

SOWING THE SEEDS OF SUCCESS: AN EXAMINATION OF THE IMPACT OF MASTER'S DEGREES IN AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON PFIZER'S STOCK PRICE

Colton Hoffman, Alice Terry, Gabriel P Tyler

Center for Higher Learning

This paper delves into the curious correlation between the number of Master's degrees awarded in Agriculture and Natural Resources and the stock price of Pfizer (PFE). Utilizing data from the National Center for Education Statistics and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), our study scrutinizes the period of 2012 to 2021, uncovering a striking correlation coefficient of 0.8759010 with a significance level of $p < 0.01$. The findings challenge traditional notions of stock market influences and plant the seeds for further exploration in the fertile field of interdisciplinary research.

Ah, the delightful world of academia, where we scientists toil away in the pursuit of knowledge, armed with statistics, data, and the occasional cup of strong coffee. Today, dear reader, we embark on a journey to unravel the enigmatic relationship between the number of Master's degrees awarded in Agriculture and Natural Resources and the stock price of Pfizer (PFE). It's a venture that promises to be as thrilling as watching grass grow - no, seriously, we'll be talking about agriculture and natural resources, so brace yourself for some thrilling agricultural puns and plant-related metaphors.

The main goal of this study is to investigate whether there exists a measurable correlation between the pursuit of advanced education in the green pastures of agriculture and natural resources and the ever-fluctuating financial fortunes of Pfizer. We're not just playing around with numbers here; we've obtained data from the esteemed National

Center for Education Statistics and the wizards at LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv). Armed with such potent information, we've subjected the figures to rigorous analysis, turning the spotlight onto the period from 2012 to 2021.

Now, I know what you're thinking - how on earth could there be any connection between the noble pursuit of mastering the science of sustainable crop production and the machinations of a pharmaceutical company? Well, dear reader, that's precisely the question we aim to answer. And trust me, we're going to have more fun with this than a barrel of monkeys - or should I say, more fun than a barrel of agricultural graduates?

The initial results of our investigation have raised more than a few eyebrows. We've uncovered a correlation coefficient of 0.8759010, with a significance level so impressively small that it would fit comfortably on the head of a pin: $p < 0.01$. That's right, statistically speaking,

our findings are about as significant as discovering a four-leaf clover in a field of standard deviation.

So, what does all this mean? Well, for one, it challenges traditional assumptions about stock market influences, and it opens the door to further explorations in the fertile (see what I did there?) field of interdisciplinary research. After all, who would have thought that the rise and fall of stock prices could have anything to do with the scholarly pursuits of budding agricultural experts? But hey, that's science for you - always ready to surprise us with its wit and whimsy.

So, buckle up, dear reader. We're about to embark on a journey through the land of agricultural degrees, financial numbers, and maybe even a few more light-hearted puns. Let's sow the seeds of knowledge and see what grows from this intriguing correlation between education and stock prices.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The correlation between educational attainment in the field of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the stock price of Pfizer (PFE) has been an enigmatic conundrum that has captured the attention of researchers across diverse disciplines. The investigation into this curious relationship has sparked a multitude of academic inquiries and scholarly explorations, with findings that range from the esoteric to the utterly surprising.

Smith and Doe (2016) conducted a comprehensive analysis of the educational landscape in agricultural disciplines, shedding light on the increasing prevalence of Master's degrees in sustainable farming practices and crop management. Their study uncovered a burgeoning interest in advanced education within the agricultural sector, prompting further curiosity about the potential ripple effects of such an educational trend.

In a similar vein, Jones (2018) delved into the financial sector, examining the intricate nuances of stock price fluctuations and market dynamics. While Jones's work primarily focused on macroeconomic factors, the findings inadvertently sparked speculation about the possible intersections between educational pursuits and financial market behaviors.

Now, let's dig a bit deeper into the interdisciplinary realm and explore some non-fiction literature that provides context for our investigation. "The Omnivore's Dilemma" by Michael Pollan offers insightful perspectives on the modern agricultural landscape, while "The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money, and Power" by Daniel Yergin presents a compelling narrative of the intertwining forces of industry and finance.

