the consignment of individuals who failed to meet "capricious citizenship standards" to institutions and "surgical slabs" as a demonstration of the fragility of Canadian citizenship (p. 405).

While complete in itself, this volume elicits the observation that we need to know more about many aspects of Canadian citizenship. For example, Ronald Rudin's tantalizing aperitif summarizes and updates his *Making History in Twentieth Century Quebec* but notes that, despite an extensive literature by sovereignists, little has been written about the concept of citizenship in the *Province* of Quebec. Claude Denis's sketch of recent issues concerning indigenous citizenship also only explores a complex subject and deliberately raises more questions than it answers. One would also like to know something of what immigrants think about Canadian citizenship. Some essays deal broadly with education for citizenship, but none examines what the nation's schools taught about citizenship or analyses any variations over time and place. Case studies invite comparisons from other eras and regions. As well, the 1946 *Citizenship Act*, the first statutory definition of Canadian citizenship, merits a study in depth. Nevertheless, the fact that a volume of over 400 pages scarcely mentions the legal definition of citizenship underscores the success of the editors in showing that citizenship is a superb prism through which to examine Canadian society.

Patricia E. Roy
University of Victoria

Jane Adams, ed. — *Fighting for the Farm: Rural America Transformed.* Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003. Pp. vi, 338.

It is difficult to think of a time when North American rural areas have not been in one form of crisis or another. Falling commodity prices, rural depopulation, indifference of urban-oriented politicians, suburban growth, technological changes, and many other factors have all contributed to a sense of rural instability. As Jane Adams argues in *Fighting for the Farm*, the crises have intensified in the past two decades. In fact, she claims that over this period a rural transformation has occurred. Depopulation has accelerated, and much of the agricultural labour has been replaced with mechanical, chemical, and biological technologies. Adams's collection shows the many ways in which the current crises are being contested. In fact, one of the book's strengths is the attention paid to the role of agency on the part of those at the wrong end of this transformation.

Throughout *Fighting for the Farm*, the themes of history, state, territory, class, and actors recur and are, in the main, ably handled by the contributors. Moreover, many of the authors show how these forces intersect and create complex and often contradictory behaviour on the part of the actors. To highlight a few of the 14 articles, Douglas H. Constance, Anna M. Kleiner, and J. Sanford Rikoon provide an excellent overview of the growth of concentrated animal feeding operations (commonly known as feedlots) in their examination of corporate farming laws in Missouri. They show how competing interests seek resolution through state intermediaries, the

impact of deregulation, and the limited (though significant) success citizens have in fighting corporate agriculture through the courts. The problem, of course, is that, once they are defeated in one jurisdiction, corporate farms can always find another that is hungry for jobs, and the cycle begins anew.

In her analysis of the California strawberry industry, Miriam J. Wells shows the complexities and ambiguities in transforming pickers (often from Mexico) from waged workers into sharecroppers and then back into wage labourers. The role of the owners, labourers, and the state are described, and she convincingly argues that rural politics are complex "because they are in the multiple, ambiguous, and often conflicting socioeconomic statuses that individuals occupy, and because social intermediaries and the changing constraints of government institutions can influence the salience of one over another" (pp. 108–109). Studies of this nature in other sectors would undoubtedly provide valuable insights into rural waged labour and the particular problems that these workers encounter.

Stuart W. Shulman's use of agenda-setting theory in examining the origins of the U.S. *Federal Farm Loan Act* of 1916 shows how certain interests were able to set the parameters of the debate through the press. The legislation was passed "in spite of widespread agrarian opposition or indifference ... [d]efeated along the way were alternative paths of agricultural development, such as those featuring large numbers of diversified, small to mid-size ecological farms, regional economies, and progressive forms of rural cooperation" in favour of large-scale agribusiness (p. 114). Shulman's model can, and should, be used by those studying the development of other major legislation and policy. In fact, it would be useful to undertake some comparative studies with similar situations in Canada to test the validity of his hypothesis.

Mary Summers relies on both solid research and her mother's recollections to argue that the opponents of the New Deal, not the New Dealers themselves, "institutionalized the narrowly framed, conservative, class-based politics that have so often defined the nation's farm programs in the postwar period" (p. 147). Like many of the authors, she is able to demonstrate the complexities in these issues and to show why much more research is badly needed in this area. As well, her methodology (mixing empirical evidence and memory) could be used to great effect in other areas of rural studies.

The other essays bear brief mention. Alan P. Rudy shows the complexity of state intervention in his study of California's Imperial Valley, and K. Murray Knuttila ably outlines the role of the Canadian state in his analysis of Canadian agricultural policies. Jess Gilbert provides a new way of approaching the New Deal, arguing that its leaders were statists for whom citizen participation was the key to the programme's success. Barry J. Barnett provides some much-needed analysis of the American farm financial crisis of the 1980s. Kathryn Marie Dudley provides some interesting insights into identity and morality in her analysis of the people of Star Prairie, Minnesota, and Laura B. DeLind reaches some intriguing conclusions regarding community-supported agriculture in an article that should generate considerable debate. Alan Hall provides a solid analysis of federal and provincial agricultural policy, especially in how the term "sustainable" has been constructed by the state to serve its own ends, not necessarily the needs of the people. Ann Reisner

shows the various sides on the debate over genetically modified food, and Harriet Friedmann concludes the volume with an ambitious vision for the establishment of polycultural communities. Although some of the conclusions might be open to challenge, the issues raised warrant much more debate.

There are, however, a few concerns with the book. There is little, if anything, on those rural communities that are not depopulating but are, in fact, growing as bedroom communities. How does suburban sprawl affect rural areas and agriculture? As well, there is very little on the role that food processors played and continue to play in the agricultural sector. Increased corporate concentration in the food industry has been its hallmark in recent years, and this concentration has had a highly negative impact on small-scale farmers. As such, this issue should have been addressed to a much larger extent. Finally, although some solid historical overviews are presented in the collection, the inclusion of historians would have helped this volume, which tends to contain an over-representation of sociologists. Historians would have been able to provide some context and long-term perspectives to the issues discussed and would have undoubtedly provided additional insights.

These concerns aside, *Fighting for the Farm* is an ambitious and impressive work. The authors do not pretend to have the answers for the questions that they raise, and implicit in their work is the idea that more research into rural North America is badly needed. Moreover, by selecting the authors that she did, Adams is able to demonstrate the many ways in which current problems can be addressed. Her collection provides a solid foundation upon which to base new research in an often overlooked but vitally important area.

Kerry Badgley
Library and Archives of Canada

Carol Blum — *Strength in Numbers: Population, Reproduction, and Power in Eighteenth-Century France*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002. Pp. xiii, 261.

According to modern estimates, the population of France grew by about one-third over the course of the eighteenth century, from approximately 21.5 million in 1700 to about 29 million a century later. However, among eighteenth-century commentators, there was near consensus that the population of France was in decline. Carol Blum's lively and stimulating book analyses the rich eighteenth-century literature on the perceived causes for and proposed solutions to the problem of population decline. Blum identifies eighteenth-century natalism as a critical site on which Enlightenment writers re-imagined gender relations and projected critiques of the Catholic Church and the absolute monarchy. To stimulate population growth, Blum argues, writers proposed a range of more or less radical reforms of sexual behaviour and gender relations, including the reduction or interdiction of celibacy, the legalization of divorce and polygamy, the elimination of various sexual taboos, and the decriminalization of incest and rape.