

Recommended Book List for Farming

by Wayne Randolph, Agriculture Specialist
The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

1. Walsh, Lorena S. *Motives of Honor, Pleasure, & Profit; Plantation Management in the Colonial Chesapeake, 1607 – 1763*. University of North Carolina Press, 2010.
ISBN: 978-0-8078-3234-9
Top of the subject list for this thoroughly researched narrative containing the latest scholarship.
2. Goodman, Jordan. *Tobacco in History: The Cultures of Dependence*. Routledge, 1993.
ISBN: 9780415049634
The best comprehensive coverage of tobacco history. Scholarly yet quite readable; superior to Ian Gately's book.
3. Breen, Timothy H. *Tobacco Culture, The Mentality of the Great Tidewater Planters on the Eve of Revolution*. Princeton University Press, 2001.
ISBN: 0-911469-19-2
When finally read on a trans-Atlantic return flight, was sorry I hadn't read earlier. Breen reveals the psychological and social identification planters had for this dominant staple.
4. Tresemer, David. *The Scythe Book*. 2nd ed. Alan C. Hood & Co., Inc., 2001.
ISBN: 0-911469-19-2
A contemporary look at an ancient skill including historical background, recommended technique, modern supply sources, and spiritual elements of mowing with a scythe.
5. Conroy, Drew. *Oxen, A Teamster's Guide*. Storey, 2007.
ISBN: 978-1-58017-692-7 (paperback)
Recommend moving present copies to Farming from Animals. Best comprehensive coverage of working steers, primary draft power on Chesapeake farms and plantations.
6. Shire Albums in addition to Roy Brigden's *Ploughs and Ploughing*, such as his *Agricultural Hand Tools*, and other livestock titles like *British Pigs*, *Old Poultry Breeds*, *British Cattle*, and *Rare Breeds*. Several of these are currently out of stock.
7. Anderson, Frances, and Terry James. *In Praise of Oxen*. Nimbus, 1992.
ISBN: 1551090244/1-55109-024-4
Although I have not seen this book, it has been recommended as a good "coffee table" type book by Drew Conroy, author of Oxen, A Teamster's Guide, above. Worth a look.
8. Rentzhog, Sten. *Open Air Museums, the History and Future of a Visionary Idea*. Jamtli Förlag and Carlsson Bokförlag, 2007. U.S. distributor Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM). ISBN 978-91-7948-208-4
While not a farming book, it's one that every administrative officer of a living history museum (including ours) and other interested non-professionals should read. This fascinating history of our service traces similar efforts from around the world identifying common elements and accessing future prospects. Colonial Williamsburg is prominently discussed within the framework of many others before and after it. Rich and comprehensive.

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