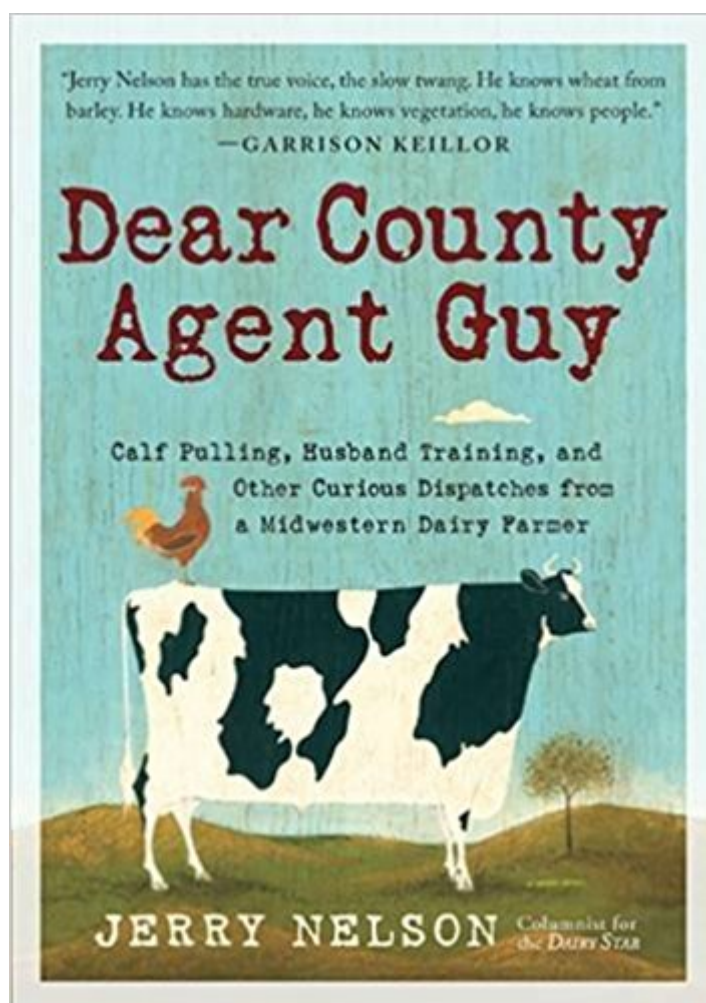


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Dear County Agent Guy: Calf Pulling, Husband Training, And Other Curious Dispatches From A Midwestern Dairy Farmer



Synopsis

“Jerry Nelson’s column comes from the true heart of the Midwest. He has the true voice, the slow twang. He knows wheat from barley. He knows hardware, he knows vegetation, he knows people.”

Garrison Keillor In the tradition of Mark Twain and Jean Shepherd, Dave Barry and Garrison Keillor, Jerry Nelson is a humorist whose beat is the American heartland, a small-town world of pickup trucks and Sunday night pancake dinners, dropping in on neighbors and complaining about the county agent. His depictions of daily life, from the point of view of an ex-dairy farmer and taciturn husband with a twinkle in his eye, are read by 250,000 people a week and occasionally woven into Prairie Home Companion scripts. These are stories of courtship; childbirth; he offers the delivery room doctor the use of his calf puller; family; neighbors; chores; and the duties of a father why is it that a man who spends his days in cow manure can’t change a baby’s diaper? Knee-slappingly funny one moment, poignant the next, it’s a very special look at a distinctly American way of life.

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Customer Reviews

“Jerry Nelson’s column comes from the true heart of the Midwest, the place I try to write about while I’m flying around the country doing one gaudy thing or another, but Jerry actually lives there. He has the true voice, the slow twang. He knows wheat from barley. He knows hardware, he knows vegetation, he knows people. If the Lake Wobegon Herald-Star had a columnist (other than Harold Starr), it would be either Jerry or his cousin.”

œ Garrison

Keillor "funny and heartwarming" • "Successful Farming Magazine
"a fun, entertaining read" • "Beef Magazine" "The book reads like
anecdotes from [Garrison] Keillor's fictional town of Lake Wobegon"
Kansas City Star

Jerry Nelson and his wife, Julie, live in Volga, South Dakota, on the farm that Jerry's
great-grandfather homesteaded in the 1880s. In addition to his weekly column, his writing has also
appeared in the nation's top agricultural magazines, including Successful Farming, Farm
Journal, Progressive Farmer, and Living the Country Life.

I was looking for a good, funny book and this was the one! Over the years I've read Pat McManus,
Dave Barry and Lewis Grizzard over and over until some of my books fell apart. I finally found
another author who can make me laugh just as much as any of these. Sometimes I'm not sure the
author has all of his marbles, but that's ok....none of the best writers do. :) Seriously, Mr. Nelson has
written a wonderfully funny book, and I never knew what he was going to say next. If you want some
good belly laughs and a few surprises, this is a really good read!

The book was comic relief for this city dweller. While I am not squeamish, some of the text was a bit
earthy for me. If you grew up on a farm or visited one occasionally, some of the antics and
anecdotes might seem commonplace for you. The majority of the book was humorous but once or
twice a turn of events was sad as one might expect in any culture. Life is fragile and fraught with
perils, a point well-demonstrated in the course of at least two stories. The stories could well be
entirely accurate and the writing is very good.

Anyone who has grown up in the Midwest or has an inkling of farm life will love this book. Those
who have grown up else where will also enjoy the book for its humor and often heartwarming
columns written for newspapers and magazines. Jerry Nelson certainly is a talented author who
expresses himself in an entertaining manner that leaves you smiling or laughing.

This collection of columns reads like exactly that and would appeal mostly to guys nostalgic for the
imagined idyllic life on the farm. It pokes gentle fun at what that sort of life is really like and is from a
man's perspective. For women, imagine a collection of columns by Erma Bombeck. They appeal to
women because we get that perspective. As a woman though, this kind of missed the target with

me. I've lived on and around farms so understand how that works. Some happenings are indeed funny (when you relate them later---rarely are at the time :). I have a friend who writes about them in a way that really makes me laugh, but mostly these stories didn't. Again, I think it was mostly the perspective.

This book is truly entertaining! I laughed throughout the whole book. While it is all true he was able to find the humor in it all. The dialogues he had with other people really is comical.

I enjoyed "Dear County Agent Guy" very much, finding it equally entertaining, humorous and informative about the issues of family farm life. It is an easy and fun read, with laugh out loud moments at times. Highly recommended!

This is the kind of book one yearns for in these days of upheaval and chaos. What a terrific escape; I was honestly sorry to have it end.

“Dear County Agent Guy” offers a series of amusing antidotes that can be enjoyed chapter by chapter or within the context of a whole recounting of a South Dakota Dairy Farmer’s uniquely colorful adventures. Another reviewer suggested Nelson writes “with a twinkle in his eye”. The description accurately reflects the nature of his stories, whether descriptively poignant or endearingly extravagant. I enjoyed the light escapism the book provided.

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