



## Northern Farm

*Henry Beston, Thoreau MacDonald (Illustrator)*

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Among the blue-white shadows and graceful curves of freshly fallen snow, the first rains of spring, and the quiet of an early summer morning, Beston brings the reader into an inescapable alliance with the natural world. He translates the philosophy of the Maine farmer into terms as applicable in Manhattan as on the Kennebec. Northern Farm is among the great classics of American nature writing

## **Northern Farm Details**

Date : Published June 15th 1994 by Holt McDougal (first published January 1st 1972)

ISBN : 9780805030921

Author : Henry Beston , Thoreau MacDonald (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback 256 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Environment, Nature, Autobiography, Memoir

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## **From Reader Review Northern Farm for online ebook**

### **Connie Marrett says**

Beautiful descriptions of nature throughout a New England year. Insightful reflections on human nature. I will read this book again and again.

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### **Donna B says**

Loved this book. Though written in 1945, the author's comments about the contrasts between urban & rural life still resonate. If you love nature and the countryside, you'll identify with many of his thoughts. Well worth reading. Too bad it's out of print!

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### **Sarah says**

very lovely, very slow, and very preachy.

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### **Billie Hinton says**

Gorgeous imagery, soothes my soul to follow the seasons on his farm. A book you keep by the bed to pick up every day for a booster shot.

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### **Carmen says**

Although the story was written over half a century ago it resonates with things that could be said today. Henry Beston writes about his life, one year in the life of his farm. We get to know the rhythm of life, how his neighbors live, and the political strife of the time. He writes beautifully, sometimes I feel as if I am reading poetry when it is only prose. Great insights.

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### **Julia says**

Though I enjoy nature writing, this book dragged on and I never finished it.

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### **Carol says**

One of my favorite books. I seem to reread this often, especially at the turn of the year.

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### **Joyce says**

This book was my mother's and is now mine. It is excellent.  
All about nature, not much about God. Paints wonderful imagery. Might be worth a re-read.

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### **Tony says**

"Northern Farm" by Henry Beston is an excellent nonfiction book: A story of life on Chimney Farm in Maine in the 1940s. The author's descriptions of the landscape, seasons, and natural world are calming and enjoyable to read. You can also get a sense of the life of the community in the "Farm Diary" entries that are woven throughout the book. "Northern Farm" is a good book to enjoy on a quiet evening at home, and it leaves you with a wonderful appreciation for Beston's "...own land of the deeper snowfalls and the great evergreen woods..." (p. 3). Also recommended: "The Outermost House" (1928) and "The St. Lawrence" (1942), two additional books by the same author.

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### **Marielle says**

Henry Beston is a poet. He uses the most delicious vocabulary when he describes the day to day life on the farm in Maine. For a romantic like myself, I love this book.

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### **Jec says**

Sweet and gentle but no comparison to The OUTERMOST HOUSE ...still my favorite

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### **Donna Gabbard says**

I love reading about living in Maine. I'm ready to brave the biting flies and the biting, cold months. Okay, I'll settle for a 1 or 2 week visit if I can't move there.

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### **Jim Krosschell says**

Henry Beston (1888-1968, born like Elisabeth Ogilvie in Quincy, MA, and his wife, the writer Elizabeth Coatsworth, in 1931 purchased Chimney Farm in Nobleboro on the shores of Damariscotta Lake. Beston's exquisite book Northern Farm, similar to Aldo Leopold's A Sand County Almanac and in many ways its equal, is set there. Their daughter, the poet Kate Barnes, Maine's first Poet Laureate, lives in Appleton. In 1970 Coatsworth published a selection of Beston's writings called Especially Maine. Its three sections are entitled South of Maine, In Maine, and North of Maine, which tells you all you need to know about the

priorities of people like them, and me.

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### **Nate says**

Thoreau-lite but enjoyable. Made me want to live on a farm in Maine. Recommended if you like Mary Oliver, Annie Dillard, and the like.

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### **Julie Stielstra says**

Nothing could be as good as "The Outermost House." But Beston turns his eyes, ears, mind, and heart to his beloved Chimney Farm in the Maine woods. He takes us through a year, from glassy blue snow shadows, to the pond ice groaning as it begins to loosen, through that first spring-ish day when a window can be opened, letting in "a few flies who look in need of kind words and vitamins." A hot summer, the young farming men stripped to the waist and crusted with hayseeds and sweat. Then the autumn, and the ritual of "housing up," where spare rooms are closed and used to store apples and potatoes, the summer kitchen gear relocated back into the winter kitchen and the woodstove is set back in its hearth to warm the reduced living quarters. It's intimate, with the details of observation only Beston can see and put into words: the soft pat of huge snowflakes on the windows, how to remove a dire ink stain from a handwoven tablecloth, how neighbor children are dispersed to other people's houses to do their homework by lamplight and occupy the house while the owners are gathered for a social evening. A lovely portrait of a home, a landscape, and a community, if perhaps without the broader scope of ocean, climate, and the earth as a whole he shows us from the cape.

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