

A vast field of golden wheat under a clear blue sky. The wheat stalks are in the foreground, slightly out of focus, leading the eye towards the horizon. The sky is a uniform, clear blue.

# 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?

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**How do you picture in your mind  
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**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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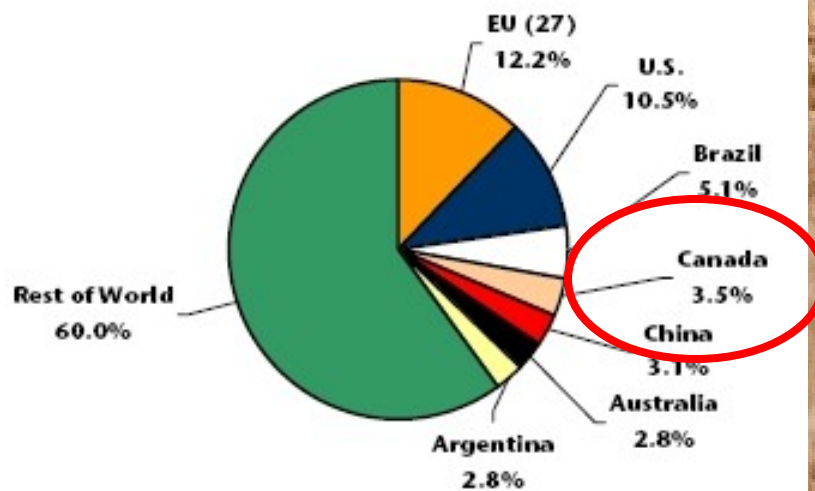
# Canadian Agri-Food Trade (CDN\$ billion), 2010

<b>Total Agri-food Exports from Canada</b>	<b>35,460</b>
<b>Total Agri-food imports to Canada</b>	<b>28,101</b>
<b>Trade Balance</b>	<b>7,359</b>

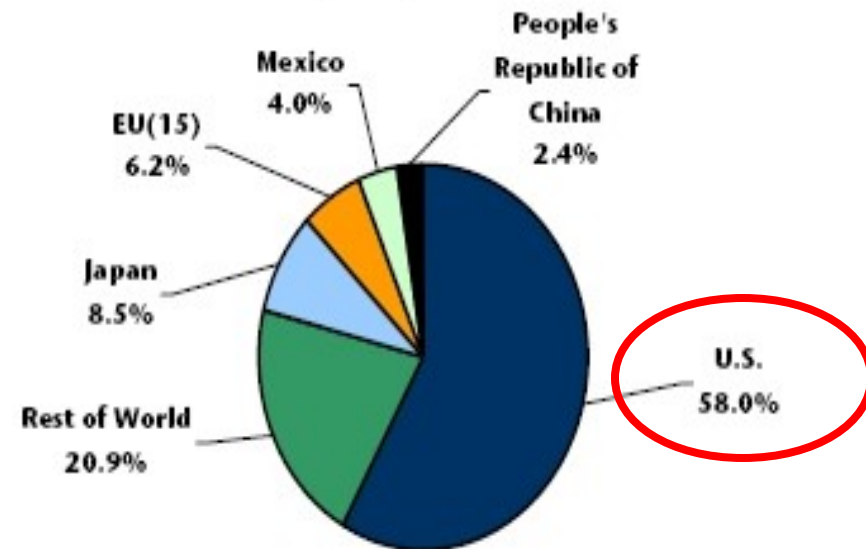


# Canada's Importance in the Global Agri-Food Market

World Agricultural and Agri-food Export Share by Country of Origin, 2006



Destinations of Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Exports, 2006



**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

<b>Total Agri-food Exports</b>	<b>35,460</b>
<b>Wheat</b>	<b>3,935</b>
<b>Canola seed</b>	<b>3,398</b>
<b>Canola oil</b>	<b>1,398</b>
<b>Soya beans</b>	<b>1,335</b>
<b>Live beef cattle</b>	<b>1,116</b>

# Canadian Farms by Farm Type, 2006

Total farms	229,373	
Cattle ranching and farming (Beef)	75,598	33%
Dairy (milking cows)	14,651	6%
Hog and pig farming (Pork)	6,040	3%
Poultry and egg production	4,578	2%
Other animal production (Sheep & horses)	30,594	13%
Oilseed and grain farming (ex. Canola, wheat)	61,667	27%
Vegetable farming	5,239	2%
Fruit and tree-nut farming	8,329	4%
Greenhouse, nursery and floriculture production	8,754	4%
Other crop farming (ex. maple syrup)	28,574	12%

**Livestock**

**Field Crops**

**Horticulture**

# Canola Production

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



Canola Growing Regions of Canada and The U.S.

