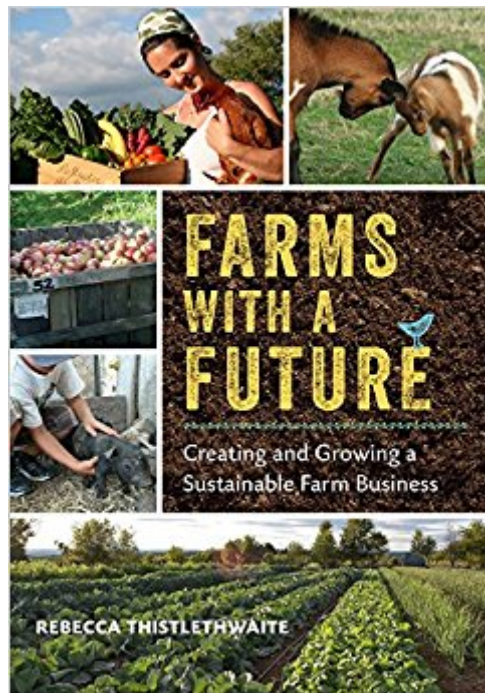




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Farms With A Future: Creating And Growing A Sustainable Farm Business



Synopsis

What makes a farm sustainable and successful? And what special qualities and skills are needed for someone to become a successful farmer? Rebecca Thistlethwaite addresses these and other crucial questions in this uniquely important book, which is a must-read for anyone who aspires to get into farming, or who wants to make their farm business more dynamic, profitable, and, above all, sustainable. Over an entire year, the author and her husband-experienced farmers themselves-took a sabbatical and traveled the length and breadth of the United States to live and work alongside some of the nation's most innovative farmers. Along the way they learned about best practices, and a whole lot about what doesn't work. *Farms with a Future* shares this collective wisdom in an inspirational yet practical manner; it will help beginners avoid many of the common mistakes that first-time farmers make. Just as importantly, it discusses positive ideas that can help make any farm enterprise vibrant and financially profitable. Profiles of more than a dozen representative farms help round out the invaluable information and encourage farmers to embrace their inner entrepreneur. Younger growers, in particular, will benefit by learning about "the right stuff" from both their peers and longtime experts. This book provides a useful reference for beginning and experienced farmers alike. While many other books address agricultural production, there are very few that talk about business management for long-term sustainability. *Farms with a Future* offers an approachable, colorful take on building a triple-bottom-line farming business.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

ForeWord Reviews-As a farmer and sustainable agriculture consultant, Rebecca Thistlethwaite

understands how important it is to share information about small farmers who have redefined success, finding ways to sustain their families, their communities, and the planet. The stories of innovative farmers who have embraced their 'inner entrepreneur' fill this collection and serve as ample inspiration for readers who are dreaming of their own farming ventures, as well as those who are searching for new approaches. With chapters organized around specific principles such as "Identifying Your Market Niche" and "Harvesting and Processing," the emphasis of Thistlethwaite's book is incorporating necessary tools for survival and profit in a family-based business. Each chapter contains photographs of the farms and farmers, which helps drive home for the reader that these are real people who have, through sacrifice, planning, and hard work, found ways to farm that supports their values. Additionally, each chapter ends with 'Take-Home Messages,' a bulleted summary of dos and don'ts that affirm much of what each family farm story demonstrates. A superior book for its information, organization, and examples, *Farms with a Future* is essential for dreamers who intend to be doers, and doers who are seeking more creative dreaming. "Farms with a Future should be handed out to every budding young farmer in America. Thistlethwaite guides us through the daunting process of creating a viable small farm by sharing hard-earned lessons of her own, and from experienced farmers she met while researching this book.

Indispensable! --Novella Carpenter, author of *Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer* "What is so great about Rebecca Thistlethwaite's new book, *Farms with a Future*, is that it is not a generalized treatment about how to succeed in the new farm and food revolution, but a detailed and complete description of how some fourteen farms of various kinds have done it. This book does what books are supposed to do, that is, it gives the reader on-the-ground experience that would otherwise take years to gain. --Gene Logsdon, author of *The Contrary Farmer* and *Small-Scale Grain Raising* "Farms with a Future is an important book. If you are new to farming, read it now. If you've been in the business for a while, read it every year to keep yourself on track. --Shannon Hayes, author of *Long Way on a Little and Radical Homemakers* "Farms with a Future should be added to the reading list of anyone getting into farming. Easy to read and full of practical information, it will help those entering agriculture avoid many common pitfalls." --Nicolette Hahn Niman, author of *Righteous Porkchop: Finding a Life and Good Food Beyond Factory Farms*

Rebecca Thistlethwaite is the author of *Farms with a Future* (Chelsea Green, 2012). She runs Sustain Consulting, which specializes in food and farm issues, working with both nongovernmental

organizations and for-profit businesses. Her website is <http://rebeccathistlethwaite.com>. Rebecca also operates a small farm and a community farm stand in Oregon with her husband and coauthor, Jim Dunlop, and their daughter, Fiona. They previously owned TLC Ranch in Watsonville, California, where they raised organic, pastured livestock and poultry, selling to direct markets across Northern California. Richard Wiswall started Cate Farm in East Montpelier, Vermont, where he has farmed since 1981. Known for his work on farm profitability and appropriate business tools, Wiswall consults with other farmers, and writes and speaks frequently on organic-farm business issues. He is the author of book *The Organic Farmer's Business Handbook and Business Advice for Organic Farmers*, a practical workshop available on DVD. To learn more about Wiswall and Cate Farm, visit www.catefarm.com.

Reading stories about real people doing real things on a small scale is very appealing to me. The writer has taken the time to write each chapter in a manner that is both compassionate and detailed. This book is not a book on how to "do it". This is a book on showing you the real world on what you will go thru in creating your own small farm (e.g. your backyard to 5 acres). No matter if you raise chickens, cattle or vegetables (just for your family or for your community) there are chapters in this book to both educate and entertain you on small farming. I have three acres. In the past two years I have gone from mowing grass that was a nuisance, to raising vegetables in raised beds, adding chickens last year, adding four beehives this month (March) with plans to add four goats in April. This book has helped me understand what is required from what I would like to accomplish.

Im just going into farming on my own, this book has changed some of my perspectives about how I look at agriculture, it also has some great insight to from other experienced farmers, would highly recommend if your looking into the world of sustainable agricultural or any area of livelihood,

We are in the author's shoes as far as beginning an organic farm. Loved the book. No rosy picture painted here. The truth is in the reading. Hard, hard work. Harder yet is educating the people and marketing the product. We at least feel we are not alone after reading her excellent evaluation of farming. Our best to her and her husband as they continue on in their endeavors.

A good book with some great ideas and inspiration

This is an impotent book, well written, very useful, full of examples and real stories. You will learn so much from errors made by others (and save money, good time, health and more...). Recommended for those who are planning to become farmers: to be read before starting! Thank you Rebecca.

Great book for anyone thinking about becoming a farmer. Farms are going out of business at an alarming rate and young or transitioning farmers need to know the tools to make their businesses be financially stable. Great tips, advice, and roadmaps of how to succeed.

Thank you

Bought it for my son who is buying a farm...he says it's very informative.

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