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**Cover**

Summer marshland,  
Spring Run Wildlife  
Management Area.

Photograph by Carl Kurtz.

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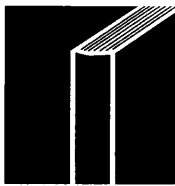
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## B O O K S , E T C .

***Agriculture in the City's Countryside.*** By Christopher R. Bryant and Thomas R.R. Johnston. 230 pp. 1992. University of Toronto Press, 10 St. Mary Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2W8 CANADA. \$18.95 softbound, \$45.00 hardbound.

Concerns about urbanization's impact on agricultural production capacity have spawned "literally dozens of programmes of farmland conservation." At a time when overproduction is a preoccupation in western economies, such concerns seem "misplaced." Yet, "continuing problems of famine and undernourishment in many parts of the world" and resource degradation caused by "the search for continual increases in agricultural production efficiency," provide "more grist for the agricultural land conservation mill."

With a hint of skepticism about the rationale for most current farmland preservation schemes, the authors embark on a thorough and informative inquiry into the status of agriculture and of agricultural change in the city's countryside. Most interested in their efforts are likely to be students and professionals in the fields of rural land use and resource planning and management.

The central theme of the book is the complex set of transformation processes that affect agriculture in the city's countryside. To explore these processes, the authors use a series of conceptual frameworks that demonstrate the complexities affecting modern agriculture near cities.

Two themes provide the basic framework—a system perspective and an interests-inland perspective. Within the first perspective, four fundamental dimensions are explored in detail, including the resource base, the "market," the farmer, and the government. This section contains a

succinct description of the concepts of urban fringe and urban shadow.

Included under interests-inland are the dimensions of land speculation, land as a support for family farm systems, land for food production for present and future generations, and land as support for amenity. This perspective also provides the framework for investigating the diversity of private and public responses to the changes that have been transforming agriculture in the city's countryside.

Underlying these two main perspectives are two recurring themes—individual versus collective interests in land and technological change. Land-use planning and management are viewed as a continual process of trying to resolve the tension between individual rights and societal needs.

Technological change is seen in the light of its impact on agricultural production but also in creating an increasingly interdependent national food production system. As an urban technology, the private car is seen as a driving force behind the development of new settlement forms in urban regions.

Most of the book, four of the six principal chapters, is taken up with describing the dimensions of agriculture in the city's countryside. The fifth examines farmland protection programs and their rationale in the United States, Canada, western Europe, and New Zealand.

The authors draw upon a very wide body of research literature, most of it from the geography community, which has conducted most of the research on this subject. The book contains an extensive bibliography. Essentially missing, however, is literature from the rural sociology field, which helps to explain the forces that shape farm operator behavior in using land resources.

In the concluding chapters,

which serve as syntheses and retrospect-prospect, the authors argue for better research methodologies. These are considered essential if the results continue to be used as a basis of public policy. They urge the abandonment of "the myths that, a) agriculture is on a downhill path, b) that agriculture can be treated as a homogeneous structure, and c) that most of agriculture's problems are linked to the urban environment."

How well the authors make their case in support of these conclusions is left to the reader to discover. One gets the sense that the authors' desire to sell the positive aspects or strengths of agriculture in the city's countryside may suffer as much from data limitation as the advocates of the doom and gloom scenarios. Whatever the case may be, it is a stimulating and informative read and it is by far the best available data compilation on the subject.—*David R. Cressman, P.Ag., is president of Ecologistics Limited, Waterloo, Ontario.*

### General

*Spanish-English, English-Spanish Illustrated Agricultural Dictionary.* By Dr. Robert P. Rice. 1994. Thomson Publications, P.O. Box 9335, Fresno, California 93791. \$27.95 softbound.

*An Environmental Proposal for Ethics—The Principle of Integrity.* By Laura Westra. 240pp. 1993. University Press of America, Inc.—Rowan & Littlefield, 4720 Boston Way, Lanham, Maryland 20706. \$21.95 paperback, \$55.00 hardbound.

*Tree Conservation Ordinances.* By Christopher J. Duerksen with Suzanne Richman. 107pp. 1993. American Planning Association and Scenic America. APA publications office, 1313 E. 60th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637.

*Directory of Organizations and Institutes Active in Environmental Monitoring.* 1993. United Nations Environment Programme. UNEP-HEM office, c/o GSF, Neuherberg, Postfach 1129, 85758 Oberschleissheim.

*Toward a New National Weather Service: Review of Modernization Criteria.* 86pp. 1993. National Academy of Sciences. Available in limited supply from Transition Program Office, National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 1325 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910.

*Born Naked: The Early Adventures of the Author of Never Cry Wolf.* By Farley Mowat. 256 pp. 1994. Houghton Mifflin Company, 222 Berkeley Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116. \$21.95 hardbound.

