Persistence Pays U.S. Agricultural Productivity Growth and the Benefits from Public RD Spending Natural Resource Management and Policy

By Julian M. Alston

Springer. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 504 pages. Dimensions: 9.3in. x 6.4in. x 1.5in.This book documents the evolving path of U. S. agriculture in the 20th Century and the role of public R and D in that evolution. The work begins with a detailed quantitative assessment of the shifting patterns of production among the states and over time and of the public institutions and investments in agricultural R and D. Then, based on newly constructed sets of panel data, some of which span the entire 20th Century and more, the authors present new econometric evidence linking state-specific agricultural productivity measures to federal and state government investments in agricultural research and extension. The results show that the time lags between R and D spending and its effects on productivity are longer than commonly found or assumed in the prior published work. Also, the spillover effects of R and D among states are important, such that the national net benefits from a states agricultural research investments are much greater than own-state net benefits. The main findings are consistent across a wide range of reasonable model specifications. In sum, the benefits from past public investments in agricultural research have been worth many times...

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