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## Civic Agriculture (Civil Society: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives)

*Thomas A. Lyson*

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**Thomas A. Lyson : Civic Agriculture (Civil Society: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Civic Agriculture (Civil Society: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Good Primer By Marissa S This is a great book if you don't know a lot about what's wrong with the current food system and if you want to learn more about small-scale agriculture. If you

already know a lot on the topic, it might be boring. It's a short, fast read and it can be dry but it is a lot of good information. I already knew a lot on the topic from reading "Eating Animals" by Jonathan Safran Foer (which I highly recommend), but as a text for one of my classes, this was helpful as a refresher. Don't get too downtrodden from the first few chapters; Lyson gets to the revival of civic agriculture in the later chapters. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Had to Read Book for a Class By Brooke This book was purchased for a class I am in. Of all the books I have had to read for school this was the most straight forward, easy to read and informational. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Useful By keharlow Informative and useful for my class in civic agriculture

While the American agricultural and food systems follow a decades-old path of industrialization and globalization, a counter trend has appeared toward localizing some agricultural and food production. Thomas A. Lyson, a scholar-practitioner in the field of community-based food systems, calls this rebirth of locally based agriculture and food production civic agriculture because these activities are tightly linked to a community's social and economic development. Civic agriculture embraces innovative ways to produce, process, and distribute food, and it represents a sustainable alternative to the socially, economically, and environmentally destructive practices associated with conventional large-scale agriculture. Farmers' markets, community gardens, and community-supported agriculture are all forms of civic agriculture. Lyson describes how, in the course of a hundred years, a small-scale, diversified system of farming became an industrialized system of production and also how this industrialized system has gone global. He argues that farming in the United States was modernized by employing the same techniques and strategies that transformed the manufacturing sector from a system of craft production to one of mass production. Viewing agriculture as just another industrial sector led to transformations in both the production and the processing of food. As small farmers and food processors were forced to expand, merge with larger operations, or go out of business, they became increasingly disconnected from the surrounding communities. Lyson enumerates the shortcomings of the current agriculture and food systems as they relate to social, economic, and environmental sustainability. He then introduces the concept of community problem solving and offers empirical evidence and concrete examples to show that a re-localization of the food production system is underway.

"An eye-opening read recommended for collections on agriculture, community development, economics of food production and sociology."mdash;Academia