

# Contents

Preface xi

Acknowledgments xiii

Introduction:

*Transnational Agricultural History in the North American West* xv

STERLING EVANS

## Part I: Agricultural Connections across North America 1

- 1 Dependent Harvests: *Grain Production on the American and Canadian Plains and the Double Dependency with Mexico, 1880–1950* 3

STERLING EVANS

- 2 Meat in the Middle: *Converging Borderlands in the US Midwest, 1865–1900* 29

KRISTIN HOGANSON

- 3 Little Liberia: *The African American Agricultural Colony in Baja California* 64

LAURA HOOTON

## Part II: Commodity Histories in the Borderlands 81

- 4 Breaking Sod or Breaking Even?

*Flax on the Northern Great Plains and Prairies, 1889–1930* 83

JOSHUA D. MACFADYEN

- 5 Colonizing the Borderlands: *Citriculture and Boosterism in Texas's Lower Rio Grande Valley, 1910–1930* 104

TIM BOWMAN

- 6 Red and Green on the Border:

*The Nature and Technology of Southern New Mexico's*

*Chile Peppers* 122

TODD MEYERS

- 7 Baja and Beyond: *Toward an Environmental and Trans-regional History of the Tomato Industry of Baja California* 148

STERLING EVANS

**Part III: A Sense of Place for Ranching and Farming  
in the North American Borderlands 167**

- 8 Disturbed Belt or Rancher's Paradise? *Frontier Exploration and Place-Making in a Western Canadian-American Borderland* 169  
PETER S. MORRIS
- 9 Croplands and Pastures: *Local Agricultural Landscape Evolution on the Transnational Northern Great Plains, 1935–2006* 198  
ANDREW DUNLOP
- 10 Ranching across Borders: *The Making of a Transnational Cattle Industry in the Texas-Mexico Borderlands, 1749–1945* 221  
ALICIA DEWEY

**Part IV: Agricultural Labor in the US-Mexico Borderlands 247**

- 11 Pecan Shelling and Its Discontents: *Migrant Industrialization in Depression-Era San Antonio* 249  
JOHN WEBER
- 12 From the Golden Age of Cotton to Sorghum: *Mexican Women's Labor in Agro-Industries along the Texas-Tamaulipas Borderlands* 265  
SONIA HERNÁNDEZ
- 13 The *Betabeleras* of Western Nebraska: *Gender, Labor, and the Beet Sugar Industry* 285  
TISA M. ANDERS AND ROSA ELIA COBOS
- 14 *Días de Descanso: Reassessing the Social History of los Braceros and the Transformative Role of Migration* 309  
MATT CAIRE-PÉREZ

**Part V: Agricultural Labor in the US-Canada Borderlands 327**

- 15 Picking, Posing, and Performing: *Puget Sound Hop Fields and Income for Aboriginal Workers* 329  
PAIGE RAIBMON
- 16 "We Are Tied Together . . . in a Hundred Different Ways": *Farmers and Farm Organizations across the Forty-Ninth Parallel, 1905–1915* 351  
JASON MCCOLLOM
- 17 "Done for Another Year": *The Resilience of Canadian Custom Harvesters on the North American Plains* 371  
THOMAS D. ISERN AND SUZZANNE KELLEY

**Part VI: Agriculture and Transborder Water Issues 393**

- 18 "There May Be Bloodshed": *The US Reclamation Service, Localism, and Water Conflicts in the Montana-Alberta Borderlands, 1900–1910* 395  
ANTHONY E. CARLSON

19. The Liquid Frontier: *Water and Sustainable Development  
on the US-Mexico Border* 420

STEPHEN P. MUMME

Afterword: *NAFTA, Agriculture, and the Greater West* 433

STERLING EVANS

Contributors 447

Index 451