

Our Region Reads *Gaining Ground*

BY FORREST PRITCHARD

READERS OF THIS YEAR'S SELECTION WILL ENJOY LEARNING HOW ONE YOUNG MAN through determination and commitment was able to save his family farm and at the same time fuel a campaign that spotlights the value of organic farming and sustainable foods in the United States.

Although the author, Forrest Pritchard earned his degree in Geology and Literature at William and Mary College, his post college days in choosing a career path were fraught with indecision. He tried teaching, but still that didn't fulfill his desire for meaning. As he spent time pondering his future while living on his family's homestead, his reverie drew him to thoughts of his grandfather who had tilled the soil on which Pritchard stood--and that led him to follow his family's farming roots. His father scoffed at his decision to continue his grandfather's legacy, although his mother supported the idea. He writes his memoir with clarity, passion and humor in beautiful prose that draws the reader into his story. As always, the One Book selections are intended to elicit lively conversations and this book is no exception. It is a departure from past One Book selections; however, it's one that will reveal values reaped in going back to the basics that sustain not only the body, but also the soul.

The regional reading campaign, named **One Book, One Community**, is intended to promote the value of reading by recommending a compelling book that links the community in a common conversation. One Book programs encourage dialogue about a particular book, but also foster lifelong learning and the development of a strong community identity. Several communities across the country have initiated "One Book" efforts, but **One Book, One Community** is the largest such effort in Pennsylvania with over 80 participating libraries. Reading campaign organizers and librarians in the region will encourage residents to read the book during January and to attend free programs and discussions during February to learn more about this informative and humorous account of one farmer's journey.

Where do I get the book?

THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF our generous sponsors, public libraries in the six counties have stocked up on paperback copies of *Gaining Ground* where the book may be borrowed free of charge. There are also copies of Audio CDs available for checkout, as well as large print editions. The title is also available as an online OverDrive E-Book at these participating public library websites.

- <http://www.berks.lib.pa.us/>
- <http://www.dcls.org/>
- <http://lclibs.org/>
- <http://www.lancasterlibraries.org>
- <http://www.yorklibraries.org>

If you would like to purchase a copy of this year's selection in paperback format, it will be available for purchase at local Giant Food Stores, Weis Markets, and Wegmans stores as well as Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Books-A-Million and at local area booksellers.

About this Year's Book...

GAINING GROUND BY FORREST PRITCHARD

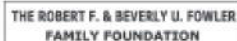
With humor and pathos, Forrest Pritchard recounts his ambitious and often hilarious endeavors to save his family's seventh-generation farm in the Shenandoah Valley. Through many a trial and error, he not only saves Smith Meadows from insolvency but turns it into a leading light in the sustainable, grass-fed, organic farm-to-market community. Landis Valley There is nothing young Farmer Pritchard won't try. Whether he's selling firewood and straw, raising free-range chickens and hogs, or acquiring a flock of Barbados Blackbelly sheep, his learning curve is steep and always entertaining. Pritchard's world crackles with colorful local characters—farm hands, butchers, market managers, customers, fellow vendors, pet goats, policemen—bringing the story to warm, communal life. His most important ally, however, is his renegade father, who initially questions his son's career choice and eschews organic foods for the generic kinds that wreak havoc on his health. Soon after his father's death, the farm becomes a recognized success and Pritchard must make a vital decision: to continue serving the local community or answer the exploding demand for his wares with lucrative Internet sales and shipping deals. More than a charming story of honest food cultivation and farmers' markets, *Gaining Ground* tugs on the heartstrings, reconnecting us to the land and the many lives that feed us (Description taken from the publisher, Lyons Press)



Anne Shannon Announces the Selection

Televised promotion of this year's campaign will appear in the form of PSAs on WGAL-TV, Channel 8. WGAL has been a champion media sponsor by offering their in-kind services to the One Book, One Community Campaign for the past 12 years.

