon as possible. I look at the land in a whole different way thanks to this book. For those of you into the Bible, this book offers great instructions on being a steward of the land. If you take care of your trees and animals, they'll take care of you. This book does leave me with a lot of questions, which is good and frustrating at the same time. Since Gene Logsdon grew up on a farm and has spent all his life writing for farmers, he might take for granted the knowledge he has that some of us new to agriculture might not. I still don't know what a combine is, or what a manure spreader looks like, or what keeps the layers warm in the henhouse over the winter. Logsdon mentions in the chapter about forestry that illustrations would best explain the safety precautions that he details with words. That makes me think that maybe there are no illustrations in the book because of restrictions set by the printer or editor. I would also like to know what assets to look for when buying a farm, or how to go about buying one in the first place. Logsdon also lets on little about what his wife contributes to their 32-acre homestead. He refers to his work only in the first person singular, though obviously it takes at least two people to do the work.

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

The Contrary Farmer (The Real Goods Independent Living Books) Renewables Are Ready--People Creating Renewable Energy Solutions: People Creating Renewable Energy Solutions Clean Energy Through Community Action (Real Goods Independent Living Book) Real Goods Solar Living Sourcebook: Your Complete Guide to Living beyond the Grid with Renewable Energy Technologies and Sustainable Living The Old Farmer's Almanac 2017: Special Anniversary Edition (Old Farmer's Almanac (Paperback)) The Hand-Sculpted House: A Practical and Philosophical Guide to Building a Cob Cottage: The Real Goods Solar Living Book The Independent Filmmaker's Law and Business Guide: Financing, Shooting, and Distributing Independent and Digital Films Real Estate: Learn to Succeed the First Time: Real Estate Basics, Home Buying, Real Estate Investment & House Flipping (Real Estate income, investing, Rental Property) RV Living: For Beginners: How To Live The ,Stress Free, & Simple, Motorhome, Life To Become. Independent, And Debt Free, (Tiny house, Motorhome Living) (RV Boondocking Book 1) Living Off The Grid And Loving It: 40 Creative Ways To Living A Stress Free And Self-Sustaining Lifestyle (Simple Living, Off Grid Living, Off The Grid Homes, DIY Survival Guide, Prepping & Survival) Jokes For Kids - Joke Books : Funny Books : Kids Books : Books for kids age 9 12 : Best Jokes 2016 (kids books, jokes for kids, books for kids 9-12, ... funny jokes, funny jokes for kids) (Volume 1) The Best Homemade Kids' Lunches on the Planet: Make Lunches Your Kids Will Love with Over 200 Deliciously Nutritious Lunchbox Ideas - Real Simple, Real Ingredients, Real Quick! Real Time Systems and Programming Languages: Ada 95, Real-Time Java and Real-Time C/POSIX (3rd Edition) Lupus: Real Life, Real Patients, Real Talk The Renewable Energy Handbook: The Updated Comprehensive Guide to Renewable Energy and Independent Living Handmade Houseboats: Independent Living Afloat LIST SERIES: JAMES ROLLINS: SERIES READING ORDER: SIGMA FORCE BOOKS, THE BANNED AND THE BANISHED BOOKS, GODSLAYER BOOKS, JAKE RANSOM BOOKS, TUCKER WAYNE BOOKS, STANDALONE NOVELS BY JAMES ROLLINS Real Computing Made Real: Preventing Errors in Scientific and Engineering Calculations (Dover Books on Computer Science) Gluten-Free Baking: More Than 125 Recipes for Delectable Sweet and Savory Baked Goods, Including Cakes, Pies, Quick Breads, Muffins, Cookies, and Other Delights Not Your Mama's Canning Book: Modern Canned Goods and What to Make with Them It's a Long Road to a Tomato: Tales of an Organic Farmer Who Quit the Big City for the (Not So) Simple Life