DESCRIPTION

Provides a solid foundation for understanding American agricultural history and offers new directions for research

A Companion to American Agricultural History addresses the key aspects of America’s complex agricultural past from 8,000 BCE to the first decades of the twenty-first century. Bringing together more than thirty original essays by both established and emerging scholars, this innovative volume presents a succinct and accessible overview of American agricultural history while delivering a state-of-the-art assessment of modern scholarship on a diversity of subjects, themes, and issues.

The essays provide readers with starting points for their exploration of American agricultural history—whether in general or in regards to a specific topic—and highlights the many ways the agricultural history of America is of integral importance to the wider American experience. Individual essays trace the origin and development of agricultural politics and policies, examine changes in science, technology, and government regulations, offer analytical suggestions for new research areas, discuss matters of ethnicity and gender in American agriculture, and more. This Companion:

• Introduces readers to a uniquely wide range of topics within the study of American agricultural history

• Provides a narrative summary and a critical examination of field-defining works

• Introduces specific topics within American agricultural history such as agrarian reform, agribusiness, and agricultural power and production
• Discusses the impacts of American agriculture on different groups including Native Americans, African Americans, and European, Asian, and Latinx immigrants

• Views the agricultural history of America through new interdisciplinary lenses of race, class, and the environment

• Explores depictions of American agriculture in film, popular music, literature, and art

_A Companion to American Agricultural History_ is an essential resource for introductory students and general readers seeking a concise overview of the subject, and for graduate students and scholars wanting to learn about a particular aspect of American agricultural history.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**R. Douglas Hurt** is a professor of history at Purdue University. He is a former editor of _Agricultural History_, the _Missouri Historical Review_, and _Ohio History_. Hurt has served as president of the Agricultural History Society, and he is a Fellow of the Society.

Among his books are: _American Agriculture: A Brief History; Agriculture and the Confederacy: Policy, Productivity, and Power in the Civil War South; Agriculture and Slavery in Missouri’s Little Dixie; The Great Plains during World War II; The Big Empty: The Great Plains in the Twentieth Century_; and, _Food and Agriculture during the Civil War_. He is a recipient of the Agricultural History Society’s Gladys L. Baker Lifetime Achievement Award.

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