1. Record Nr. UNINA9910463518803321 Autore Pasour E. C. Titolo Plowshares and pork barrels: the political economy of agriculture / / E. C. Pasour, Jr. and Randal R. Rucker; foreword by Bruce L. Gardner Pubbl/distr/stampa Oakland, California:,: The Independent Institute,, 2005 ©2005 **ISBN** 0-945999-03-8 1-59813-194-X Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (410 p.) Disciplina 338.1/0973 Soggetti Agriculture and state - United States Electronic books. United States Economic policy Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Note generali Includes index. Nota di contenuto Cover; Title Page; Copyright Page; Table of Contents; Abbreviations; Foreword; Preface; 1. The Role of Economics in Agricultural Policy Analysis; Functions of an Economic System; The Market System versus Central Direction; Market Prices and Market Socialism; Marginal Efficiency Conditions and Public Policy; Importance of Economics in Public Policy: The Market Process: Competition and Entrepreneurship: Summary; 2. Economic Efficiency and Equity in U.S. Agriculture; Economic Efficiency: An Elusive Concept; Equity; Rationales for U.S. Agricultural Programs: Summary 3. Government and the Economy: Private versus Collective ChoicePrivate Choice; Problems Arising from Private Choice; Private Action versus Collective Action; Summary; 4. Public Choice: The Economics of the Political Process; Individual Participation; Political Parties; Legislative Branch; The Executive Branch and the Bureaucracy; Government Failure; Improving the Collective-Choice Process; Summary: 5. Implications of Public-Choice Theory for Agricultural Policy; The Changing Agricultural Agenda; The Bias of the Collective-

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Sommario/riassunto

Agricultural subsidies in grains, cotton, milk, sugar, tobacco, honey, wool, and peanuts are analyzed in this examination of U.S. farm policy. Looking at such programs as food stamps, crop insurance, subsidized credit, trade credit, trade subsidies and import restrictions, conservation, agricultural research, and taxation, this historical perspective argues that these subsidies ultimately redistribute wealth to powerful agricultural interests who use their political clout to advance their economic interests at the expense of the general public. This analysis of government farm programs will ap