Agriculture In Canada

Lester B. Pearson
CGC 1D1
How does Canadian Agriculture fit into your life?

Quickly write down the answers to the following:

• Does agriculture affect your daily life? How?
• Have you ever been to a farm? Where was it?
• Three points you know about agriculture in Canada
How do you picture in your mind where your food really comes from?
How do you picture in your mind where your food really comes from?

Does it look like this?
How do you picture in your mind where your food really comes from?

Does it look like this?
How do you picture in your mind where your food really comes from?

Or does it look like this?
How do you picture in your mind where your food really comes from?

Or does it look like this?
How do you picture in your mind where your food really comes from?

Or does it look like this?

Beef feedlot/Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) in Saskatchewan
How do you picture in your mind where your food really comes from?

Or does it look like this?

Egg Production in battery cage system  Greenhouse tomato production
What food is grown in Canada?

Look at this grocery store list and figure out if it could have been grown in or made with Canadian ingredients?

1. Canned Peaches
2. Frozen Shrimp
3. Fresh snow peas
4. Ground Beef
5. Apples (bought in July)
6. Fresh Mushrooms
7. Bananas
8. Tofu
9. Celery
10. Oranges
11. Yogurt
12. Almonds
13. Chocolate Bar
14. Milk
15. Organic Apples
16. Maple syrup
17. Asparagus (bought in August)
18. Asparagus (bought in May)
19. Canola oil
20. Peanut butter
21. Pork chops
22. Spaghetti pasta
23. Greenhouse Tomato (bought in Jan)
24. Greenhouse tomato (bought in April)
25. Watermelon
26. Eggs
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## Canadian Agrí-Food Trade (CDN$ billion), 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Agrí-food Exports from Canada</td>
<td>35,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Agrí-food imports to Canada</td>
<td>28,101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Balance</td>
<td>7,359</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Canada’s Importance in the Global Agri-Food Market

Fourth largest food exporter in the world, with the majority of our food being exported to the USA
## Canadian Top 5 Agri-Food Exports (CDN $ billion), 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Value (CDN $ billion)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Agri-food Exports</td>
<td>35,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>3,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola seed</td>
<td>3,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canola oil</td>
<td>1,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soya beans</td>
<td>1,335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live beef cattle</td>
<td>1,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Type</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total farms</td>
<td>229,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle ranching and farming (Beef)</td>
<td>75,598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy (milking cows)</td>
<td>14,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hog and pig farming (Pork)</td>
<td>6,040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry and egg production</td>
<td>4,578</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other animal production (Sheep &amp; horses)</td>
<td>30,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oilseed and grain farming (ex. Canola, wheat)</td>
<td>61,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetable farming</td>
<td>5,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit and tree-nut farming</td>
<td>8,329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production</td>
<td>8,754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other crop farming (ex. maple syrup)</td>
<td>28,574</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Canola Production

- The seed of the canola plant is crushed, producing an oil used in cooking & a mash which is feed to livestock

Canola field in bloom, harvest, pods & seeds, bottle of canola oil
Wheat Production

- Most important economic crop in Canada
- Grown in all provinces except NF, with most production in Saskatchewan
Beef Production In Canada

- Occurs mainly in Western Canada (Alberta, Saskatchewan & Manitoba) and Ontario

- For industrial efficiency, beef production involves cows moving through levels of specialized farms, not just being raised on one farm

Beef feedlot/Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) in Saskatchewan
Diagram of Beef Production Cycle in Canada

A. Cow-calf operations
- Weaned calves, 220 kg at 8 months (sale weight)
- Operations: 91,606
- Average herd: 92
- 85% of beef cows
- 12% of steers

Total cattle and calves:
East: 1,190,764
West: 7,250,073
Canada: 8,440,837

B. Cow-calf feeder-stocker operations
- Feeder calves and yearlings, 350 to 450 kg (sale weight)
- Operations: 13,000
- Average herd: 168
- 12% of beef cows
- 33% of steers

Total cattle and calves:
East: 420,329
West: 1,759,785
Canada: 2,180,114

C. Feedlots
- Finishing cattle to slaughter weight:
  heifers, 545 kg; steers, 585 kg (sale weight)
- Operations: 4,089
- Average herd: 337
- 0% of beef cows
- 47% of steers

Total cattle and calves:
East: 366,717
West: 1,011,171
Canada: 1,377,888

D. Dairy operations
- Milk or meal
- Operations: 33,462
- Average herd: 86
- 3% of beef cows
- 8% of steers

Total cattle and calves:
East: 2,080,060
West: 814,135
Canada: 2,894,195

E. Slaughterhouses
Number of head slaughtered:
- Cattle / Calves
  East: 1,032,000 / 348,000
  West: 2,111,000 / 14,000
  Canada: 3,143,000 / 362,000

Average number of cattle slaughtered per plant per year:
- British Columbia/Alberta: 137,502
- Saskatchewan/Manitoba: 36,651
- Ontario: 62,149
- Quebec: 14,244

Employes: 35,500 workers (in slaughtering and meat processing)

F. Exports
Number exported:
- Cattle / Calves
  East: 209,000 / 24,500
  West: 1,272,100 / 7,400
  Canada: 1,481,100 / 31,900
Dairy Production In Canada

- Occurs mainly in Ontario & Quebec

- The amount of milk produced in Canada is regulated by a quota system in order to keep the price of milk stable. Dairy farmers produce only the amount of milk their quota allows.
Fewer cows, but same amount of milk

- Advanced nutrition, genetics & mechanization has increase the productivity of dairy cows in Canada

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 1976 to 2006 and CANSIM series 003-0011
Future Trends in Canadian Agriculture

Local Food Movement

- Canadians are increasingly interested in buying food grown closer to home.

- Number of farmer’s markets in Canada’s urban centres are increasing.

- Some grocery stores are making efforts to buy Canadian grown produce.

- More people are concerned about their food carbon footprint.
Future Trends in Canadian Agriculture

Organic Agriculture

- Small but increasing organic agriculture sector in Canada
- 1.7% of farms in Canada are organic, with largest % of organic farms in Quebec
- Organic livestock is the fastest growing sector
- Organic wheat is our largest organic export
Future Trends in Canadian Agriculture

Industrialization of Agriculture

* Food output has been increasing due to:
  - Intensifying livestock production
  - Added products (ex. fertilizers, pesticides, hormones)
  - Improved genetics (ex. breeding, or genetically modified organisms (GMOs))
  - Artificial growing environments (ex. greenhouses)

* Price of food is low in Canada due to agriculture industrialization, but many people are worried about the environmental & health problems related to industrial agriculture.