Agriculture in MDCs
Agriculture in MDCs

• Corporate factory farms
  – Suitcase farmers – Crop based farms where farmer lives outside community except during planting and harvesting season
  – Less likely to maintain sensitive land management
  – Mega-farms
  – Monoculture – Single Crop
    • Crops for sale off site
  – Chemical fertilizers and hormones (Capital)
Food Production in MDCs

• Food more likely to be processed and have added preservatives
• Bigger variety and less seasonal
Impact of Machinery

• Expensive
  – Often result in co-ops
    • Sharing of machines and facilities

• Dramatically increases productivity
  – Requiring far less labor
  – Allows for mega farms
Agricultural Regions of the US
Agricultural Practices in MDCs

- Mixed Crops and Livestock Farming
- Dairy Farming
- Grain Farming
- Livestock Ranching
Mixed crop and livestock farming

- Most land is devoted to crops
  - Use of crop rotation
- Most profits are derive from the livestock
  - More time required for raising animals
Corn (Maize) Production

CORN (MAIZE) PRODUCTION
(MILLION METRIC TONS)

- 100 and above
- 10–99
- 1–9
- Below 1

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Dairy Farming

• Regional distribution:
  – The Milkshed – Ring around city milk can be supplied without spoiling

• Two primary challenges
  – Labor-intensive
  – Expense of winter feed
Grain Farming

• Grain farming
  – The largest commercial producer of grain is the United States
  – Winter-wheat belt
  – Spring-wheat belt
Livestock Ranching

—Practiced in marginal environments
  • Low potential for cultivation of crops
    — Soil quality and unpredictable weather
  • Productive for grasses

—Extensive
  • Requires large amounts of land for grazing
Meat Production
Mediterranean Agriculture

• Hot Dry Summers, Cool Wet Winters
  – California, Italy, Chile/Argentina, South Africa

• Based on horticulture
  – Growing fruits, vegetables, and flowers for human consumption

• Wine Country
  – Weather and temperatures most suitable for growing of grapes
Truck Farms

• Old English for “Barter”

• Growing one or more vegetable crops on a large scale for shipment to distant markets
  – Increased distances with railroads, trucks, and refrigeration
Market Gardening

• Using high value suburban land for the cultivation of flowers and vegetables for nearby cities
  – Heavy fertilization and planting of successive crops for continuous returns from acreage
Agricultural Productivity

World average yield is 2143 kilograms per hectare.
Advantages of MDCs over LDCs

• Less susceptible to water shortages, desertification, plant diseases resource crisis

• Lower percentage of population in agriculture in MDCs
  – Bigger market

• Access to resources
  – Chemical fertilizers
  – Livestock Steriods, Hormones, Medicines

• Governmental /Social Stability
  – No Tribalism
  – Less Corruption

• Better access to medical care and education for producers
Undernourishment

PREVALENCE OF UNDERNOURISHMENT BY % OF POPULATION, 1998-2000

- More than 50
- 26–50
- 11–25
- 6–10
- 0–5
- Not available