

## Citation metadata

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## Main content

Article Preview :

By Cindy Hahamovitch (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 1997) 287 pp. \$45.00 cloth \$17.95 paper

The parallel duties of commercial farmers, as both individualistic entrepreneurs and as employers of wage laborers, remains a neglected and generally misunderstood characteristic of rural America. Although agricultural scholars have long noted the large number of part-time rural employees, the economic decisiveness of a timely harvest, farmers' suspicious stance toward organized labor, and the attentive management of these factors by commercial growers, the myths and realities of the "agrarian ideal" often conceal the connections between growers, laborers, and public policy. The shifting interpretations of who instigated political reform and then benefited by it in rural America has only added to the discord. Hahamovitch's study of migratory laborers successfully navigates these quandaries and, in the process, charts a course toward a new and...

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