### Agriculture

*Agriculture, Environment, and Health: Sustainable Development in the 21st Century.* Edited by Vernon W. Rutan. 384 pp. 1994. University of Minnesota Press, 2037 University Avenue S.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455-3092. \$19.95 softbound, \$44.95 hardbound.

*Future Harvest: Pesticide-free Farming.* By Jim Bender. 159 pp. 1994. University of Nebraska Press, 901 N. 17th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0520. \$21.00 hardbound.

*International Crop Science I.* Edited by D.R. Buxton, R. Shibles, R.A. Forsberg, B.L. Blad, K.H. Asay, G.M. Paulsen, and R.F. Wilson. 895 pp. 1993. Crop Science Society of America, Inc., 677 South Segoe Road, Madison, Wisconsin 53711.

### Ecology

*Ecology of Greenways: Design and Function of Linear*

*Conservation Areas*. Edited by Daniel S. Smith and Paul Cawood Hellmund. Foreword by Richard T. T. Forman. 224 pp. 1993. University of Minnesota Press, 2037 University Avenue S.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455-3092. \$39.95 hardbound.

*Organic Manual (common-sense landscaping and gardening)*. By J. Howard Garrett. 203 pp. 1993. The Summit Group, 1227 West Magnolia, Suite 500, Fort Worth, Texas 76104.

### Forests

*Ecology of Red Maple Swamps in the Glaciated Northeast: A Community Profile*. By Francis C. Golet, Aram J.K. Calhoun, William R. DeRagon, Dennis J. Lowry, and Arthur J. Gold. 151 pp. 1993. U.S. Department of the Interior—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Copies obtained from Publications Unit, National Biological Survey, 1849 C Street, N.W., Mail Stop 130, Webb Building, Washington, D.C. 20240.

### Land Use

*Landscape Restoration Handbook*. By Donald Harker, Sherri Evans, Marc Evans, and Kay Harker. 688 pp. 1993. Lewis Publishers, 2000 Corporate Boulevard, N.W., Boca Raton, Florida 33431-9868. \$75.00 in U.S., \$90 outside U.S.

### Pesticides

*The Users Reference Guide to Pesticides: A Guide to the Formulations, Tank Mixes, Adjuvant Recommendations and Compatibilities of Pesticides Used in the United States*. By W.T. Thomson. 200 pp. 1994. Thomson Publications, P.O. Box 9335, Fresno, California 93791. \$27.95 softbound.

### Pollution

*In Our Backyard: A Guide to Understanding Pollution and Its Effects*. By Travis P. Wagner. 160 pp. 1994. Van Nostrand Reinhold, 115 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10003. \$19.95 softbound.

### Soils

*Communications in Soil Science and Plant Analysis. Special 25th Anniversary Issue Devoted to Perspectives on Relationships Between Sustainability of Soil and the Environment*. Edited by J. Benton Jones, Jr., and H.A. Mills. 170 pp. 1994. Marcel Dekker, Inc., P.O. Box 5005, Monticello, New York 12701-5185.

*Soil Management and Conservation in the Tropics*. By Luis A. Manrique. 220 pp. 1993. Manrique International Agrotech, P.O. Box 61145, Honolulu, Hawaii 96839. \$66.00.

### Water Resources

*Storm Water Management and Technology*. By the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 375 pp. 1993. Noyes Publications-Noyes Data Corporation, 120 Mill Road, Park Ridge, New Jersey 07656. \$48.00 hardbound.

*Drainage Principles and Applications-Revised Edition*. By the International Institute for Land Reclamation and Improvement. 1,200 pp. 1993. ILRI, P.O. Box 45, 6700 AA Wageningen, The Netherlands. Dfl. 175.00/U.S. \$100.00.

*Ground Water Vulnerability Assessment: Predicting Relative Containment Potential Under Conditions of Uncertainty*. From the Committee on Techniques for Assessing Ground Water Vulnerability; the Water Science and Technology Board; the Commission on Geo-

sciences, Environment, and Resources; and the National Research Council. 204 pp. 1993. National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418. \$34.95 hardbound.

*Flood Control and Water Management in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta. Social Research Report Series 93-5*. By Robert W. Harrison and Joseph F. Mooney, Jr. 24 pp. 1993. Contact J. Gipson Wells, Series Editor, Social Science Research Center, P.O. Box 5287, Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762.

*Water Resources Management in Asia Volume 1—Main Report*. World Bank Technical Paper Number 212—Asia Technical Department

Series. By Harald D. Frederiksen, Jeremy Berkoff, and William Barber. 149 pp. 1993. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank. For information, contact World Bank Publications, P.O. Box 7247-8619, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19170-8619. \$10.95 softbound.

*Water Scarcity in Developing Countries: Reconciling Development and Environmental Protection*. Edited by Deborah Moore and David Seckler. 80 pp. 1993. Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development. Contact Winrock Publication Sales, P.O. Box 9363, Arlington, Virginia 22209. \$9.95 softbound.