One Book, One Community recognizes the generous support of our sponsors:



Friends and Trustees of participating libraries

Thank You to our 2016 Dedicated Friends and Trustees

Adamstown Area Library
 Alexander Family Library, Hummelstown
 Annville Free Library
 Arthur Hufnagel Public Library of Glen Rock
 Berks County Public Libraries
 Collinsville Community Library
 Columbia Public Library
 Council of Friends of Lancaster County
 Dover Area Community
 East Shore Area Library, Harrisburg
 Kutztown Community Library
 Guthrie Memorial Library, Hanover
 Hershey Public Library
 Kaltreider-Benfer Library, Red Lion
 Kreutz Creek Valley Library Center, Hellam
 Kline Library, Harrisburg
 Lebanon Valley College Library
 Manheim Township Library
 Martin Library, York
 Mason-Dixon Public Library
 Newport Public Library
 Red Land Community Library, Erters
 Schuylkill Valley Community Library, Leesport
 Village Library, Jacobus
 Wernersville Public Library
 West Lawn, Wyomissing Hills Library

How is the Book Selected?

A selection committee made up of community members representing all participating counties, reviews a number of books based upon broad criteria that include:

- A major author with a body of work, or an author who has received lasting literary recognition
- An author or recognized experts on the author, who would be willing to engage in discussion with readers at several events
- A good discussible book
- A book that is available in quantity, at a reasonable cost, in various media formats (paperback, large print, audio, or video)
- A book that is accessible to emerging adult readers (up to a high school reading level.



Isaac's Community Fundraisers!

Isaac's will donate 25% of proceeds from customers who support the **One Book, One Community** project. Visit www.oboc.org or your local public library for fundraising dates.

About the Author...

FORREST PRITCHARD IS A SEVENTH GENERATION FARMER and New York Times bestselling author, holding degrees in English and Geology from the College of William & Mary. Upon returning from college in the mid-90s, he took over his grandparents' farm (primarily growing GMO corn and soybeans) hoping to make the land profitable for the first time in decades. On harvest day, when five tractor-trailer loads of grain reaped a meager paycheck of \$18.16, he realized his family's farm must radically change course. The following season, he devoted himself to farming organically and sustainably, raising free-range cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and chickens.

Twenty years later, his farm Smith Meadows is one of the oldest "grass finished" farms in the country, and sells at leading farmers' markets in Washington DC. Chronicling his farming adventures, Forrest's book *Gaining Ground, A Story of Farmers' Markets, Local Food and Saving the Family Farm* was named a top read by Publishers Weekly, The Washington Post and NPR's *The Splendid Table*, and made the New York Times Bestseller list.

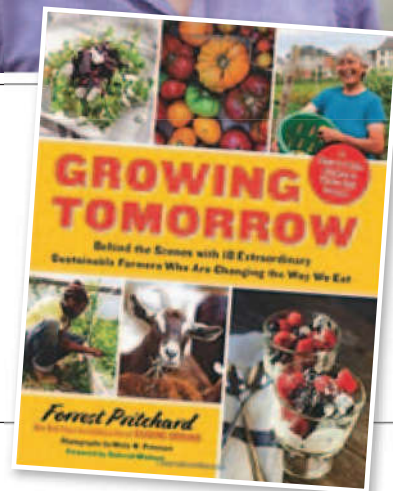
To read Forrest Pritchard's blog, visit: <http://forrestpritchard.com>



Meet the local farmers who feed America—in stories, photos, and 50 recipes!

WHEN FORREST PRITCHARD went looking for the unsung heroes of local, sustainable food, he found them at 18 exceptional farms all over the country---from the East coast to Washington State. With more than 50 mouthwatering recipes and over 250 photographs, this unique cookbook captures the struggles and triumphs of the visionary farmers who are *Growing Tomorrow*.

Growing Tomorrow made the Best Cookbooks 2015 list at The Washington Post!



