

the pressures of absentee agribusiness operations (Cargill and IBP are mentioned), naive expansion and borrowing that turned farmers into "victims" of banks (that also failed) and the marketplace, the broad sweep of bankruptcies, and permanent dependency on off-farm jobs. In one of the best parts of the book, Friedberger reviews the range of recent political support from mainstream farm organizations such as the Farm Bureau and new grassroots activist groups like the Iowa Farm Unity Coalition. He carefully analyzes problems of family solidarity, the "missing generation" who left the farm, and the difficult challenges that farm women face. His powerful analysis of the role of the media in raising the intensity of the farm crisis is all too brief. Friedberger concludes that only those farmers with deep pockets whose land was already paid for are likely to survive, and that these are very few indeed. A new crisis—the unexpected drought of 1988—drove more out of farming altogether.

While *Shake-Out* focuses on Iowa farm families, there is little that cannot be applied on a national basis, the difference being that Iowa's rich soil, corn-belt agriculture, powerful family tradition, and relative farm prosperity mean more lasting strength than in many other parts of the country. *Shake-Out* is required reading, perhaps the most important recent study, for anyone interested in the current farm crisis and the future of the farm family.

The American Farm Crisis: An Annotated Bibliography, compiled by Earl M. Rogers, and Susan H. Rogers. New York: Garland Publishing, 1989. xii, 149 pp. Indexes. \$22.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY MARK FRIEDBERGER, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Agricultural historians are indebted to the husband-and-wife team of Earl and Susan Rogers, who for many years have compiled yearly bibliographies published in *Agricultural History*, in addition to those of topical interest that deal with farming topics. The volume under review follows this tradition and deals with the worst downturn in rural America since the 1930s.

One of the difficulties of studying recent events is the disparate-ness of published sources. They are usually widely scattered in a host of publications, some of which, ordinarily, historians would never consult. This is reflected in the Rogers' organization of topics, which range from activism to violence, and their selection of source materials, which range from academic journals such as *Agriculture and Human Values* and the *Journal of Agricultural Taxation and Law* to *Penthouse* and *Psychology Today*.

Not surprisingly in an annotated bibliography that lists 622 items, there are some gaps—even among books and articles published no later than 1988. Let me just mention five references. This is in no way an attempt to disparage the Rogers' work, but rather to underline how disparate the published sources are. To begin with journalism, the now defunct magazine *Catholic Rural Life* consistently carried hard-hitting stories on the rural downturn; and journalist James Coates's *Armed and Dangerous* contains a useful chapter on the radical right's activities in rural America. Among more academically oriented publications, *New York Food and Life Science Quarterly* could be relied upon to have coverage of the farm crisis in the East, while Harry Boyte, Jr.'s *Citizen's Action and the New American Populism* discusses leftist activism in the countryside. Finally, although the Rogers have cited social psychologist Paul Rosenblatt's work, they did not include his most perceptive article, "Isolation and Farm Loss: Why Neighbors May Not be Supportive," which appeared in *Family Relations* in 1987.

While outside the scope of this bibliography, it is worth mentioning that the most important source for interpreting the Iowa farm crisis was the *Des Moines Register*. No other newspaper in the country devotes as much space to farming. Virtually every day in the years 1984 through 1987 there were items of significance—quite apart from coverage given by feature writers and columnists. Fortunately, the newspaper is indexed in the middle 1980s.

The American Farm Crisis: An Annotated Bibliography is an initial attempt to assess and pull together the very wide-ranging writings on a subject of interest to Iowans. It succeeds admirably.

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