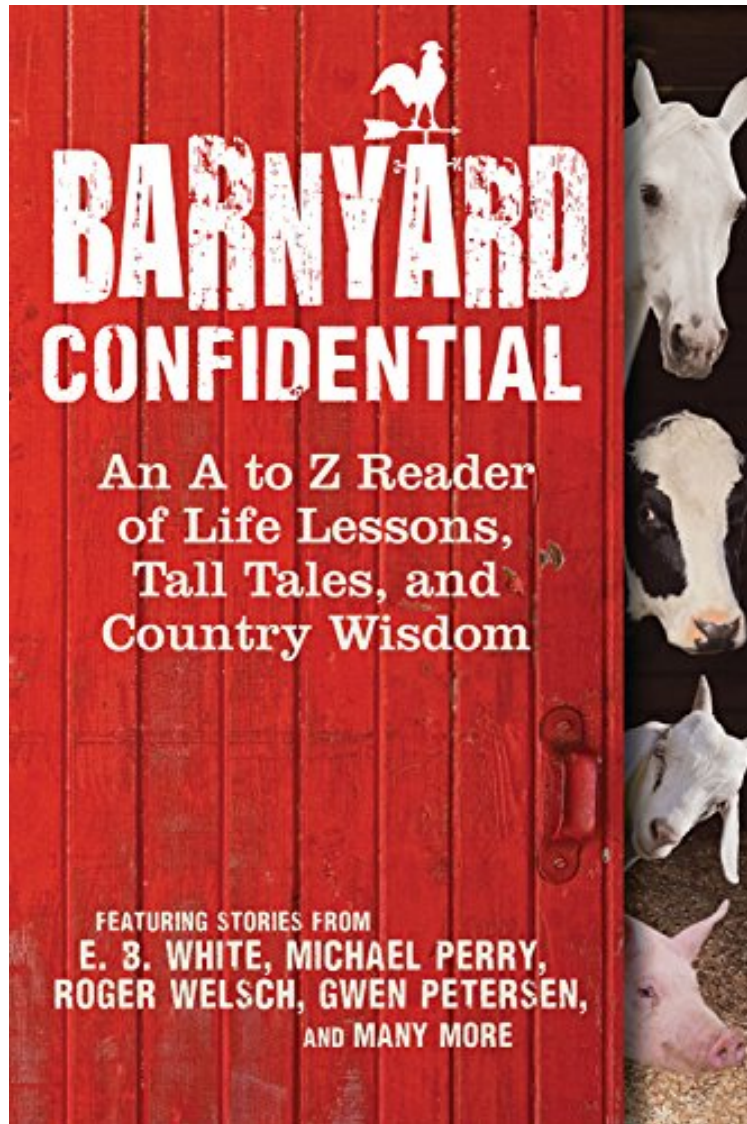


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Barnyard Confidential: An A to Z Reader of Life Lessons, Tall Tales, and Country Wisdom

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review helpful. Five StarsBy Upper Michigan GirlGreat book!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This Ain't The City Life!By ConnyTitle: Barnyard Confidential - An A to Z Reader of Life Lessons, Tall Tales, and Country WisdomEditor: Melinda KeefePublisher: Voyageur PressISBN: 978-0-7603-4245-9If you have not been raised on a farm, you are probably pretty clueless and ignorant when it comes to chores, work ethic, animals, farming and anything else that is done "somewhere in the middle of the two coasts of America." In "Barnard Confidential ~ An A to Z Reader of Life Lessons, Tall Tales and Country Wisdom," editor Melinda Keefe compiles both brief and longer tidbits from the late nineteenth century to current day literature. This two hundred and thirty nine page hardbound book has a red barn door on its front cover with a horse, cow, goat and pig arranged by height and peeking out its side door. The back cover has only a goat looking through the door opening and a large paragraph about the contents of the book. The book is organized by topic or theme with black and white photographs and drawings depicted throughout its pages. Any typographical errors were taken from direct quotes from authors noted. The book would be enjoyed by any age of ten and above with some younger children understanding some of the stories. Instead of this book being a typical dictionary or thesaurus in regard to American farm or rural country life, it is more of a collection of topics arranged alphabetically that are humorous, enlightening, informational and sometimes actually educational in regard to a way of life most of us know little about coming from big cities. There are short stories from L. Frank Baum from 1900 taken from "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" and E.B. White's "One Man's Meat" from 1938 to current day authors such as Ronald Jager, Jerry Stelmok, and Jerry Apps. Most of the short, comical snippets were from "The ABC's of Farming" by Terry Chamberlain in 1999. If one wants to know the "farm interpretation" for Jack, Jenny, Biffy or Nussy, he or she can turn the pages and learn they are not always used as names of people on the grange. Some of the more detailed stories involve inventions, collecting tractors and quilting. Anything done on a farm such as flatulence, selective breeding and underwear is free reign to critique and evaluate in this clever, quick read. If you need a good book to give city dwellers that plan to visit or move to the rural country or farm, be sure to choose this book to give the bumpkins a heads up in advance on funicles, granaries, hopper bottoms, root-picking and silage.

A light-hearted A-to-Z encyclopedia of farm lore, Barnyard Confidential covers everything you need to know about living in the country, from courting to dealing with manure, root picking to rat catching, winter chores to tractor restoration, hay mows to outhouses anything and everything related to farm life. Entries from well-known country authors like E. B. White, Gwen Petersen, Roger Welsch, and Patricia Penton Leimbach range from funny definitions to full stories and are illustrated throughout with a charming mix of fun, nostalgic, black-and-white photos and illustrations. These stories are both humorous and practical and will remind you why you often have a love-hate relationship with rural living. Before you move to the country (or even if you already live there), learn all the secrets to success from Barnyard Confidential. Featured authors include the following: Eric Sloane, Roger Welsch, Gwen Petersen, Ben Logan, Jim Heynen, Bob Artley, Marjorie Myers Douglas, Hamlin Garland, E. B. White, Jerry Stelmok, Louis Bromfield, Bob Becker, William Hazlett Upson, Patricia Penton Leimbach, Jerry L. Twedt, Michael Perry, Willa Cather, Jerry Apps, Josh Billings, Michael Dregni, Jared Van Wagenen Jr., Hugh Orchard, Dorothy Canfield, Virginia Bell Dabney, Tom Anderson, Ronald Jager, Margret Aldrich, Bill Vossler, and Gordon Green.

Surely, someone at some time or another has asked you why you live in the country. If you didn't have a quick answer, Barnyard Confidential gives you dozens of reasons from A to Z. Don't wait, because Barnyard Confidential really belongs on your bookshelf. - Bookwork Sez