Programs for Everyone

THIS YEAR OVER 80 LIBRARIES IN THE SIX-COUNTY REGION that spans Berks, Dauphin, Lebanon, Lancaster, Perry and York Counties, five area campuses of Harrisburg Area Community College, Lebanon Valley College, Penn State York and York College of Pennsylvania--- are participating along with community partner organizations. Program schedules for book discussion groups and related programming and activities will be available at all participating public libraries and throughout the community. This information may also be accessed online at www.oboc.org. Nearly all of the programming is free of charge.

SPECIAL AUTHOR VISIT! Forrest Pritchard will appear at the Beth Israel Synagogue in Lebanon, PA on May 10th. For tickets and the start time for the event, please contact the Synagogue at (717) 273-2669.

READERS CELEBRATION! - Save the date for Sunday, April 24 at Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum in Lancaster County. The event is free and open to the public ---there will be live music, activities, refreshments provided by Isaac's and a special Silent Auction to benefit future One Book Campaigns. As plans evolve, we will post full details on www.oboc.org.



If you've already read *Gaining Ground*, you may enjoy these reads...

Growing Tomorrow by Forrest Pritchard (2015)

Named one of the Best Cookbooks 2015 by the Washington Post, this is a great companion book to *Gaining Ground*. With more than 50 mouthwatering recipes and over 250 photographs, this unique cookbook captures the struggles and triumphs of the visionary farmers who are *Growing Tomorrow*.

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life by Barbara Kingsolver (c2007)

Bestselling author Barbara Kingsolver returns with her first nonfiction narrative that will open your eyes in a hundred new ways to an old truth: You are what you eat.

Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer by Novella Carpenter (c2009)

Urban and rural collide in this wry, inspiring memoir of a woman who turned a vacant lot in downtown Oakland into a thriving farm.

The Dirty Life: On Farming, Food, and Love by Kristin Kimball (c2010)

This is a captivating chronicle of a New York writer whose life changed dramatically after she interviewed a dynamic young farmer. The book is an account of their first year on Essex Farm, from the cold

North Country winter through the following harvest season---complete with their wedding in the loft of the barn

Bringing it to the Table: Writings on Farming and Food by Wendell Berry (c2009)

For the last five decades, Berry has embodied mindful eating through his land practices and his writing. In recognition of that influence, Michael Pollan here offers an introduction to this wonderful book.

Organic Manifesto: How Organic Food Can Heal Our Planet, Feed the World, and Keep Us Safe by Marie Rodale and Eric Scholsser (c2011)

Granddaughter to Rodale's founder, and its current CEO, the author offers a passionate, evenhanded, nonacademic argument for the overall wisdom---economic and ecological---for farming organic.

Restoration Agriculture: Real-world Permaculture for Farmers by Mark Shepard and Anna Lappe (c2014)

This book explains how many of the so-called advances in modern agriculture have actually contributed to our current dilemma and offers practical ways that Permaculture can be implemented into large scale productive food systems.

OBOC Regional Programming

Berks County

To access OBOC programs held in Berks County, please check the www.oboc.org website or www.berks.lib.pa.us

Dauphin County

OBOC BOOK DISCUSSION

Thursday, February 19

12:00 noon - 1:00 pm

State Library of Pennsylvania

607 South Drive

Room 102 Forum Building

Harrisburg, PA 17120-0600

717-787-2327

kahale@pa.gov | www.education.state.pa.us

Join us as we discuss this year's One Book selection, *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard.

Lancaster County

BOOK DISCUSSION

Monday, February 1

7:00 pm

Eastern Lancaster County Library

11 Chestnut Drive

New Holland, PA 17555

www.elancolibrary.org

Join us as we discuss this year's One Book selection, *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard. Learn about how the determination of one farmer was able to turn his farm into a profitable, sustainable source of organic food.

SPRING GARDEN PREPARATION

Thursday, February 4

7:00 pm

Lititz Public Library

651 Kissel Hill Rd

Lititz, PA 17543

www.lititzlibrary.org

In this program sponsored by the Lititz Garden Club, Landis Valley Farm Museum speaker Bob Goodhart will present on spring garden preparation. He'll discuss soil amendment and mulching with emphasis on doing it all organically while saving money. Please pre-register by calling the library at 626-2255 or emailing your name to register@lititzlibrary.org.

