Agriculture in More Developed Countries (MDCs)

Agriculture in MDCs

- Corporate factory farms & Agribusiness
 - 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 megafarms



Agricultural Regions of the US



Agricultural Practices in MDCs

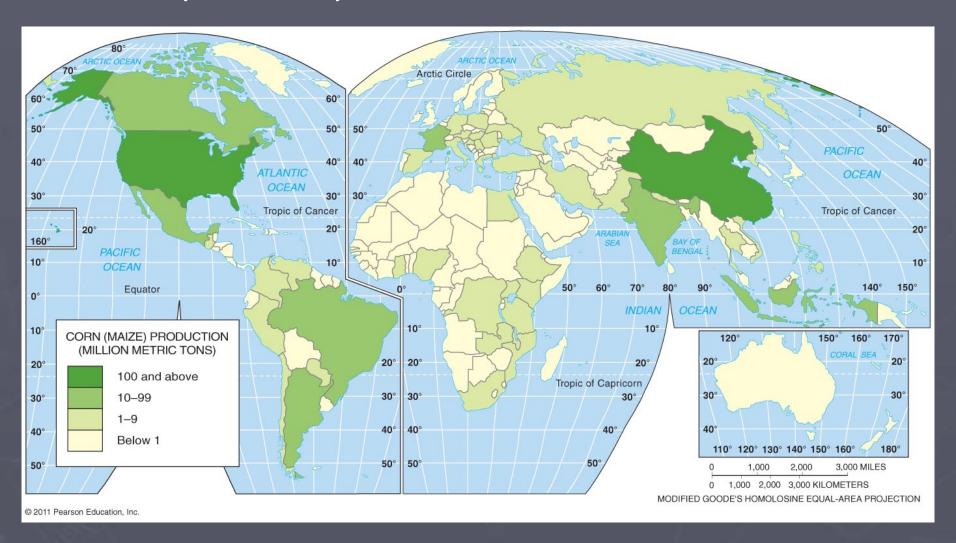
- Mixed Crops and Livestock Farming
- Dairy Farming
- Grain Farming
- Livestock Ranching

