



The Midwest Farmer's Daughter: In Search of an American Icon

Zachary Michael Jack

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From yesterday's gingham girls to today's Google-era Farmer Janes, *The Midwest Farmer's Daughter* explores the resurgent role played by female agriculturalists at a time when fully 30 percent of new farms in the US are woman-owned, but when, paradoxically, America's farm-reared daughters are conspicuously absent from popular film, television, and literature. In this first-of-its-kind treatment, Zachary Michael Jack follows the fascinating story of the girl who became a regional and national legend: from Donna Reed to Laura Ingalls Wilder, from Elly May Clampett to *The Dukes of Hazzard's* Catherine Bach, from Lawrence Welk's TV sweethearts to the tragic heroines of Jane Smiley's *Thousand Acres*. From Amish farm women bloggers, to Missouri homesteaders and seed-savers, to rural Nebraskan graphic novelists and, ultimately, to the seven generations of entrepreneurial Iowan farm women who have animated his own family since before the Civil War, Jack shines new documentary light on the symbol of American virtue, energy, and ingenuity that rural writer Martha Foote Crow once described as the "great rural reserve of initiating force, sane judgment and spiritual drive." Packed with dozens of interviews, *The Midwest Farmer's Daughter* covers the history and the renaissance of agrarian women on both sides of the fence. Giving equal consideration to both agriculture's time-tested rural and small-town Farm Bureaus, 4-H, and FFA training grounds as well as to the eco-innovations generated by the region's rising woman-powered "agro-polises" such as Chicago, the author crafts a lively, easy-to-read cultural and social history, exploring the pioneering role today's female agriculturalists play in the emergence of farmers' markets, urban farms, community-supported agriculture, and the new "back-to-the-land" and "do-it-yourself" movements. For all those whose lives have been graced by the enduring strength of American farm women, *The Midwest Farmer's Daughter* offers a groundbreaking examination of a dynamic American icon.

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Katrina Varga:

The knowledge that you get from The Midwest Farmer's Daughter: In Search of an American Icon may be the more deep you searching the information that hide inside the words the more you get thinking about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to understand but The Midwest Farmer's Daughter: In Search of an American Icon giving you thrill feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in certain way that can be understood by anyone who read it because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go to you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this The Midwest Farmer's Daughter: In Search of an American Icon instantly.

Orville Norman:

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Leah Humphries:

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