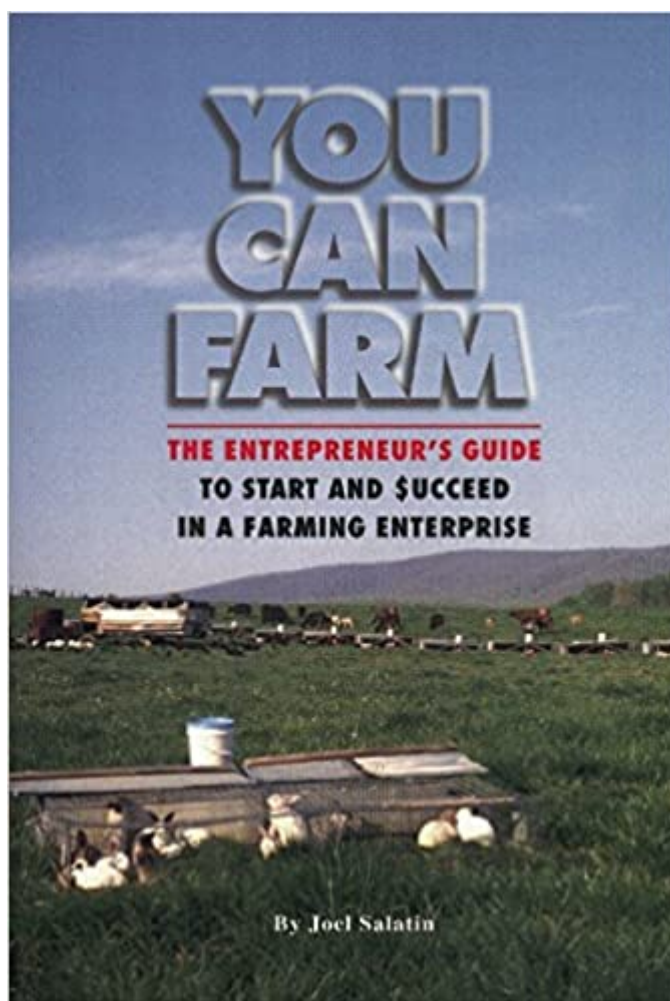


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You Can Farm: The Entrepreneur's Guide To Start & Succeed In A Farming Enterprise



Synopsis

Have you ever desired, deep within your soul, to make a comfortable full-time living from a farming enterprise? Too often people dare not even vocalize this desire because it seems absurd. It's like thinking the unthinkable. After all, the farm population is dwindling. It takes too much capital to start. The pay is too low. The working conditions are dusty, smelly and noisy: not the place to raise a family. This is all true, and more, for most farmers. But for farm entrepreneurs, the opportunities for a farm family business have never been greater. The aging farm population is creating cavernous niches begging to be filled by creative visionaries who will go in dynamic new directions. As the industrial agriculture complex crumbles and our culture clambers for clean food, the countryside beckons anew with profitable farming opportunities. While this book can be helpful to all farmers, it targets the wannabes, the folks who actually entertain notions of living, loving and learning on a piece of land. Anyone willing to dance with such a dream should be able to assess its assets and liabilities; its fantasies and realities. "Is it really possible for me?" is the burning question this book addresses.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Joel Salatin and his family own and operate Polyface Farm in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. The farm produces pastured beef, pork, chicken, eggs, turkeys, rabbits, lamb and ducks, servicing roughly 6,000 families and 50 restaurants in the farm's bioregion. He has written 11 books to date and lectures around the world on land healing, local food systems.

This is my fourth Joel Salatin book. I've thoroughly enjoyed all of them and learned SO much about agriculture in general and sustainable farming in particular. I highly recommend his books for any new or experienced farmer, gardener or homesteader. If you've got experience, then it's a refresher and yet still an eye opening experience. Mr Salatin takes the reader through the generalities and some specifics of starting a sustainable farming operation as a real business, rather than a government subsidy dependent raw material production facility. The key is diversification and creativity, which is as it always has been for the farmer worldwide throughout history. Bravo again Mr. Salatin! My next read is Pastured Poultry Profits, which has just been ordered.

Great book! Full of common sense on how to provide HEALTHY, unadulterated foods, fit for human consumption. Joel share his experiences regarding farm operation through time saving methods at a lower cost, and improved products while keeping the land as Mother Nature intended while delivering superior food without antibiotics, hormone injections or poisons and still maintaining a health environment for the livestock and produce. If you are interested in a large or small operation, do not begin without reading this book. Also, his other books addressing more specific information on each of Polyface Farms operations would be a great value, even if your only interest are raising just cows, or chickens, or rabbits, or gardening. His library of Polyface Farms books would benefit established operations in becoming more efficient while improving the health of the operation and product quality.

Entertaining, but short on details as far as the farming goes. Details presented were about how to run a business. Good book to start with if you think you may want to start a farm. I believe his other books provide more detail and advice for actually farming. Author is a bit preachy at times, but a good book overall.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who is considering making a living on a small farm/acreage. Mr. Salatin gives some straight up advise on how to go about setting things up and shares the pitfalls you want to avoid. While each part of the country is different, and the model that Mr. Salatin has been successful with may not work as well in your area, it does give some places to start researching ideas and what to look for that could become roadblocks for your success. The idea that one can rent instead of buying land to get started was an eye opener for me. I have never considered this before and opens up a world of possibilities.

This book definitely deserves all five of my stars. Joel Salatin is an innovator in the farming world. In this book, you'll notice a shift in thinking compared to what a lot of farmers think. He is a self-proclaimed "steward of the land". What this means is that he really studies the natural processes around us. There are diseases in nature, but they are so infrequent compared to modern farming infrastructure. Why is that? Joel really tries to come up with theories and tries new experiments that put some of this logic into practice. He also focuses on making money. Now, I don't mean farming is a "get rich quick" or even a "get rich at all" profession. This is rarely the draw to farming anyway. But the problem is there are few young farmers out there, because of how much trouble the old timers have been having. So, he focuses a lot on the farm having a positive cash flow. Doing it in untraditional ways, but for good reason, as traditionally, farmers have had to submit to big farm out of necessity. He would like new farmers to work for themselves again, to own their own animals again, and to bring a FINER product to market than what is currently produced by big farm. A bit preachy, sure. But I think it comes off that way out of passion.

I would give this book 5 stars, except for the fact that there are too many words in it. Usually I appreciate a person's ability to craft the American language well enough to paint a picture, however Mr. Salatin's use of words made me want to go back to my college scanning techniques to get to the main points. Sounds harsh, doesn't it? However, I will say that I liked his ideas put forward about buying land in particular. In a world that has been selling the idea for years that "bigger is better", and "go ahead and finance it, you can grow into it", I find his thoughts about living within what you have, and grow as your finances allow you to, to be the light bulb I think MANY people could stand to hear. Thank you Joel Salatin.

Although very informative and helpful for someone trying to get off of the ground, it would be more helpful if it gave some sort of insight into who to talk to in order to get permits, information, etc. It left a big black hole in the entrepreneur's education as far as making sure all the paperwork is in order.

Not a great book. You can get the same info off of google. It is a very dry and dull read.

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