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



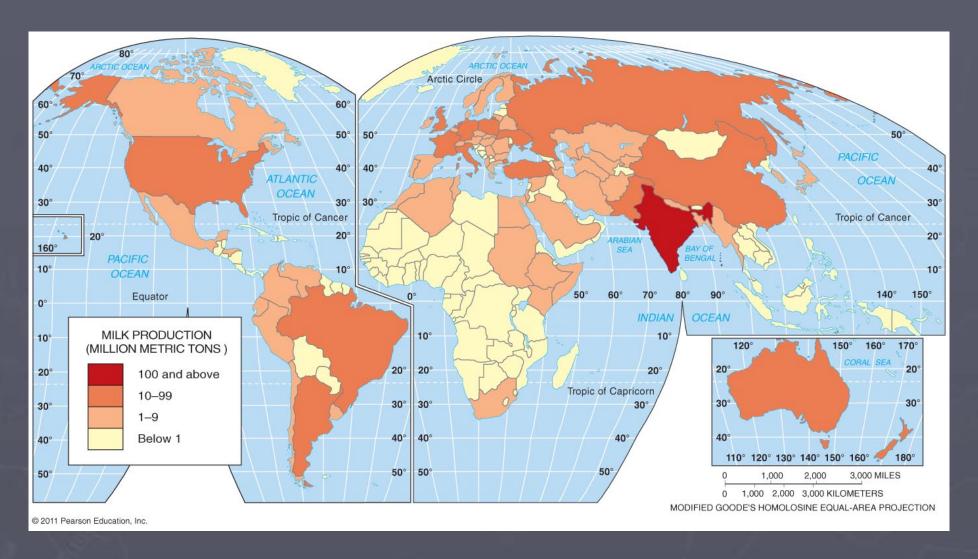
Corn (Maize) Production



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

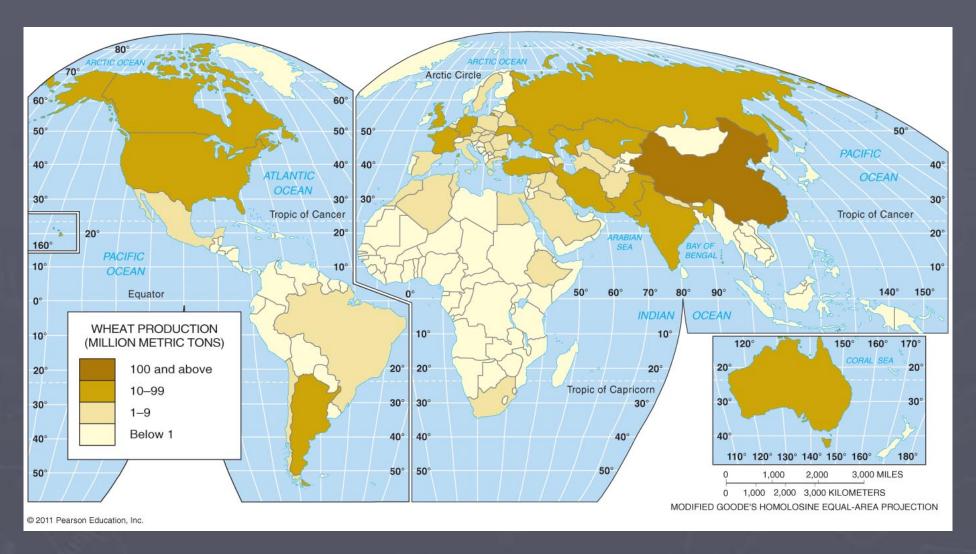


Grain Farming

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



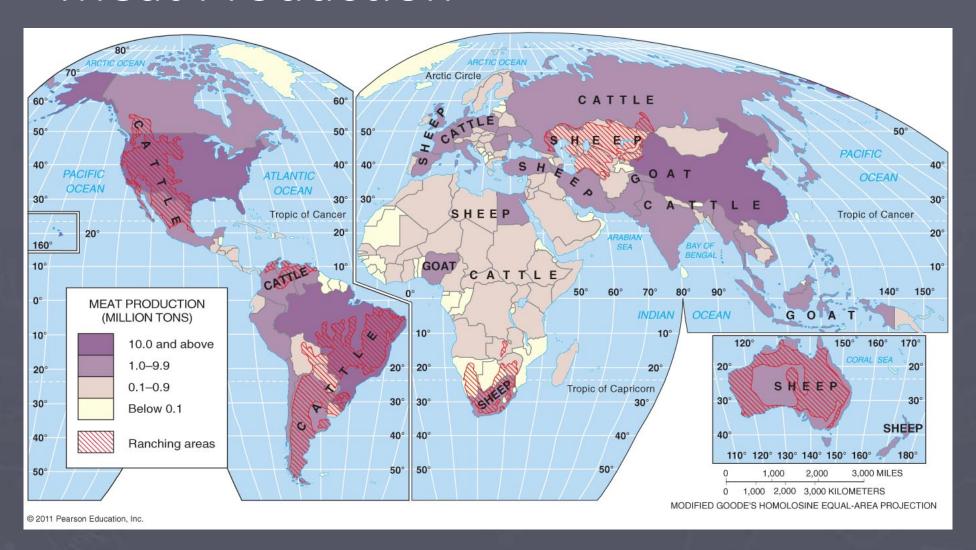
Wheat Production



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



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



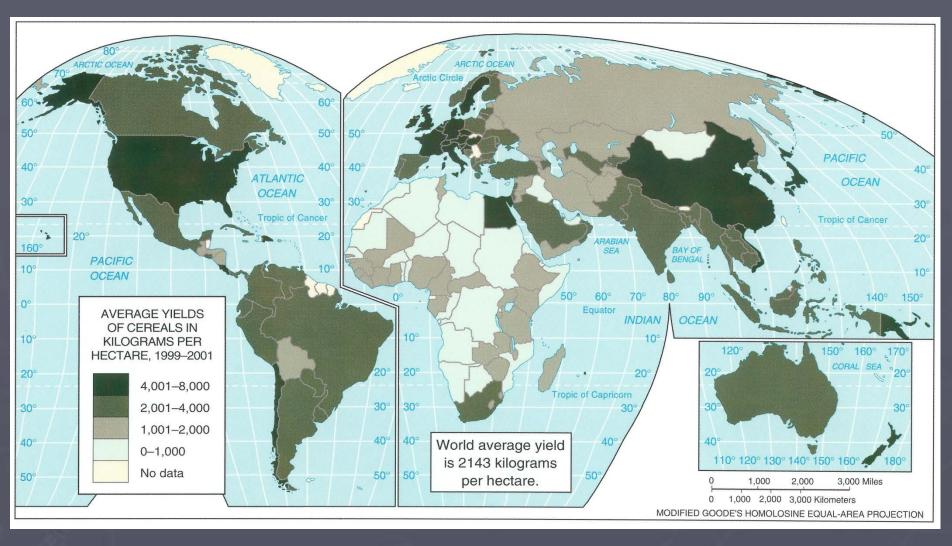
Truck Farms

- 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



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

