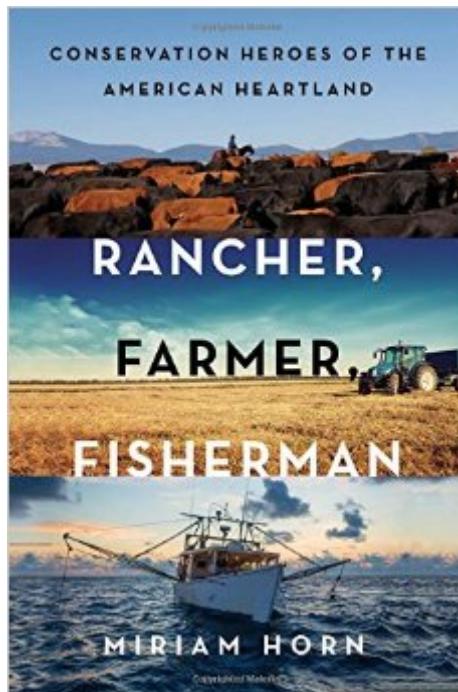


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# Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman: Conservation Heroes Of The American Heartland



## **Synopsis**

The story of a huge, largely hidden, and entirely unexpected conservation movement in America. Many of the men and women doing today's most consequential environmental work—restoring America's grasslands, wildlife, soil, rivers, wetlands, and oceans—would not call themselves environmentalists; they would be too uneasy with the connotations of that word. What drives them is their deep love of the land: the iconic terrain where explorers and cowboys, pioneers and riverboat captains forged the American identity. They feel a moral responsibility to preserve this heritage and natural wealth, to ensure that their families and communities will continue to thrive. Unfolding as a journey down the Mississippi River, Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman tells the stories of five representatives of this stewardship movement: a Montana rancher, a Kansas farmer, a Mississippi riverman, a Louisiana shrimper, and a Gulf fisherman. In exploring their work and family histories and the essential geographies they protect, Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman challenges pervasive and powerful myths about American and environmental values. 5 illustrations; 2 maps

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Really wonderful book, vibrantly describing the uniquely American experience of the connection between people and our working lands and waterways. Remarkable tales of five heroes who represent a new generation of ranchers, farmers, and fishermen who are developing new tools and systems to conserve the land they love and the natural resources on which they and their communities depend. It's about conservation of both the land and the cultures that help feed the

country/world and drives the American economy. It's a quick but informative read that vividly takes the readers from the foothills of the Northern Rockies, down the Mississippi watershed through vast Kansas farmland, and then down the river to the fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. The interplay between the land and people brings the narrative to life. Refreshingly hopeful and solutions-oriented, but always through the perspective of the people working the lands and waterways. My favorite book of the year.

Through reading the powerful stories of these five heartland conservationists, I was happily convinced that American democracy is thriving so much more than we're led to believe, especially in the midst of an election season. Being an environmentalist doesn't have to be a black and white (or red and blue) issue--it's something we can and should rally around with neighbors and politicians from all vantage points since we're all stewards of this diverse and wonderful land. I'm so glad to have "met" the five individuals Miriam Horn profiles here, and to be able to talk about conservation concerns in a more nuanced, enlightened way. The storytelling is vivid and captivating, and will make you want to sing "America the Beautiful" when you get to the end of each beautifully-orchestrated chapter.

This book provides such a unique perspective on the Mississippi River and conservation in America. I really enjoyed getting to know the characters in the book and getting a glimpse into the lives of regular hard-working people who rely on the land for their livelihood. I learned so much from listening to their point of view and the challenges of conservation in our heartland. The book is well written and easy to read. Great book and I highly recommend!

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