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The Disappearing American Farm (Impact Books - Issues)



Synopsis

An analysis of the crisis confronting American agriculture today looks back at the history of agriculture to find the origins of the problem, the impact of technological innovations, and the limitations of policies on the subject.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up?Goldberg has done an exceptional job of describing the history of farming in this country, explaining the complex problems of the farm economy and relating why and how subsidies were initiated. He also describes the ways various government programs operate and illustrates how many of the policies that were designed to be beneficial only served to make situations worse. Too often, the rules were used by some to an unfair financial advantage. The constantly increasing cost of the subsidies to the taxpayer is also discussed. Both sides of this controversial issue are addressed. The author points out that while the abolition of subsidies might reduce federal taxes, it might also increase the prices of food by as much as 20 percent. Although no real solutions to the vanishing farm and its way of life are offered, the book does provide food for thought. This title may be of limited appeal to young people beyond those writing reports, but it should be required reading for all educated consumers.?Eldon Younce, Harper Elementary School, KS
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Gr. 8[^]-12. Goldberg traces the history of farming, focusing largely on the economic aspects of U.S.

farm policy. Touching only briefly on environmental issues, he explains how technology and agricultural research have changed the nature of the business and led to government intervention and a host of thorny issues. In discussing the problems facing farmers and the nation today, Goldberg tries to maintain a neutral position. He makes it clear, for example, that although entitlement programs are expensive and ineffective, their removal could lead to the complete loss of small family farms. The information presented is pretty heavy stuff. At one point, Goldberg even commends readers for having stuck with it, "mastering the concepts behind parity ratios, target prices, loan rates, deficiency payments, purchase agreements and market orders." But what's here will certainly be useful for students in government classes and for teens preparing informative or persuasive speeches. Chris Sherman

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