

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910783316203321
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Titolo	At home in nature [[electronic resource]] : modern homesteading and spiritual practice in America / / Rebecca Kneale Gould
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, c2005
ISBN	1-282-35785-9 0-520-93786-4 9786612357855 1-59875-581-1
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (381 p.)
Disciplina	306/.0973
Soggetti	Country life - Religious aspects Nature - Religious aspects Spirituality - United States Country life - United States Nature and civilization - United States United States Religious life and customs
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- CONTENTS -- ILLUSTRATIONS -- PREFACE -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- A HOMESTEADING TIME LINE -- INTRODUCTION -- 1 CONVERSION -- 2 GETTING (NOT TOO) CLOSE TO NATURE -- 3 HOMEMADE RITUAL -- INTERLUDE: INTERPRETING AMBIVALENCE -- 4 THE REENCHANTMENT OF THE FARM -- 5 SCOTT NEARING AND THE SOCIAL GOSPEL OF AGRICULTURE -- 6 AMBIVALENT LEGACIES I -- 7 AMBIVALENT LEGACIES II -- APPENDIX: OF HOES AND HUCKLEBERRIES -- NOTES -- SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY -- INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	Motivated variously by the desire to reject consumerism, to live closer to the earth, to embrace voluntary simplicity, or to discover a more spiritual path, homesteaders have made the radical decision to go "back to the land," rejecting modern culture and amenities to live self-sufficiently and in harmony with nature. Drawing from vivid firsthand accounts as well as from rich historical material, this gracefully written

study of homesteading in America from the late nineteenth century to the present examines the lives and beliefs of those who have ascribed to the homesteading philosophy, placing their experiences within the broader context of the changing meanings of nature and religion in modern American culture. Rebecca Kneale Gould investigates the lives of famous figures such as Henry David Thoreau, John Burroughs, Ralph Borsodi, Wendell Berry, and Helen and Scott Nearing, and she presents penetrating interviews with many contemporary homesteaders. She also considers homesteading as a form of dissent from consumer culture, as a departure from traditional religious life, and as a practice of environmental ethics.
