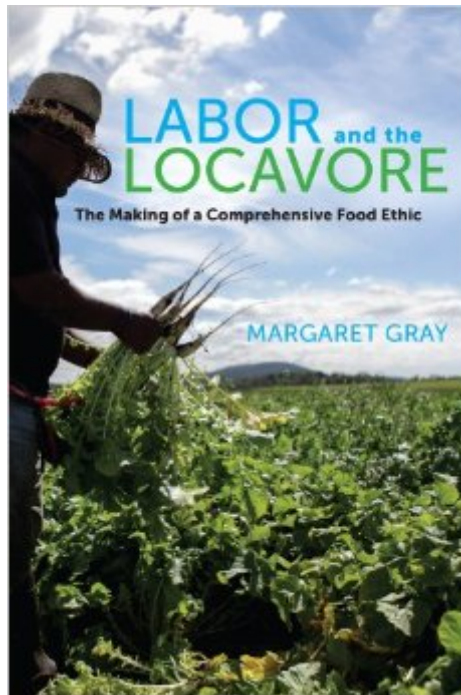


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Labor And The Locavore: The Making Of A Comprehensive Food Ethic



Synopsis

In the blizzard of attention around the virtues of local food production, food writers and activists place environmental protection, animal welfare, and saving small farms at the forefront of their attention. Yet amid this turn to wholesome and responsible food choices, the lives and working conditions of farmworkers are often an afterthought. *Labor and the Locavore* focuses on one of the most vibrant local food economies in the country, the Hudson Valley that supplies New York restaurants and farmers markets. Based on more than a decade's in-depth interviews with workers, farmers, and others, Gray's examination clearly shows how the currency of agrarian values serves to mask the labor concerns of an already hidden workforce. She also explores the historical roots of farmworkers' predicaments and examines the ethnic shift from Black to Latino workers. With an analysis that can be applied to local food concerns around the country, this book challenges the reader to consider how the mentality of the alternative food movements implies a comprehensive food ethic that addresses workers' concerns.

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Customer Reviews

This book is her hideous dissertation warmed over. It is rife with misinformation, distortions of fact and outright falsehoods. Here is my standard boilerplate response to Gray's typical tripe: My name is Chris Pawelski and I am a 4th generation family farmer from Orange County, N.Y. I'm also the Executive Director of a public policy organization that focuses on issues connected with specialty crops called Farmroot. For roughly 18 years I have been dealing with the issues raised by Gray and

the organizations she has primarily partnered with, Rural and Migrant Ministry. What they state and claim is frequently rife with misinformation and gross distortions of fact. Allow me to elaborate. The organizations driving this, especially Rural and Migrant Ministry (RMM), act as self-appointed advocates. Genuine farmworkers have not asked these organizations or their leaders to represent them or to speak on their behalf. Most real farmworkers do not attend these organizations' meetings or heavily orchestrated public events. Testifying before the state Lobbying Commission in 2001 (the organization was subsequently fined by the Commission for significant NYS lobby law violations), Rural and Migrant Ministry's executive director Richard Witt admitted that when farmworkers do participate, including their annual farmworker lobby day held in Albany, they're usually paid to participate. The fact is there are approximately a dozen local, state and federal governmental agencies enforcing a plethora of laws that govern both the living and working conditions of farmworkers. This makes them probably the most protected work force in New York. In NYS they earn, on average, more than \$10 an hour. Most receive free housing and utilities.

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