



4 Summer Reads

Enjoy fiction, facts, a memoir, and a celebration of farm life.

By **Lisa Foust Prater**

Whether it's reading a paperback under a beach umbrella or listening to an audiobook while driving across Nebraska, I love a good book. I have interviewed three of these authors on the 15 Minutes With a Farmer podcast; if only Ann Patchett were a farmer!

"Farm Kids: Stories From Our Lives" by Billi J. Miller

The latest book from Canadian farmwife Billi J. Miller is a walk down memory lane for anyone who grew up on a farm. She shares nostalgic stories of childhood collected from current and former farm kids between ages of 6–102. One of her more personal interviews was with her grandmother-in-law, who beautifully recalled her 1920s 4-H experience.

"Driving Home Naked and Other Misadventures of a Country Veterinarian" by Dr. Melinda McCall, DVM

This laugh-out-loud book is a must read for anyone considering a career as a large-animal veterinarian. Melinda McCall, a Virginia farm vet with an all-female

practice, shares the good, the bad, and the ugly of some of her more memorable cases. One left her so messy, she had no choice but to — as the title says — drive home naked.

"What a Farmer Wants You to Know About Food" by Dennis Bulani

After witnessing a conference speaker spread misinformation about farming and food safety, fourth-generation Saskatchewan farmer and business owner Dennis Bulani wrote a book to set the record straight. He shares science-based information aimed at educating consumers and providing farmers with a tool to share facts about agriculture and food.

"Tom Lake" by Ann Patchett

Ann Patchett is one of my favorite authors. "Tom Lake" is the story of a Michigan family whose adult daughters move home to the cherry farm during the pandemic. While picking cherries, their mother shares parts of her life that catch everyone by surprise. I highly recommend the audiobook, which is masterfully narrated by Meryl Streep, as well as Patchett's "The Dutch House," narrated by Tom Hanks.

Happy reading! •