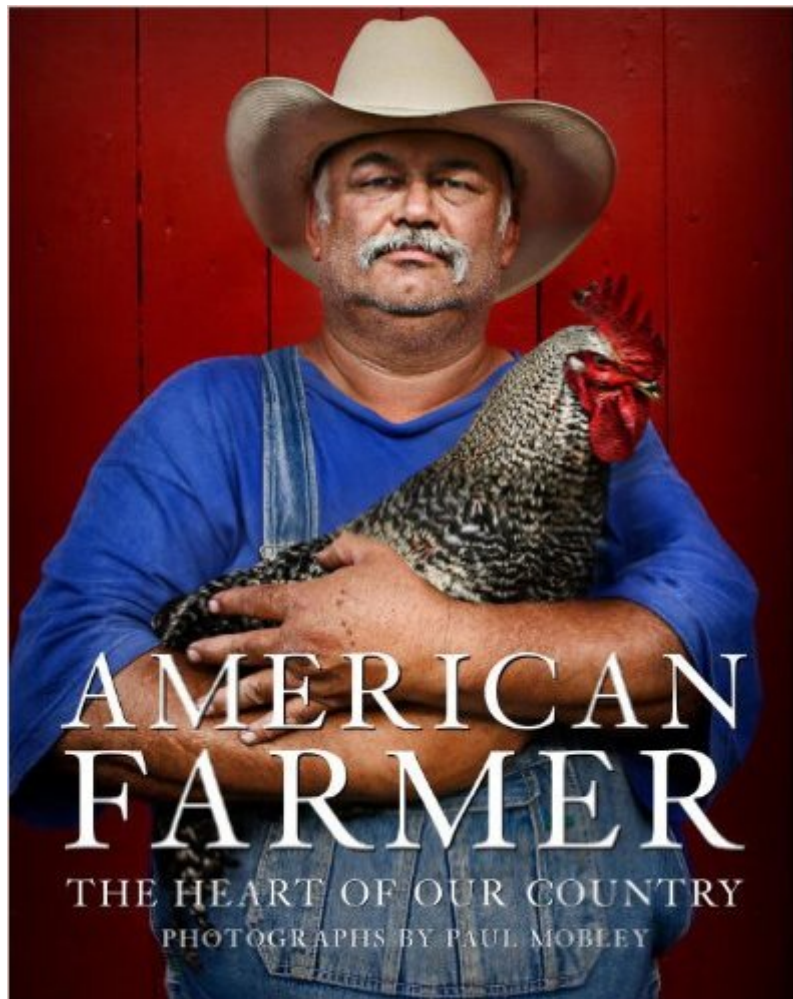


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# American Farmer: The Heart Of Our Country



## Synopsis

When photographer Paul Mobley set out to capture the soul of America's farming communities, he discovered a culture defined by tradition, integrity, and hard work, and comprised of the most authentic and generous individuals he's ever encountered. Traveling across the country from Tennessee to Montana, Mobley and his camera were welcomed into the homes of over one hundred farming families, who graciously shared their personal histories along with the fruits of their labor. To spend time with them was to turn back the clock--to an era when there were no locks on doors, no urban sprawl, and no virtue more prized than common decency. Children still move across the street and not across the state when they grow up, and parents move back in with their children when they grow old. Story after story, visit after visit, Mobley slowly came to know the independent farmer's spirit both from behind the lens and over the dinner table. The result is a stunning series of portraits and direct quotes that collectively chronicle the life of the American farmer. Each image offers an unvarnished and intimate look inside the hardships and joys of a quickly disappearing lifestyle--one that once defined our national identity and now struggles just to keep a foothold. And even as encroaching cities threaten their livelihoods, these men and women continue to find sustenance in the same basic human values they were raised with. *American Farmer* is an inspirational reminder of what it means to live with simplicity and contentment, in a world that is driven by excess. This vivid portfolio is accompanied by anecdotes and memories in the farmer's own words that are both a testament to their enduring hospitality and a moving glimpse into their daily routines and family histories. But what you will read first, and foremost, are their faces. From Bruce Crump, a citrus farmer in Florida; to Patsy Fribley, a stockyard dealer from Montana; to Thurston Wilber, a Maine lobsterman, Mobley's intense and beautiful portraits capture the furrows of fields lining their brows, the crevices of drought creasing the corners of their mouths, and the grains of truth in their squinted eyes.<sup>35</sup> states included: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming

