Wisconsin Granges and Agricultural Production
Arik Zintel
Marquette University

Introduction
- The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry:
  - Founded in 1867
  - Agricultural organization with the purpose of improving the social, economic, and educational situations of rural America.
- First Wisconsin Grange appeared in 1873
- Did the presence of a Grange in a Wisconsin county increase the agricultural production of that county between 1860 and 1920?
- Can the effectiveness of a Grange give us insight into broader collective action efforts?
- Did Granges contribute to US agricultural boom in the 20th century?

Methods
1) Transcription
2) Clean and Format
3) Difference-in-Differences
4) Event Studies

Results
- Establishment of a Grange resulted in a 24% increase in output per farm and a 17% increase in farm value per improved acre
- Event studies showed no clear signs of a pre-trend different from the trend after treatment
- Visualizations of difference-in-differences appear to show a smaller decline in the agricultural production of treatment counties

Conclusions
- We can be moderately confident that Granges increased the output per farm as well as the value of improved acres in Wisconsin counties between 1860 and 1920
- Investigation into years after 1920 may be worthwhile
  - Many Granges were chartered in the 1930s
- Study of a Southern state would likely yield different results
- Nationwide sample may also prove useful to determine the true effectiveness of the Grange

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