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English 624
12 February 2012

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Angeli 1

Toward a Recovery of Nineteenth Century Farming Handbooks

While researching texts written about nineteenth century farming, I found a few authors who published books about the literature of nineteenth century farming, particularly agricultural journals, newspapers, pamphlets, and brochures. These authors often placed the farming literature they were studying into an historical context by discussing the important events in agriculture of the year in which the literature was published (see Demaree, for example). However, while these authors discuss journals, newspapers, pamphlets, and brochures, I could not find much discussion about another important source of farming knowledge: farming handbooks. My goal in this paper is to bring this source into the agricultural literature discussion by connecting three agricultural handbooks from the nineteenth century with nineteenth century agricultural history.

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The introductory paragraph, or introduction, should set the context for the rest of the paper. Tell your readers why you are writing and why your topic is important.

The thesis statement is often (but not always) the last sentence of the introduction. The thesis is a clear position that you will support and develop throughout your paper. This sentence guides or controls your paper.

To achieve this goal, I have organized my paper into four main sections, two of which have sub-sections. In the first section, I provide an account of three important events in nineteenth century agricultural history: population and technological changes, the distribution of scientific new knowledge, and farming's influence on education. In the second section, I discuss three nineteenth century farming handbooks in connection with the important events described in the first section. I end my paper

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Allen, R.L. *The American Farm Book; or Compend of American Agriculture; Being a Practical Treatise on Soils, Manures, Draining, Irrigation, Grasses, Grain, Roots, Fruits, Cotton, Tobacco, Sugar Cane, Rice, and Every Staple Product of the United States with the Best Methods of Planting, Cultivating, and Preparation for Market.* Saxton, 1849.

Baker, Gladys L., et al. *Century of Service: The First 100 Years of the United States Department of Agriculture.* [Federal Government], 1996.

Danhof, Clarence H. *Change in Agriculture: The Northern United States, 1820-1870.* Harvard UP, 1969.

Demaree, Albert Lowther. *The American Agricultural Press 1819-1860.* Columbia UP, 1941.

Drown, William and Solomon Drown. *Compendium of Agriculture or the Farmer's Guide, in the Most Essential Parts of Husbandry and Gardening; Compiled from the Best American and European Publications, and the Unwritten Opinions of Experienced Cultivators.* Field, 1824.

"Historical Census Browser." *University of Virginia Library*, 2007,

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Hurt, R. Douglas. *American Agriculture: A Brief History.* Iowa State UP, 1994.

Lorain, John. *Nature and Reason Harmonized in the Practice of Husbandry.* Carey, 1825.

"Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862." *Prairie View A&M*, 2003. www.pvamu.edu/library/about-the-library/history-of-the-library-at-prairie-view/1890-land-grant-history/. Accessed 6 Dec. 2008.

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