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## Customer Reviews

This is hands down the best Christmas gift I've ever given. I have 14 copies and have not been able to wait for Christmas to present them to the recipients. Most of my family received them on Thanksgiving day. I come from a farm family, most of my relatives have at one point been immersed in agriculture. This book brought many of them to tears. The joy on my grandmother's face as she flipped the pages one by one was priceless. Not only is the book itself a great conversation piece, it also helped recollect memories from the past. Many stories of farm life have been shared since the book made it's way into our lives. Our copy lives on the coffee table. No other book shall ever take it's place. Thank you Paul from the depths of my soul.

Memorable images. Beautiful prose from the mouths of the interviewed farmers. A testament to a difficult, but rewarding way of life. A warning that we should keep our farms viable so that our food comes from home.

If you have ever been a farmer, lived in a farming community or know farmers, the faces show the character, ethos, the hard-working dignity of farmers across our country. The photography is sharp and the photographer captured the lives of American Farmers without needing much text to describe them. An excellent snapshot of a way of life in our country.

I was watching 'This Week in Agribusiness' and they had a wonderful piece on this book. The images they showed were so full of emotive impact that I knew I would have to buy this book so I could know the stories behind them. As a poet and farmer, I found these photos especially moving. I want to thank all involved with this book for making it possible for the public to have some insight into a fading lifestyle that has long been the backbone of our nation. This book is a must see for ALL

people! Once again, Thank you. Leah Westphal

This is the most beautiful book of photography I've ever seen. It's hard cover, very large and heavy and worth much more than the going price. It pictures the heart of America--our farmers. The forgotten men and women who work so hard to make a living and make America survive. On every other page appears a photographic wonder by Paul Mobley accompanied, on the opposite page, by a history of the farm given by the subject(s). Most of the photos are in color but some are also in black and white, and others in brown tones. The pictures that Mr. Mobley took, are from all across these United States. Every line, wrinkle, age spot and gray appear as they should--vivid!! The bright blues, greens, reds, yellows, purples and oranges literally jump off the pages. I recommend this book to everyone--farmers and photographers alike, children, teachers and all those who want to see what the backbone of America really looks like. sandi angel

My office manager ordered this book for our lobby. Well I took a look and was amazed as to the stories each photo told. My patients love the pictures and comments are positive. I have ordered the book for our home and plan to surprise my wife. What a great country and look into our oldest families. D Lawrence M.D.

Ok, I am not knocking the essence of this book...it has its good points but after I read the reviews I expected more from the photography. I felt it lacked originality, looked very 80's and 90's magazine article and could have used more contrasting lighting on the indoor shots. The articles were very brief and didn't present much more than a brief bio of the farmer (s) in the photo. I would have liked to read more about fewer farmers and I would have liked a more journalistic perspective that highlighted the struggles and glory of the family farmer. The articles were too brief to get a feel for what American farmers are going through now (2003). I love farmers and I love good pictures and I wanted more from such a big book that takes up valuable coffee table real estate

I have now ordered 3 copies of this book and plan to order more as Christmas gifts. This book has more heart felt meaning than any book I have ever owned. The authentic quotes of these strong people and the photos that capture the ruggedness of their lives. These are exactly the photos I wanted for my book Strong Medicine For The Liver, Strong Photos for Strong Words. American Farmer is without a doubt the gift that keeps on giving. I have given away 2 and watched as their breath was taken away. They were each overwhelmed with a complexity of emotion. Amazing Book.

Must Buy!

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