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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Brief Contents -- Contents -- Foreword -- Introduction -- 1. Shaping the Agrarian Republic, 1780-1825 -- 2. A Nation of Farmers: The Promise and Peril of American Agriculture, 1825-1860 -- 3. The Machine in the Garden: The Rise of American Romanticism -- 4. Agriculture in an Industrializing Nation, 1860-1910 -- 5. Agrarians in an Industrial Nation, 1900-1945 -- 6. Southern Agrarianism, 1925-1940 -- 7. Back to the Land Again, 1940-Present -- Conclusion: American Agrarianism in the Twenty-first Century -- Bibliography -- Selection Credits -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	From Thomas Jefferson's Monticello to Michelle Obama's White House organic garden, the image of America as a nation of farmers has persisted from the beginnings of the American experiment. In this rich and evocative collection of agrarian writing from the past two centuries, writers from Hector St. Jean de Crevecoeur to Wendell Berry reveal not only the great reach and durability of the American agrarian ideal, but also the ways in which society has contested and confronted its

relationship to agriculture over the course of generations. Drawing inspiration from Virgil's agrarian epic poem, *Georgics*, this collection presents a complex historical portrait of the American character through its relationship to the land. From the first European settlers eager to cultivate new soil, to the Transcendentalist, utopian, and religious thinkers of the nineteenth century, American society has drawn upon the vision of a pure rural life for inspiration. Back-to-the-land movements have surged and retreated in the past centuries yet provided the agrarian roots for the environmental movement of the past forty years. Interpretative essays and a sprinkling of illustrations accompany excerpts from each of these periods of American agrarian thought, providing a framework for understanding the sweeping changes that have confronted the nation's landscape.
