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## Native Soil: A History of the DeKalb County Farm Bureau

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Other portions of Lee's book indicate how farmers and industrial workers occasionally formed alliances. This is particularly evident in the chapter on the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). Despite Lee's disclaimer in the introduction that he does not focus significant attention on farm laborers, he explains the central contribution of farm laborers to the IWW's success in Kansas during World War I. Some farmers, recognizing the importance of hobo labor from the East in filling temporary harvest labor positions, even supported the IWW's efforts. Lee then devotes considerable attention to the attempts by Governor Fred Hall and the state CIO to stave off a right-to-work law in Kansas after World War II. Partly due to efforts to enlist support from farmers, a right-to-work law eventually passed in 1958 but did so later than in other midwestern states, such as Iowa.

Although useful and interesting in many respects, Lee's history of organized labor in Kansas would have benefited from a clearer discussion of the structure and development of manufacturing in the state. The author seems to assume that readers already understand this history. For instance, meatpacking was important not only in Kansas City during the period surveyed in the book; it was also a vital part of Wichita's and Topeka's economies. Unfortunately, nothing is said about those cities' packing industries. The patterns and developments noted in this book will need to be supplemented with future studies.

*Native Soil: A History of the DeKalb County Farm Bureau*, by Eric W. Mogren. DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press, 2005. xi, 288 pp. Illustrations, map, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$24.95 cloth.

Reviewer Kimberly K. Porter is associate professor and chair of the Department of History at the University of North Dakota. She has written extensively about the early years of the Iowa Farm Bureau.

At first glance, a volume focusing on a single county within the American Farm Bureau Federation might not necessarily jump off the shelf. However, not to take the opportunity to read Eric Mogren's *Native Soil* is to make a significant error, particularly for agricultural historians, historians of the Midwest, and even generalist scholars of the American experience. With the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) standing as the largest general farm organization in the United States, Illinois being a perpetual candidate for the largest state organization within the federation, and the DeKalb County Farm Bureau (DCFB) the most powerful one within the state, the volume has a great deal to offer readers on the condition of American agriculture throughout the twentieth century.

Starting with the Soil Improvement Association (SIA)—founded in 1912 by a combination of bankers, journalists, and progressive farmers—Mogren traces the development of the organization into its membership within the larger AFBF. Along the way, he makes clear that the pathway of the bureau was never clear cut; it was always changing, reflecting the changing needs of the agricultural community, as well as the larger national and even international community.

First the “Soilers” sought education in order to rehabilitate their exhausted soil. Help came in the form of William Eckhardt, a community-supported farm specialist who traveled the county encouraging the use of limestone and phosphates. Other endeavors by the SIA included coursework on livestock, seed selection, alfalfa, and soybeans. Clearly, providing educational opportunities was deemed the most significant function of the SIA.

With the passage of time through the temporarily heady days of World War I and the disastrous onset of the agricultural depression of the 1920s, the SIA—after 1926 the DCFB—continued its educational efforts, but also added new and important elements. To help farmers through the most difficult economic times in recent memory, the DCFB turned to cooperative action in the selling of grain, livestock, dairy products, eggs, and wool, and also purchased agricultural products such as limestone and clover seed in bulk for members at a reduced price. The organization also turned to political involvement in its effort to be the voice of American agriculture.

Mogren’s work is local history at its best, and that is also its greatest drawback. The Illinois Agricultural Association, the equivalent of state farm bureaus elsewhere, is never properly given its due as a leading force in the founding of the AFBF. Nor, for that matter, is the nation’s largest farm organization placed within the context necessary to understand its role in American agriculture.

Mogren’s work is at its most powerful in his concluding chapter, “The Future.” In earlier chapters he delineates the problems facing Illinois’s farmers (and by inference the nation’s farmers) and then offers commentary on the solutions tendered. He cannot do that as he ponders the twenty-first century, however. The problems facing America’s farmers are many: suburbia encroaches upon farmers and their fields; the average age of the American farmer rises each year; the American diet changes; taxes remain on the rise; and so much more. Yet Mogren’s faith in the future of the DCFB, and accordingly the nation’s agriculturalists, is strong. Just as the Soilers of 1912 found solutions to their difficulties, so does he see the farmers of the twenty-first century tackling the future with ingenious tenacity.

*Native Soil* should prove of interest to all individuals interested in agricultural organizations and midwestern agriculture, and particularly to those who want to understand the changes in farming over the course of the twentieth century.

*Powwow*, edited by Clyde Ellis, Luke Eric Lassiter, and Gary H. Dunham. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2005. xv, 309 pp. Notes, references, index. \$45.00 cloth, \$19.95 paper.

Reviewer Erik D. Gooding is assistant professor of anthropology at Minnesota State University Moorhead. He is coauthor of "Plains Powwows, Celebrations, and Giveaways," in the *Handbook of North American Indians* (2001).

*Powwow* is a collection of 14 essays on the American Indian music and dance celebration known as the powwow. It is divided into three thematic parts. Part one, "History and Significance," contains four essays: a discussion of the formative era of southern plains powwows; an overview of nearly 40 years on the northern plains powwow circuit; an analysis of the performative aspects of early twentieth-century Ho-Chunk powwows; and a comparison of the powwow cultures among the Gros Ventre, Blackfeet, Southern Cheyenne, and Southern Arapaho. Part two, "Performance and Expression," contains five articles addressing the negotiation of meaning of the powwow among various groups. Essays discuss the powwow's role in regenerating culture and tradition among the Lakota; an examination of two very different dance traditions; the role of the powwow emcee; the role of the powwow princess; and the relationship between the powwow and the southeastern Stomp Dance. Part three, "Appropriations, Negotiations, and Contestations," contains five articles about the powwow on the "fringe." Two essays focus on powwows in the American Southeast, the Monacan of Virginia and the Occaneechi-Saponis and Haliwa-Saponis of North Carolina. The remaining three articles address three little-discussed topics: "two-spirit" powwows, Germany's powwow culture, and New Age powwows.

Three essays may be of particular interest to readers of the *Annals of Iowa*. The first is Patricia C. Albers and Beatrice Medicine's "Some Reflections on Nearly Forty Years on the Northern Plains Powwow Circuit." This essay presents a representational model for powwows that readers may find informative based on four types that form a continuum: (1) "family doings"; (2) traditional powwows; (3) contest powwows; and (4) exhibition celebrations (the Meskwaki Proclamation Day powwow falls into category 3, while their Annual Powwow falls into a form of category 2). The criteria for categorization, from a