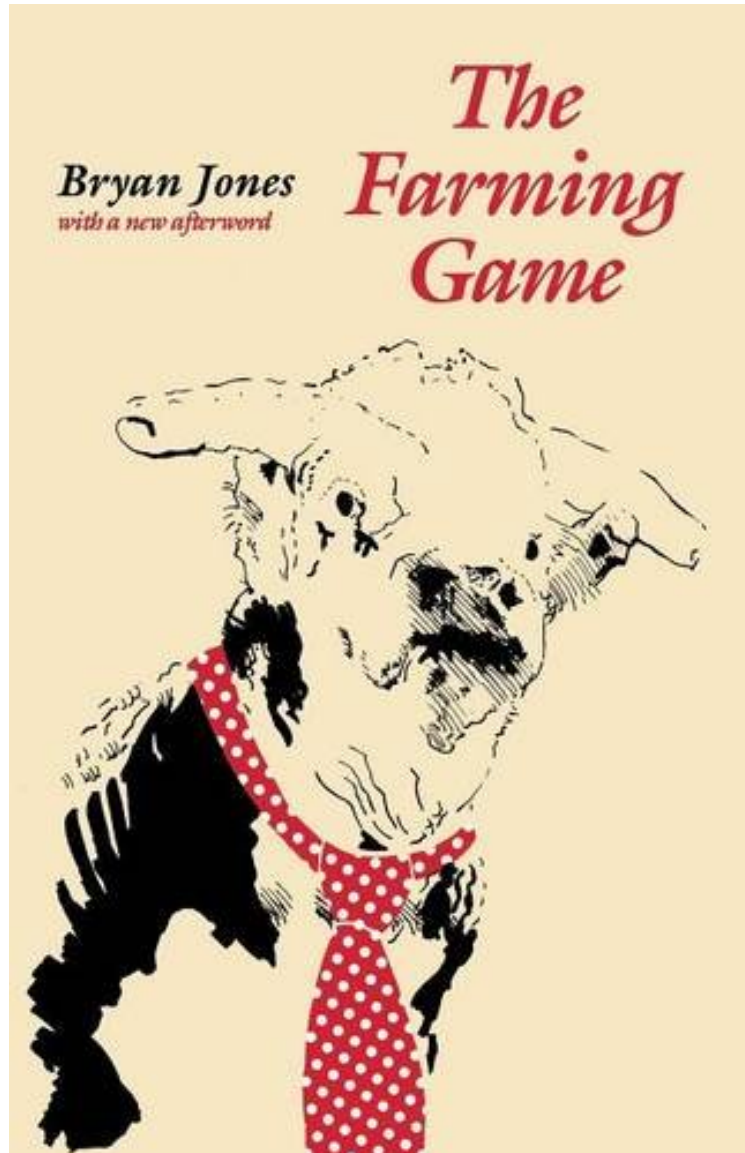


[Free pdf] The Farming Game

## The Farming Game

*Bryan L. Jones*

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**Bryan L. Jones : The Farming Game** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Farming Game:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very funny, at timesBy hgdffrtgyusdoifuVery funny, at times! I laughed until I cried here and there! Jones is a gifted wit with a fine writing style.Extremely valuable for anyone contemplating a change to rural life. Also valuable as an elucidation of basic economic truths: ignore these and wind up like Venezuela.Tantalizing glimpses of what life in America without Federal diktats in agriculture might have been

like. With some imagination, we can see how the Rural Electrification Act of 1935 spoiled alternative energy for 75 years, or so. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One for Joe Salatin Fans. By John K. Dziki The back to earth start a farm movement started a long time ago. I read this book from the library 20 years ago and just bought my own copy. This needs to be on kindle. If you like Joe Salatin you'll like this. 6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Funny, very funny. By Jeff M. Chambers The characters portrayed here you've either met or after reading you'll wish you had. Jones does an excellent job weaving the trials and tribulations of farming and ranching with the truly unique characters that are found down on the farm. I'd highly recommend it.

In cantankerous opinions, hard-headed advice, and free-swinging sketches of real farmers, Bryan Jones addresses everyone who feels the pull of the land. He accepts the emotional appeal of "going back to the land" and then takes the unconventional stand that, above all, farming can be a good way to make money. Against the grain of public policy that, he maintains, encourages big agriculture, Jones works out how a shrewd, stubborn small farmer can still make a go of it. His keen-eyed sketches of farmers at work show the variety of ways a farmer may succeed or fail. Even his own neighborhood, dominated by thousands of acres of corn and high technology, is peopled with "scalper" who makes a living in the cattle business with little more stake than a gooseneck trailer, a telephone, and his native wits; the sheep man who secretly grows rich while looking poor and raising an animal that other farmer disdain; the experimenter who never turns a nickel himself, but whose successful innovations are readily adopted by his neighbors; the hog raiser who makes a large family pay. The heart of the book is the primer for novices—and for city folk who dream of farming. Jones emphasizes the practicalities of farm finance and recommends sidelines for the beginner—welding, giving guitar lessons, keeping the books for a local elevator—as an alternative to starving. He urges newcomers to start small and to be sure that farming is something they really want to do. To interested bystanders, *The Farming Game* offers one farmer's audacious, stimulating, and entertaining view of American agriculture today.

"A former high school teacher turned Nebraska farmer himself, Jones has drawn on his . . . experience to write a lively, practical guide to success or, more often, failure in small farming. What distinguishes *The Farming Game* from a mere how-to book is the author's sharp eye for the absurd detail in his portraits of people and his descriptions of the lending policies of banks, the government price controls and the production methods of agribusiness that make it difficult for the independent farmer to compete." -New York Times Book . "Bryan Jones is that rare thing, a real farmer who also writes. *The Farming Game* is the one book I've seen . . . that I would give to someone who was thinking of moving to the country and actually supporting himself or herself off the land. . . . Anyone who picks it up [won't be able to] stop laughing. First at the dozen portraits of different types of farmers. . . . Then at various barbed asides in the three long essays on how farmers can and do make money. . . . Jones has a wicked wit. [And his] book is remarkably educative. Mixed with the humor is a mass of information and analysis. . . . The reality of farming is here as other people very seldom see it." -Noel Perrin, *Smithsonian*. From the Back Cover This book is remarkably educative. Mixed with the humor is a mass of information and analysis. The reality of farming is here as other people very seldom see it. About the Author Bryan Jones maintains strong ties to the land and teaches reading at McCook Junior High School in McCook, Nebraska. His articles have appeared in *New Farm*, *New Land*, *North Dakota Quarterly*, and other magazines. In a new afterword, he discusses the current status of "the farming game."