



UPLAND AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Lois Mansfield

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Agricultural activity in uplands is fundamentally determined by the character of the physical environment, resulting in a low input-low output system and highly valued biodiverse habitats. Over the last 50 years the quality of many of these has unfortunately deteriorated, often blamed on poor agricultural management. *Upland Agriculture & the Environment* demonstrates that far from laying this fully at farming's doorstep, deteriorating habitats and related environmental issues can be traced back to inappropriate political decisions based on poor understanding of socio-economic processes operating on farms and in their related communities. Consequently, upland farm businesses have suffered from low incomes and related succession problems, contracting the sector and destabilising their communities, symptoms of which have been environmental under-management and rural depopulation.

The fortunes of upland agriculture are, however, beginning to re-invigorate. The latest environmental agendas of ecosystem service delivery, food security concerns and carbon management needs are providing new opportunities to diversify income streams. From social and economic pariah to social and environmental necessity, upland agriculture is needed more than ever.

Through a comprehensive understanding of the whole picture, this book aims to demonstrate to readers the critical continuation of upland agriculture in order to address the new environmental agendas.

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Upland agricultural farming system; Defining the extent of uplands; Historical evolution of the upland farming landscape; The physical environment; A High Nature Value landscape; Economics of upland agriculture; Social dimension of upland agriculture; Politics and upland agriculture; A Future for upland agriculture; References

About the Author

Dr Lois Mansfield is Professor in Upland Landscapes at the University of Cumbria, where she has lectured in agricultural geography and related upland topics for nearly 30 years. She has worked on a number of partnerships, been in receipt of a Churchill Fellowship and currently chairs the Lake District World Heritage site Technical Advisory Group



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