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Review of *The Sociology of U.S. Agriculture: An Ecological Perspective*, by Don E. Albrecht and Steve H. Murdock

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written, although more information on the Bureau of Reclamation's evaluation of the structural integrity of the Buchanan Dam could have been provided. Map selection, design, and placement could have been done differently to enhance the contribution of these figures to the book. To avoid confusion, the author could also have handled the name changes of the dams better. This book is a useful contribution to the water resources literature. It complements other works on river basin management and development, and contributes a much needed historical perspective on a period when many of the large-scale multipurpose river projects that we still benefit from today were conceived, planned, and built. **F. Andrew Schoolmaster**, *Department of Geography, University of North Texas.*

The Sociology of U.S. Agriculture: An Ecological Perspective. Don E. Albrecht and Steve H. Murdock. Ames, IA: Iowa State University Press, 1990. Tables, references, and indexes. vii + 249 pp. \$24.95 cloth (ISBN 0-8138-0192-3).

Albrecht and Murdock provide a thorough examination and discussion of the changing structure of American agriculture. The authors, adopting an integrated approach, examine the major trends and changes in farming and the causes of these changes.

This book provides a theoretically informed framework that allows dimensions central to the understanding of past, present, and possible future changes in the structure of American agriculture. The text examines ecological factors that influence and are influenced by the changing structure of agriculture. It describes the relationship between technology and agriculture. The authors discuss nonfarm organizations such as government and financial and economic institutions that dramatically influence the structure of agriculture. They also examine demographic changes in the distribution, and size and composition of the rural population.

The concluding chapter of the book examines research topics that are likely to affect American agriculture in coming decades. Specifically, this chapter discusses changes brought about by the financial crisis in agriculture in the 1980s and changes being brought about as a result of the expanding ecosystem of international competition.

Overall, I enjoyed the book and highly recommend it for introductory classes in rural sociology. The book would also be useful in courses focusing on social change in traditional rural societies and the impact of agricultural and rural industries on the quality of the environment. **Keith D. Parker**, *Department of Sociology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.*