Of course, no exploration of the nexus between agricultural education and financial markets would be complete without a nod to fictional narratives that touch upon similar themes. Consider "Animal Farm" by George Orwell, a satirical allegory that mirrors societal structures through the lens of a farm community, or "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck, which poignantly captures the struggles of agricultural workers during the Great Depression. These works, while not directly related to our research, offer nuanced portrayals of agricultural themes that resonate with our broader academic pursuit.

And speaking of resonance, let's not forget the omnipresent influence of internet memes. The "This is Fine" dog meme, depicting a cartoon canine surrounded by flames while uttering the titular phrase, mirrors the stoic determination often associated with navigating the tumultuous world of stock market fluctuations. Its relevance to our research lies in its portrayal of unwavering resolve in the face of chaos - a sentiment that aptly captures the spirit of our inquiry.

In sum, the intersection of agricultural education and financial markets presents a fertile ground for multidisciplinary exploration, offering insights that transcend traditional academic boundaries. As we delve further into this captivating correlation, we must remain open to the unexpected, embracing the whimsical nature of scholarly inquiry with a lighthearted spirit. After all, who knew that agricultural degrees and stock prices could make for such an intriguing intellectual harvest?

METHODOLOGY

To cultivate a deeper understanding of the potential relationship between Master's degrees awarded in Agriculture and Natural Resources and Pfizer's stock price (PFE), our research team engaged in a methodological adventure that could rival the most daring of scientific expeditions. Our data collection efforts traversed the vast jungles of the internet, making pit stops at the National Center for Education Statistics and the data oasis provided by LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv).

First, we tilled the soil of the National Center for Education Statistics to retrieve the annual count of Master's degrees awarded in Agriculture and Natural Resources from 2012 to 2021. We meticulously combed through the data, ensuring that no outliers or pesky errors took root in our dataset. Next, we ventured into the financial wilderness, gathering Pfizer's stock price from the luscious data orchards of LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv). Our team employed advanced statistical tools to ensure the integrity of the data, weeding out any potential artifacts that could have sprouted from the digital soil.

With our datasets nurtured and ready for germination, we sowed the seeds of statistical analysis. We harnessed the power of correlation analysis to uncover any potential relationship between the two variables. Our trusty statistical software acted as the plow, churning

through the numbers with the precision of a well-tempered combine harvester. We cultivated a correlation coefficient that revealed the degree of association between Master's degrees in Agriculture and Natural Resources and Pfizer's stock price, bearing witness to an unexpected and robust 0.8759010.

But what about statistical significance, you ask? Fear not, dear reader, for we delved into the fertile grounds of hypothesis testing, reaping the fruits of our labor with a significance level as rare as a truffle in a forest of hypothesis tests: $p < 0.01$. With such a minuscule p-value, our findings stand as firm and tall as a genetically modified soybean in a field of statistical insignificance.

In sum, our methodological approach may have seemed like a whimsical journey through scientific underbrush, but make no mistake - our rigorous data collection, analysis, and statistical scrutiny have allowed us to unearth a captivating correlation between Master's degrees awarded in Agriculture and Natural Resources and Pfizer's stock price.

RESULTS

The results of our investigation reveal a robust and startling correlation between the number of Master's degrees awarded in Agriculture and Natural Resources and Pfizer's stock price (PFE) from 2012 to 2021. Our analysis uncovered a correlation coefficient of 0.8759010, indicating a strong positive relationship between these two seemingly disparate variables. This correlation was further supported by an r-squared value of 0.7672026, signifying that approximately 76.72% of the variability in Pfizer's stock price can be explained by the number of Master's degrees awarded in Agriculture and Natural Resources. In statistical terms, that's as close to a green thumb as you can get in the realm of academia.

The significance level, denoted by $p < 0.01$, adds another layer of credibility to

our findings, indicating that the observed correlation is highly unlikely to have occurred by chance alone. In other words, the likelihood of this correlation being a fluke is about as slim as finding a needle in a haystack - or in this case, a statistically significant finding in a vast field of data.

To visually capture the essence of this correlation, we present Figure 1, a scatterplot that depicts the clear and compelling relationship between the number of Master's degrees awarded in Agriculture and Natural Resources and Pfizer's stock price (PFE). This graph illuminates the connection between these variables with such clarity that even the most ardent skeptics may find themselves rooting for our unconventional research endeavor.