BOOK DISCUSSION

One Book, One Community Book

Discussion & Local Food Potluck

Friday, February 12

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Lancaster General Health offices at Burle

Business Park

1000 New Holland Avenue, Lancaster PA

Conference Room #1

Please join *Lighten Up Lancaster County* for a discussion of *Gaining Ground* and a healthy potluck lunch. We ask that all attendees bring a dish to share, highlighting a locally-grown fruit or vegetable. Beverages and paper products will be provided. Please RSVP to Brenda Buescher at bbuescher2@lghealth.org by February 5. The first 5 people to RSVP will receive a free copy of the book, to be picked up at the Wellness Center at Lancaster General Health.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Thursday, February 18

6:00 pm

Moore's Memorial Library

9 W. Slokom Avenue

Christiana, PA 17509

610-593-6683

www.christianalibrary.org

Join our Adult Book Group as we discuss this year's One Book selection, *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard.

GET YOUR GREEN THUMB GOING

Monday, February 22

6:30 pm

Eastern Lancaster County Library

11 Chestnut Drive

New Holland, PA 17555

www.elancolibrary.org

Many people go to the nursery to get bedding plants or vegetables for their flower and vegetable gardens, but you don't have to. With a little knowledge, space and time you can start your own plants from seed at a fraction of the cost. With a Lancaster County Parks' Naturalist you will get to make your own recycled paper planting cups, plant several seeds and learn how to take care of your seedlings and eventually plant them outside.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Tuesday, February 23

6:30 pm

Milano-Schock Library

1184 Anderson Ferry Rd, Mt. Joy, PA 17552

717-653-1510

www.mslibrary.org

Join us as we discuss this year's One Book selection, *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard. Learn about how the determination of one farmer was able to turn his farm into a profitable, sustainable source of organic food. Discussion will be led by Mary Ann Heltshe-Steinhauer.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Wednesday, March 2

6:00 pm

Columbia Public Library

24 S. Sixth Street, Columbia, PA 17512

717-684-2255

www.columbia.lib.pa.us

Join us as we discuss this year's One Book selection, *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard. Discussion will be led by Mary Ann Heltshe-Steinhauer.

GET YOUR GREEN THUMB GOING

Tuesday, March 8

6:30 pm

Strasburg-Heisler Library

143 Precision Avenue

Strasburg, PA 17579

www.strasburglibrary.org

Many people go to the nursery to get bedding plants or vegetables for their flower and vegetable gardens, but you don't have to. With a little knowledge, space and time you can start your own plants from seed at a fraction of the cost. With a Lancaster County Parks' Naturalist you will get to make your own recycled paper planting cups, plant several seeds and learn how to take care of your seedlings and eventually plant them outside.

NATURAL COMPOSTING

Tuesday, March 15

6:30 pm

Strasburg-Heisler Library

143 Precision Avenue

Strasburg, PA 17579

www.strasburglibrary.org

Join our Naturalist for a program on composting. We will explore several ways to compost to help you choose the best for your location and needs. Learn about the proper mix of browns and greens to make the best black gold possible. Finally learn how to use the wonderful end result of compost.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Thursday, March 24

7:00 pm

Adamstown Area Library

3000 North Reading Road, Adamstown, PA

19501

Join us as we discuss this year's One Book selection, *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard. Discussion will be led by Mary Ann Heltshe-Steinhauer.

RAIN/ RAIN BARRELS

Tuesday, March 29

6:30 pm

Strasburg-Heisler Library

143 Precision Avenue

Strasburg, PA 17579

www.strasburglibrary.org

Rain barrels collect runoff from your roof and hold it so that you can use it to water garden plants, wash your car and more. Without the additional chemicals added to tap water, it is better for your plants and easier on your wallet. By collecting this water you are also reducing the strain put on already overtaxed municipal water treatment facilities and reducing your water bill. Join a Lancaster County Parks' Naturalist to learn about rain barrels and other water saving tips for your backyard.

