

Water For Every Farm: A Review of P. A. Yeomans' Pioneering Work on Water Management

P. A. Yeomans' book, *Water For Every Farm*, is a pioneering work on water management that has helped farmers around the world to increase their water supply and improve their soil health. First published in 1954, the book has been translated into more than 20 languages and has sold over 1 million copies worldwide.

Yeomans was a farmer and engineer who developed a system of water management that he called the Keyline Plan. The Keyline Plan is based on the principle of observing and working with the natural contours of the land. By following the contours, Yeomans was able to design systems that captured and stored water more effectively, and that improved the infiltration and drainage of water into the soil.



Water for Every Farm: Using the Keyline Plan

by P. A. Yeomans

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 32 pages
Lending : Enabled



The Keyline Plan has been used to improve water conservation and productivity on farms in a wide variety of climates, from arid to humid. In Australia, the Keyline Plan has been used to increase water storage capacity on farms by up to 1000%. In the United States, the Keyline Plan has been used to improve water infiltration and drainage on farms, which has led to increased crop yields and reduced erosion.

Water For Every Farm is a practical guide to the Keyline Plan. The book is full of detailed instructions and diagrams that show farmers how to design and implement their own Keyline systems. Yeomans also provides a wealth of information on soil health, water quality, and other topics related to water management.

Water For Every Farm is a valuable resource for farmers who are looking to improve their water management practices. The book is also a fascinating read for anyone who is interested in the history of water management and the development of sustainable agriculture.

Key Concepts of the Keyline Plan

The Keyline Plan is based on the following key concepts:

1. **Observe the natural contours of the land.** The first step in designing a Keyline system is to observe the natural contours of the land. This can be done by walking the land and taking note of the changes in elevation. The contours will determine the flow of water on the land, and they will also indicate where water can be stored.
2. **Design systems that capture and store water.** The Keyline Plan uses a variety of methods to capture and store water. These methods include contour banks, swales, and dams. Contour banks are earthen

embankments that are built along the contours of the land. Swales are shallow channels that are dug along the contours of the land. Dams are structures that are built across waterways to store water.

3. **Improve the infiltration and drainage of water into the soil.** The Keyline Plan uses a variety of methods to improve the infiltration and drainage of water into the soil. These methods include ripping, contour plowing, and mulching. Ripping is the process of breaking up compacted soil layers. Contour plowing is the process of plowing along the contours of the land. Mulching is the process of covering the soil with a layer of organic matter.

Benefits of the Keyline Plan

The Keyline Plan has a number of benefits, including:

- **Increased water storage capacity.** The Keyline Plan can help to increase the water storage capacity of farms by up to 1000%. This can be a significant benefit in areas where water is scarce.
- **Improved water infiltration and drainage.** The Keyline Plan can help to improve the infiltration and drainage of water into the soil. This can lead to increased crop yields and reduced erosion.
- **Improved soil health.** The Keyline Plan can help to improve soil health by increasing the organic matter content of the soil and by reducing erosion.
- **Reduced need for irrigation.** The Keyline Plan can help to reduce the need for irrigation by capturing and storing more water. This can save farmers money and energy.

- **Increased productivity.** The Keyline Plan can help to increase productivity on farms by providing farmers with more water and by improving soil health.

Examples of the Keyline Plan in Action

The Keyline Plan has been used to improve water conservation and productivity on farms in a wide variety of climates and soil types. Here are a few examples:

- **In Australia, the Keyline Plan has been used to increase water storage capacity on farms by up to 1000%.** This has enabled farmers to grow more crops and livestock, and has also reduced the risk of drought.
- **In the United States, the Keyline Plan has been used to improve water infiltration and drainage on farms in the Midwest.** This has led to increased crop yields and reduced erosion.
- **In Africa, the Keyline Plan has been used to improve water conservation and productivity in smallholder farming systems.** This has helped to improve food security and nutrition in rural communities.

P. A. Yeomans' book, *Water For Every Farm*, is a valuable resource for farmers who are looking to improve their water management practices. The Keyline Plan is a practical and effective system that can help farmers to increase their water supply, improve their soil health, and increase their productivity.

If you are interested in learning more about the Keyline Plan, I encourage you to read P. A. Yeomans' book, Water For Every Farm. You can also find more information about the Keyline Plan online.



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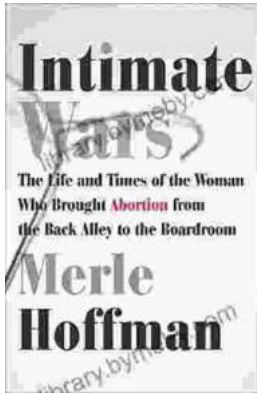
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