Agriculture in MDCs
Agriculture in Canada

*Legend*
- Wheat
- Beef Cattle
- Beef Cattle/Grain
- Grain/Livestock
- Dairying/Livestock
- Potatoes
- Fruits
- Tobacco
- Vegetables

*Regions*
- Yukon
- Nunavut
- Northwest Territories
- British Columbia
- Alberta
- Saskatchewan
- Manitoba
- Ontario
- Quebec
- Newfoundland and Labrador
- Prince Edward Island
- New Brunswick
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 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 derived from the livestock
  – More time required for raising animals
Dairy Farming

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

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

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

- **CATTLE**: 10.0 and above
- **1.0–9.9**
- **0.1–0.9**
- **Below 0.1**

Ranching areas

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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 Steroids, 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

MODIFIED GOODE'S HOMOLOSINE EQUAL-AREA PROJECTION