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Lie of the Land: A Study in the Culture of Deception (Paperback)

By Duncan Pickard

Shepherd-Walwyn (Publishers) Ltd, United Kingdom, 1999. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: N/A. Brand New Book. The culture of deception that underpins the economics of agriculture is documented by Dr Duncan Pickard in this hard-hitting expose. Governments and lobbyists manipulate statistics to disguise the real incomes of farmers, to justify the subsidies that enrich a relatively few big landowners. But in doing so, they abuse the interests of consumers and taxpayers. Dr Pickard, whose family farms 1,100 acres in Scotland, takes no pleasure in revealing the scandal in which farmers are portrayed as living on the breadline - when many of them are banking handsome profits from the Common Agricultural Policy. His family intends to reduce dependency on subsidies, so that more time can be spent with the cattle and sheep rather than with the paperwork that disrupts the business of producing food. Subsidies, argues the author, are the result of a tax regime that has crippled rural economies and village communities. Taxes encourage the sacking of employees in favour of capital-intensive methods. And those subsidies become the war chest for the big landowners, who are able to finance the purchase of even more land. That is how family farms are extinguished....



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