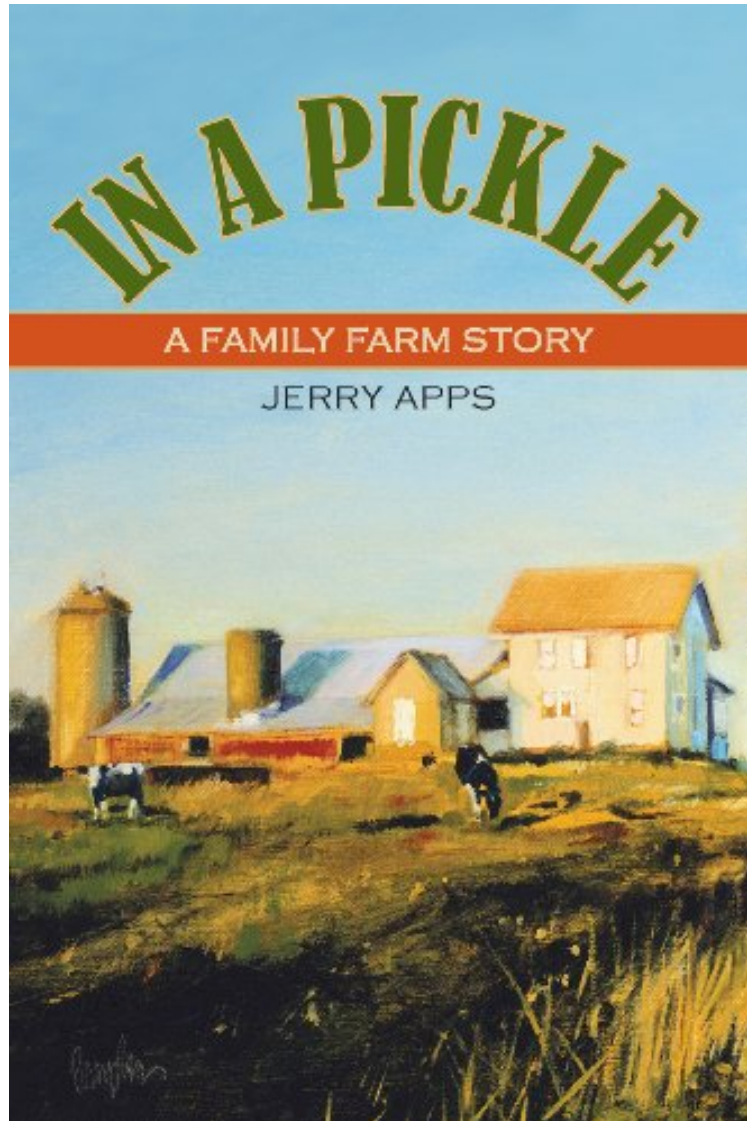


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## In a Pickle: A Family Farm Story

*Jerry Apps*

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**Jerry Apps : In a Pickle: A Family Farm Story** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In a Pickle: A Family Farm Story:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Cheese is not the only great thing to come out of Wisconsin - storytellers are ...By Mary Ann Cheese is not the only great thing to come out of Wisconsin - storytellers are another super product. Just a little risqueacute;, but a nostalgic look back at a small-town and its characters.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. More than cucumbers are in a pickleBy Richard D. NilesThough operation of a cucumber buying station in Central Wisconsin is the focus, this entertaining story is about profound changes facing farmers in the 1950's. In effect this simple story is really about fundamental social and cultural change in a rural

county in Wisconsin. Well written, entertaining and dead-on target. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.  
Four Stars By Customer Well written and insightful regarding the trend towards larger and larger farms.

The year is 1955. Andy Meyer, a young farmer, manages the pickle factory in Link Lake, a rural town where the farms are small, the conversation is meandering, and the feeling is distinctly Midwestern. Workers sort, weigh, and dump cucumbers into huge vats where the pickles cure, providing a livelihood to local farmers. But the H. H. Harlow Pickle Company has appeared in town, using heavy-handed tactics to force family farmers to either farm the Harlow way or lose their biggest customer—and, possibly, their land. Andy, himself the owner of a half-acre pickle patch, works part-time for the Harlow Company, a conflict that places him between the family farm and the big corporation. As he sees how Harlow begins to change the rural community and the lives of its people, Andy must make personal, ethical, and life-changing decisions.

From Booklist \*Starred \* Apps, a veteran Wisconsin author of rural fiction and nonfiction, proves once again just how charming he can be. Set in 1955, this warmhearted novel tells the story of 25-year-old Andy Meyer, a veteran of the Korean War, who has returned home to Link Lake, where he works on his father's farm and, during the summer cucumber season, manages the H. H. Harlow Pickle Company's factory. Life in Link Lake has gone on pretty much the same for generations, but big changes are afoot: Harlow is encouraging local cucumber farmers to plant bigger fields, to use more modern equipment, and to enter into exclusive contracts with the company. When spot-rot hits a local cucumber farm and spreads to other, smaller patches, farmers are suddenly unable to sell their cukes; families whose heads are barely above water are in danger of sinking; and Andy finds not only his livelihood, but also his very way of life in jeopardy. This is one of those slice-of-life novels that utterly wins us over with rich characters, homespun dialogue, and a story that, although it takes place half a century ago, involves a subject that's still current: the elimination of small farms by big agribusiness. Apps, who was born on a farm and who managed a pickle factory in the 1950s, invests the novel with the kind of realism, precise detail, and local color that only someone who had lived the story could do. Pitt, David "In a Pickle is a many-layered pleasure delivered by a master craftsman who is also, like Studs Terkel and Howard Zinn, a passionate student of the people's history. As Apps engages us in the coming-of-age saga of the pickle factory manager Andy Meyer, this is at once a lesson in rural Wisconsin sociology, a quietly scathing indictment of factory farming, and a great read." —John Galligan, author of *The Nail Knot* and *The Blood Knot*