

Rural By Design Randall Arendt with Elizabeth A. Brabec, Harry L. Dodson, Christine Ried, Robert D. Yaro

The Chapters in the book are written to stand alone and discuss new patterns of growth and the ways they can be achieved at the local or individual level.

RURAL

- The author discusses the conflict between farmers and the new residents in rural environments. Calls for more research on new and effective ways to buffer new developments from farming in light of sprawling trends.

METROPOLITAN

- Metro farming has a place. Author discusses adaptive metro farming; "farming is not dying its changing" (Scarfo 1990).

ZONING & LAND-USE

- Creative development techniques (Ag density zoning, sliding scale, TDR, PDR, open space development) which are used as away to protect farm land can only survive in areas were there is strong municipal/political support, continual commitment by local farming community, financial feasibility and should not be implemented where current ag zoning is successful.
- Land-use approaches should be fashioned based on the political appropriateness.

County and City: The Common Vision of Agrarians and New Urbanists Benjamin E. Northrup and M. Benjamin J. Bruxvoort Lipscomb

The author notes that both the Country and the City share a declining history and discusses the confluence of views between agrarians, architects, elected officials and New Urbanists.

- The traditional neighborhood unit is essentially illegal due to the segregation of uses (zoning). Suburbia blurs the traditional center and edge of a neighborhood distancing the connection of an urbanite to the countryside.
- Both New Urbanist and Agrarians share a common & reflective goal in different surroundings.
- Differences such as rural/urban orientation, scale of New Urbanist development and its academic origin
- Despite fundamental differences, agrarians can learn from New Urbanist (NU) model of visual media, organization (CNU) & design charrettes.
- NU can learn from agrarians about the hinterland and ascetic discipline.

Place, Work, and Civic Agriculture: Common fields for Cultivation
Laura B. DeLind

The authors purpose is to applaud the concept of Civic Agriculture (CA) and confront the challenges that face CA in order to add to its holistic nature.

- CA=food & farming enterprises that address the needs of local growers, consumers, rural economies and communities of place

- Individuals in society should cultivate their own identity as apposed to expecting alternative farmer enterprisers to feed, cloth, educate, and write the wrongs of society.
- Author belives that consumers and farmers alike are at odds in that they crave convenience but morn loss of mutuality
- CA must be about the people and their local ties in order to cultivate strength/prosperity
- CA needs to be able to focus on non-profit spaces to cultivate social enterprise

Losing Ground: Farmland preservation, economic utilitarianism and the erosion of the agrarian ideal Mathew J. Mariola

There has been a significant and revealing shift in the public discourse regarding agricultural preservation.

1. Prior to mid-century the focus was agrarian, meaning that the farmer was the most important, that agriculture was an inherently virtuous activity and that there was a moral ground to maintain an agricultural foundation of society.
2. After mid-century the focus became utilitarian, the land was at the center and arguments for its preservation were largely economic.

The author argues that the solely utilitarian model is not entirely effective in its goals of preserving agriculture land because the utilitarian argument can convincingly be used to argue the opposite cause. His conclusion is that there is need for an ethical argument in the agriculture land preservation debate, an argument that also takes into consideration farmers and the farming lifestyle, not only farmland.

Urban-Rural Influences in U.S. Environmental and Economic Development Policy Richard H. Foster and Mark K. McBeath

1. A study of environmental and economic development attitudes of urban and rural based rural development officials.
2. The authors observed that decisions affecting rural areas were often being made in urban areas away form the region affected by the policy. They were also concerned that if rural officials made those decisions, the results would be harmful to the environment because studies have shown the urban dwellers are more concerned about environmental issues.
3. The study concluded that in most cases the rural based officials were as concerned about the environment and their urban based counterparts and that regarding local issues, the rural based officials were more likely to support environmentally sensitive policy.

Eat Here Chapter 4, Where Have All the Farmers Gone Brian Halweil

A discussion of how economies of scale in agriculture have marginalized farmers and the economic, social and environmental consequences of that marginalization.