Lebanon County

BOOK DISCUSSION

February 4

2:00 pm

Lebanon Community Library

125 N. 7th Street

Lebanon, PA 17046

717-273-7624

Thursday afternoon book group will discuss *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard.

BOOK DISCUSSION

February 8

6:45 pm

Palmyra Public Library

50 Landings Drive (in Flightpath Bus. Park)

Annville, PA 17003

717-838-1347

Join us for a discussion of *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard.

BOOK DISCUSSION

February 9

11:00 am - 12 noon

Lebanon Valley College

Vernon & Doris Bishop Library

101 North College Avenue

Annville, PA 17003

BOOK DISCUSSION

February 16

7:00 pm

Myerstown Community Library

199 N College St

Myerstown, Pa 17067

717-866-2800

Join the herd and come to a book discussion of *Gaining Ground*.

BOOK DISCUSSION

February 23

5:30 pm

Matthews Public Library

102 W. Main Street

Fredericksburg, PA 17026

717-865-5523

Join us for a discussion of *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard. We hope you'll take the time to participate in this vibrant club that meets monthly.

BOOK DISCUSSION

February 23

6:00 pm

Lebanon Community Library

125 N. 7th Street

Lebanon, PA 17046

717-273-7624

Tuesday evening book group will discuss *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard.

BOOK DISCUSSION

March 2

6:30 pm

Richland Community Library

111 E. Main Street

Richland, PA 17087

717-866-4939

Join us for a discussion of *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard.

CONTAINER VEGETABLE GARDENING

March 8

6:30 pm

Lebanon Community Library

125 N. 7th Street

Lebanon, PA 17046

717-273-7624

Learn about vegetable gardening in containers in this program presented by Penn State Extension Master Gardeners.

ATTRACTING BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES, AND NATIVE PLANTS IN YOUR GARDEN

March 21

6:00 pm

Palmyra Public Library

50 Landings Drive (in Flightpath Bus. Park)

Annville, PA 17003

717-838-1347

Learn about pollinators and the benefits of native plants in your backyard, presented by Penn State Extension Master Gardener Program.

MOVIE NIGHT FEATURING FRESH: THE MOVIE

April 1

6:00 pm

Richland Community Library

111 E. Main Street

Richland, PA 17087

717-866-4939

FRESH celebrates the farmers, thinkers and business people across America who are re-inventing our food system. *FRESH* features urban farmer, Will Allen, the recipient of MacArthur's 2008 Genius Award; sustainable farmer Joel Salatin, made famous by Michael Pollan's book, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*; and supermarket owner, David Ball.

BOOK DISCUSSION

April 5

6:00 pm

Lebanon Community Library

125 N. 7th Street

Lebanon, PA 17046

717-273-7624

Join us to discuss *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard.

AUTHOR VISIT - FORREST PRITCHARD

May 10, evening

Beth Israel Synagogue

411 S. Eighth Street

Lebanon, PA 17042

Tickets may be reserved by calling

717-273-2669.

York County

BOOK DISCUSSION

Thursday, February 4

7pm

Mason-Dixon Public Library

250 Bailey Drive

Stewartstown, PA 17363

717-993-2404

Join us by the fireplace to discuss *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard. Light refreshments will be served.

OBOC Regional Programming continued

MIXED NUTS BOOK CLUB

Friday, February 5
1pm – 3pm
Collinsville Community Library
2632 Delta Road
Brogue, PA 17309
717-927-9014

Our daytime book discussion group will discuss *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard. Light refreshments will be served.

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Wednesday Feb 10
6:30pm
Kaltreider Benfer Library
147 S Charles St
Red Lion, PA 17356
717-244-7329

Group meets monthly the 2nd Wed of each month in the literacy room to discuss diverse books. List is available at the desk. In February, we will discuss the *One Book* selection.