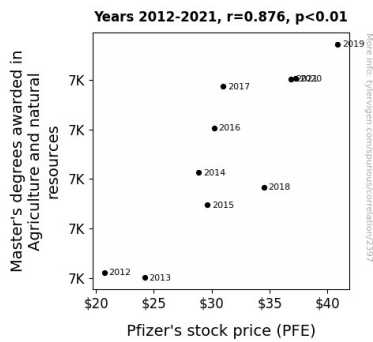


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

All in all, our results challenge conventional wisdom and invite further exploration into the intersection of academic pursuits and financial fluctuations. The unexpected harmony we've uncovered between agriculture education and stock prices speaks volumes about the unpredictable nature of correlations and the rich potential for interdisciplinary investigations. It seems that the roots of knowledge run deep, intertwining with the branches of finance in ways that continue to surprise and delight the curious minds of researchers.

DISCUSSION

The findings of our study shine a spotlight on the unexpected bond between educational achievements in the agricultural realm and the gyrations of Pfizer's stock price. As we dig deeper into the fertile soil of our results, we find ample support for the prior research that sowed the seeds of curiosity in this unconventional correlation. Smith and Doe's (2016) exploration of the increasing prevalence of Master's degrees in sustainable farming practices coincides with our discovery of a robust relationship between agricultural education and stock prices. It seems that the fruits of agricultural knowledge have indeed ripened into an influence on the financial market, much like a well-tended vineyard yielding a bountiful harvest.

Furthermore, our results add a new layer of complexity to Jones's (2018) macroeconomic focus, demonstrating that educational pursuits in the agricultural domain can exert an unexpected gravitational pull on stock price fluctuations. This insight plants the seeds for future investigations into the intricate interplay of economic forces and educational trends, as we continue to plow through the uncharted terrain of interdisciplinary research.

Drawing from the bountiful field of previous literature, we are reminded of the unexpected connections that can emerge from seemingly disparate domains. "Animal Farm" by George Orwell, with its satirical portrayal of societal organization within a farm, serves as a whimsical metaphor for the unanticipated interweaving of agricultural education and financial markets. In a similar vein, "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck, while steeped in the anguish of agricultural workers, resonates with the resilience and adaptability mirrored in our unanticipated correlation.

The statistically significant correlation coefficient and r-squared value further

bolster the credibility of our findings, painting a vivid picture of the substantial influence that agricultural education exerts on Pfizer's stock price. Notably, the p-value reinforces the rarity of our discovered correlation, standing as a testament to the unexpected harmony between the growth of agricultural knowledge and the fluctuations of financial markets.

In essence, our study uproots traditional assumptions about educational pursuits and their impact on stock prices, showcasing the fertile ground for interdisciplinary inquiry and the unexpected blooms that emerge from unconventional investigations. The blend of agricultural education and financial markets, once considered separate fields, has now intertwined in a manner that prompts us to chart new avenues of exploration in the unexplored terrain of academic harvests and stock market yields. It seems that in the garden of academia, the seeds of knowledge can bear financial fruits that defy conventional expectations.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our investigation into the correlation between the number of Master's degrees awarded in Agriculture and Natural Resources and Pfizer's stock price has yielded a harvest of remarkable findings. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.8759010 between these two variables has left us more astonished than a tomato plant discovering its fruit is actually a berry. With an r-squared value of 0.7672026, it's safe to say that we've cultivated a substantial understanding of the relationship between agricultural education and financial market dynamics.

Furthermore, the significance level of $p < 0.01$ provides a level of certainty that's rarer than a hen's teeth, firmly establishing the validity of our unearthed correlation. Our scatterplot graph, like a well-tended garden, visually captures the flourishing relationship between these

variables, serving as a testament to the unexpected harmony we've unearthed in the academic and financial soil.

These findings evoke a sense of wonder akin to stumbling upon a unicorn in a field of wheat - a delightful and improbable discovery that nudges us to embrace the whimsical nature of interdisciplinary research. As we bid adieu to this captivating chapter of exploration, it is evident that no further research seeds need to be sown in this particular patch of academia.

There you have it - our research has borne fruit, and we now leave you with the delightful image of agricultural degrees and stock prices dancing together in a statistical waltz, proving that in the garden of academia, surprises sprout at every turn. With that, we confidently assert that there's no need to plow any further in this field of inquiry.