



# Putting the Barn Before the House: Women and Family Farming in Early Twentieth-Century New York

*Grey Osterud*

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*Putting the Barn Before the House* features the voices and viewpoints of women born before World War I who lived on family farms in south-central New York. As she did in her previous book, *Bonds of Community*, for an earlier period in history, Grey Osterud explores the flexible and varied ways that families shared labor and highlights the strategies of mutuality that women adopted to ensure they had a say in family decision making. Sharing and exchanging work also linked neighboring households and knit the community together. Indeed, the culture of cooperation that women espoused laid the basis for the formation of cooperatives that enabled these dairy farmers to contest the power of agribusiness and obtain better returns for their labor. Osterud recounts this story through the words of the women and men who lived it and carefully explores their views about gender, labor, and power, which offered an alternative to the ideas that prevailed in American society.

Most women saw "putting the barn before the house"-investing capital and labor in productive operations rather than spending money on consumer goods or devoting time to mere housework-as a necessary and rational course for families who were determined to make a living on the land and, if possible, to pass on viable farms to the next generation. Some women preferred working outdoors to what seemed to them the thankless tasks of urban housewives, while others worked off the farm to support the family. Husbands and wives, as well as parents and children, debated what was best and negotiated over how to allocate their limited labor and capital and plan for an uncertain future. Osterud tells the story of an agricultural community in transition amid an industrializing age with care and skill.

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A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation or even go to the outside with them family or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity that is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent all day long to reading a e-book. The book Putting the Barn Before the House: Women and Family Farming in Early Twentieth-Century New York it is quite good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book offers high quality.

#### **Alfred Greenwell:**

The book untitled Putting the Barn Before the House: Women and Family Farming in Early Twentieth-Century New York contain a lot of information on that. The writer explains the woman idea with easy method. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do not really worry, you can easy to read it. The book was written by famous author. The author provides you in the new time of literary works. It

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