

# Terra Brockman *Biographies*

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## Short

**Terra Brockman** is a speaker and author, most recently of *The Seasons on Henry's Farm*, which takes the reader through the many “micro-seasons” on her brother Henry’s sustainable, extremely diverse vegetable farm in central Illinois. A member of a remarkable farming family, Terra is a nuanced observer of, fierce advocate for, and gifted writer and speaker about sustainable agriculture. Terra is also the founder of [The Land Connection](#), an educational nonprofit working to ensure that more Illinois farmland will grow local foods for our tables. Her website is [www.terrabrockman.com](http://www.terrabrockman.com).

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## Medium

**Terra Brockman** is a speaker and author, most recently of *The Seasons on Henry's Farm*, which takes the reader through the many “micro-seasons” on her brother Henry’s sustainable, extremely diverse vegetable farm in central Illinois. A member of a remarkable farming family, Terra is a nuanced observer of, fierce advocate for, and gifted writer and speaker about sustainable agriculture. She comes at her subject from unexpected angles, combining her experience growing up as one of the 4th generation of an Illinois farm family with her expertise in biology, ecology, literature, philosophy and history. Terra is also the founder of [The Land Connection](#), an educational nonprofit working to ensure that more Illinois farmland will grow local foods for our tables.

Terra was raised in central Illinois, and after spending time at the Universities of Oregon and California, she finished undergraduate and graduate degrees in Biology and English Literature at Illinois State University. She then worked as a teacher, writer, and editor in Japan for five years. This is where her professional writing career began – writing for *The Daily Yomiuri*, various magazines, and a book, *The Job Hunter's Guide to Japan* (Kodansha International, 1990). She then moved to New York City where she worked for publishers Holt, Rinehart & Winston and Oxford University Press, while also writing book reviews for *The Nation*, *Mangajin*, and *Book Magazine*.

During her years in New York, Terra traveled extensively, from Nepal to Eritrea to Morocco to the Baltics. During her travels, she found that much of the “third world” ate better than some in the first world because their foods were fresh, local, and unprocessed. As she made her way back to central Illinois, she realized that the best food in the world could be grown in the rich soils of Illinois. She has been writing and speaking on food and agriculture topics ever since.

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## Full

**Terra Brockman** is an author and speaker on a variety of food and farm topics. She has written extensively on food and agriculture, especially as it affects the environment. A member of a remarkable farming family, Terra is a nuanced observer of, fierce advocate for, and gifted writer and speaker about sustainable agriculture. She comes at her subject from unexpected angles, combining her experience growing up as one of the 4th generation of an Illinois farm family with her expertise in biology, ecology, literature, philosophy and history.

Terra is the author most recently of *The Seasons on Henry's Farm: A Year of Food and Life on a Sustainable Farm*, which takes the reader through the many "micro-seasons" on her brother Henry's sustainable, extremely diverse vegetable farm in central Illinois. Excerpts from the book have appeared in *Orion Magazine* ("Corn Porn," August/Sept., 2009), and *The Wildbranch Anthology* ("Bean by Bean," Univ. of Utah Press, 2010).

Brockman is also the founder of The Land Connection, an educational nonprofit she started when the disconnect between good land use, good meals, and good health became so dire that the situation demanded action on the ground. So when a 21-acre parcel of farmland came up for sale near Henry's Farm, Terra drove down to the state capital, and incorporated The Land Connection. Within 9 months she had raised \$85,000 to purchase this farmland. For the next five years, she served as founding Executive Director of The Land Connection – working to further the organization's mission of preserving farmland, training new farmers, and connecting consumers with local producers.

Brockman spent her formative years in rural central Illinois, and like many teenagers from small towns, couldn't wait to get away and see the world. She attended the University of Oregon and University of California at Berkeley before receiving an M.A. in English Literature from Illinois State University. She then worked as a teacher, writer, and editor in Japan for five years, and continued as a writer and editor in New York City for the next 10 years. During those years, she also traveled extensively, from Nepal to Eritrea to Morocco to the Baltics. While visiting "third world" countries, she found she ate better foods than in the U.S. There may not have been a lot, but it was fresh, local, unprocessed, delicious and nutritious.

As Terra gradually returned to her roots in central Illinois, she realized that the best food in the world could and should be grown in the rich soils of Illinois, and should feed Illinois communities first. Through her writing, speaking, and advocacy work she continues to work for healthy farmland, healthy foods, and healthy communities by elucidating the food chain that links the American eater to the American land.

Her website is [www.terrabrockman.com](http://www.terrabrockman.com).