THE ROWDY READERS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Thursday, February 11
7:30pm- 8:30pm
Village Library
35-C N. Main St.
Jacobus, PA 17407
717-428-1034

The Rowdy Readers will discuss this year's *One Book, One Community* read, *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard.

NOON BOOK TALK

Monday, February 15
12:00 Noon
Guthrie Memorial Library -
Hanover's Public Library
2 Library Place
Hanover, PA 17331
717-632-5183

Join us for a discussion of the *One Book, One Community 2016* book selection, *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard. Talk will be presented by Lisa Kane. No sign-up required.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Tuesday, February 16
7:00 pm
Red Land Community Library
48 Robin Hood Drive
Etters, PA 17319
717-938-5599

Join us for a discussion of *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Tuesday, February 23
6:30 pm
Dillsburg Area Public Library
17 South Baltimore Street
Dillsburg, PA 17019
717-432-5613

Join us to discuss the 2016 *One Book One Community* book selection of *Gaining Ground: A Story of Farmers' Markets, Local Food, and Saving the Family Farm* by Forrest Pritchard. This book discussion will be led by Melissa Jacoby who will share her perspective on local food and the family farm and her experience visiting Forrest Pritchard's farm. Read the book and join the discussion! This program is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

VILLAGE READERS BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Thursday, Feb. 25
11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Village Library
35-C N. Main St.
Jacobus, PA 17407
717-428-1034

The Village Readers will discuss this year's *One Book, One Community* read, *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard.

THE NOVEL BUNCH BOOK CLUB

Thursday, February 25
6:00 pm
Collinsville Community Library
2632 Delta Road
Brogue, PA 17309
717-927-9014

Join our evening book discussion group to discuss *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard. Light refreshments will be served.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Wednesday, March 9
6:30 p.m.
Dover Area Community Library
3700-3 Davidsburg Road
Dover, PA 17315
717-292-6814

Join us to discuss *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard. Led by Karen Hostetter, member of the *One Book Steering Committee*. No sign-up necessary, just come.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Wednesday, March 16
6:30 pm
Martin Library
159 E. Market Street
York, PA 17401
717-849-6922

Join us to discuss *Gaining Ground* by Forrest Pritchard. Led by Karen Hostetter, member of the *One Book Steering Committee*. No sign-up necessary, just come. We will meet in The Bill Simpson Community Room.



How the One Book Program Started

The idea of community-wide reading of the same book came from the Seattle Public Library. Launched in 1998, "If All Seattle Read the Same Book" was the first effort to promote reading and civic engagement through a community reading project. Following their success, numerous cities and communities across the country have implemented a One Book campaign and others have adopted the idea and made it their own.

What we read during past campaigns...One Book, One Community Titles

2015

ORPHAN TRAIN
by Christina Baker Kline

2014

THE WORST HARD TIME
by Timothy Egan

2013

THE CELLIST OF SARAJEVO
by Steven Galloway

2012

ZEITOUN
by Dave Eggers

2011

THE HELP
by Kathryn Stockett

2010

THE BOOK THIEF
by Markus Zusak

2009

THE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK
by Geraldine Brooks

2008

THE GRACE THAT KEEPS THIS WORLD
by Tom Bailey

2007

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME
by Mark Haddon

2006

THE KITE RUNNER
by Khaled Hosseini

2005

THE WHITE
by Deborah Larsen

2004

ROCKET BOYS/OCTOBER SKY
by Homer Hickam, Jr.

Save the date for "Do You Know Your Farmer?"

SATURDAY, APRIL 2 BEGINNING 9AM

Come to meet local, sustainable farmers

- Panel discussion • Educational displays
- Children's activities • Strange food-eating contest

Presented by York County Libraries, The Horn Farm, and community partners

Farmer's Market
380 W. Market Street
York 17401