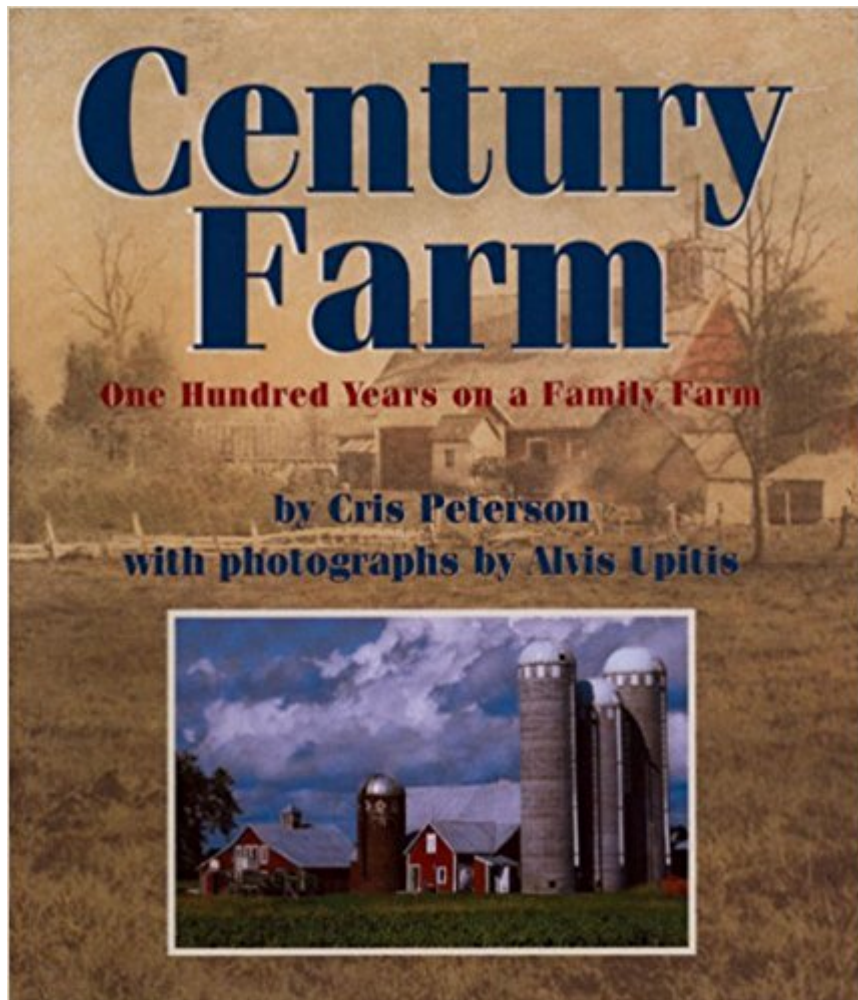




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Century Farm: One Hundred Years On A Family Farm



Synopsis

The Peterson family farm is one hundred years old and about to enter a new century. Here, in wonderful family anecdotes, the author shares the story of the farm as it grew from a barn and house and granary in the 1890s to a thriving dairy farm in the 1990s. There has been plenty of hard work--sawing down the trees to erect the first buildings, the endless cycle of planting and harvesting, chopping firewood to keep the house warm--but there has also been golf practice on the pasture land, Sunday drives in the family car, and cross-country skiing in the meadows. Over the past hundred years many things on the farm have changed, but many things have stayed the same. There is still one family working together to make the farm a viable business. There is still one kitchen where cookies are baked and meals are cooked to feed family and friends and those who help on the farm. Filled with photos selected from a century's worth of family albums as well as dramatic shots from recent years, this NCSS/CBC Notable Book provides a glimpse into the past and the future of one American family farm.

Book Information

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Age Range: 7 - 9 years

Grade Level: 2 - 4

Customer Reviews

Peterson assumes the likable voice of her husband, Gary, fashioning a folksy, lyrical portrait of the farm his great-grandfather started in the 1890s. "I grew up in the middle of the century in the middle

of America on this middle-sized, Midwestern farm," says the conversational farmer. Throughout, the text emphasizes the many constants over decades that concurrently brought major developments. Visually, too, this warm volume is a pleasing mixture of old and new: Uptis's (who collaborated with Peterson on Horsepower) informal, contemporary shots of modern life are cogently paired with flashbacks, provided by sepia-toned photographs from family albums (e.g., Grandpa's tractor and Gary's share a spread, with a caption that contrasts the acre a day Grandpa could plow with the 25 acres his grandson plows today). Uptis's photos, taken over a period of a decade or so, allow youngsters to see Gary's children grow up and reinforce the sense of the farm's continuity. Peterson's theme is as clear as the Wisconsin sky in Uptis's photographs: though farming techniques and machinery, household appliances and fashions have changed radically in a century, the Petersons still catch fish in the same lake, all hands still pitch in to help birth a calf and, after the annual planting in the same plot of land, the corn "still reaches for the sun and whispers in the wind." Perhaps most valuable is the silent underscoring of the immeasurable rewards of strong family bonds and the fruits of hard work—a message worth carrying into the next century. Ages 7-up. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 2-4-A look at a Wisconsin dairy farm owned by the same family for four generations. The current owner tells the story and weaves family history into the descriptions of early day operations. While the author details the many changes that have taken place in the past century, readers are also reminded that many things remain the same. Vintage sepia photos of the farm and Peterson's grandparents as well as good-quality, full-color contemporary photos enhance the text. Interesting captions add even more information. The author's respect for the history of the place and her knowledge of her subject is evident. This title is definitely quality-checked and deserves serious consideration. Eldon Younce, Harper Elementary School, KS Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book is being used by the New York City District of Education Kindergarten Classes (NYC DOE), so I got it along with "Then and Now" books. It is quite long! Not a story that a kindergartner could read alone. Takes an adult about 20 minutes to read out loud to a child. Grandma loved the non-fiction story of a century old family farm. Good quality for a paperback edition. About 8 x 11, the size of a typical piece of paper, and with a glossy cover. Informative!

An amazing memorable book on modern agriculture. Great context, wonderful photos and an all-around great snapshot of modern dairy farming.

Sorry to say, but I really don't like this book. The text and the photographs are not aligned, so you read about something but see something else in the photograph. This is especially irksome when reading about specific farm equipment. What does a thresher look like? How about the grappling hook they used to load hay into the barn? Couldn't they find photographs? The author writes to an audience that already knows all about farm life. The book would've been so much more successful if she had considered her readers. Some of us live in the suburbs. Some live in the city. How interesting this *could* have been.

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