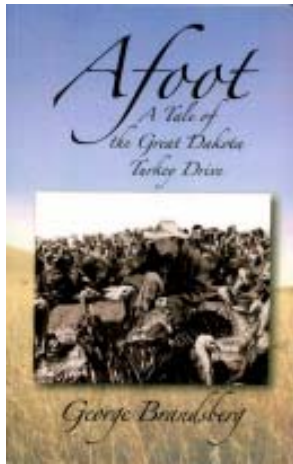


## BOOK REVIEW: AFOOT

# Great Dakota Turkey Drive

>>Anyone who has worked with live turkeys knows that turkeys can be



herded together and driven from point A to point B. The modern turkey industry uses this behavioral trait, which is not shared by broiler chickens, to facilitate loading turkeys for slaughter, moving turkeys from brooder to finisher house and, occasionally, to move birds on range. Years

ago, entrepreneurs used the turkey's innate willingness to be herded and driven as a means of bringing large flocks to market.

*AFOOT A Tale of the Great Dakota Turkey Drive* is a fictional story of a boy's journey with a motley crew of human characters and several hundred turkeys in a turkey drive, just like the great cattle drives of the "Old West." The story takes place one fall in the late 1870s, and the turkeys are driven over 200 miles of prairie from Fort Pierre, S.D., to Deadwood. S.D.

Author George Brandsberg used a historical reference to an 1878 turkey drive from Fort Pierre to Dead-

wood by two brothers as the inspiration for this tale.

Deadwood is a mining boomtown, and the turkeys can be sold for a substantial profit to the miners for their holiday meals. Miners were drawn to new gold and silver strikes by gold or silver fever and a desire for quick riches. Trailing right behind the miners were entrepreneurs in the service industry hoping to reap big profits by being the first to deliver everything from building materials, foodstuffs and other supplies to the newly rich prospectors.

In this coming-of-age story, Joshua Greene, a recently orphaned boy of 13, is on a quest to reunite with his older sister, who he believes has moved to Deadwood. Not long after leaving his Illinois home town, Joshua is penniless and hungry in Fort Pierre, and joining the turkey drive is his only way of keeping himself fed and getting to Deadwood. On the trail, Joshua learns about life on the Northern Great Plains, Native Americans and about behavior, both of his human and turkey companions. Adolescents and adults who have an interest in either turkeys or the Old West will find this book an interesting read.

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—Watt Poultry USA,  
April, 2007