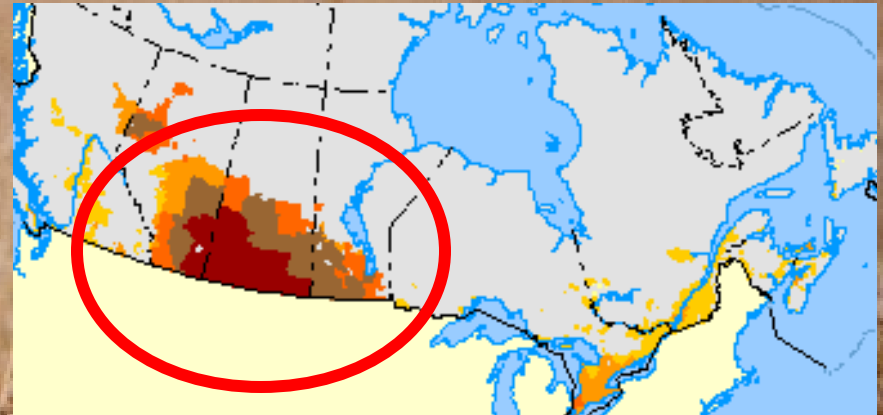


**Canola field in bloom, harvest, pods & seeds, bottle of canola oil**



# Wheat Production

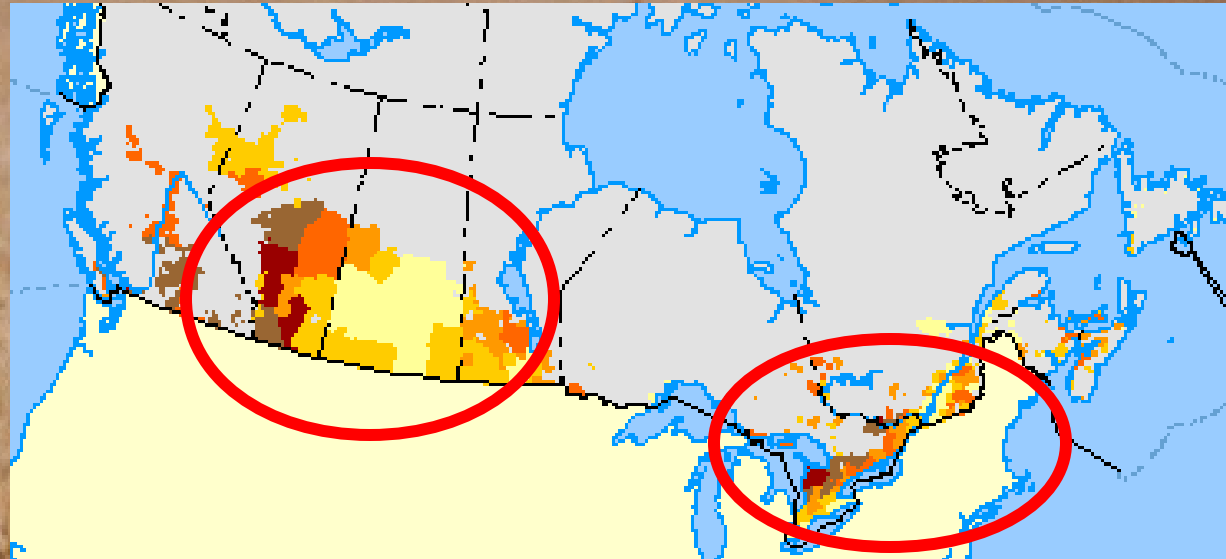
- **Most important economic crop in Canada**
- **Grown in all provinces except NF, with most production in Saskatchewan**



# 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 veal
- 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

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

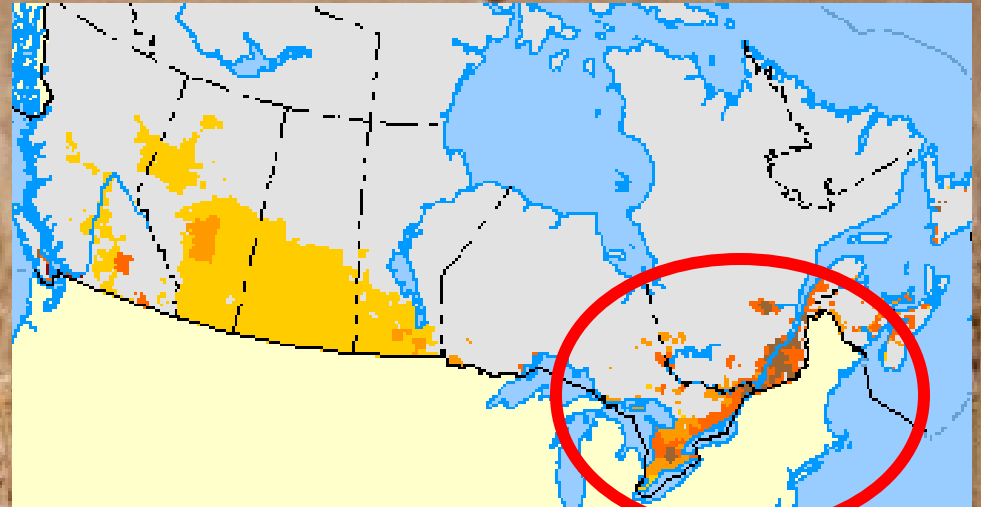
## F. Exports

Number exported:

	Cattle	Calves
East:	209,000	24,500
West:	1,272,100	7,400
Canada:	1,481,100	31,900

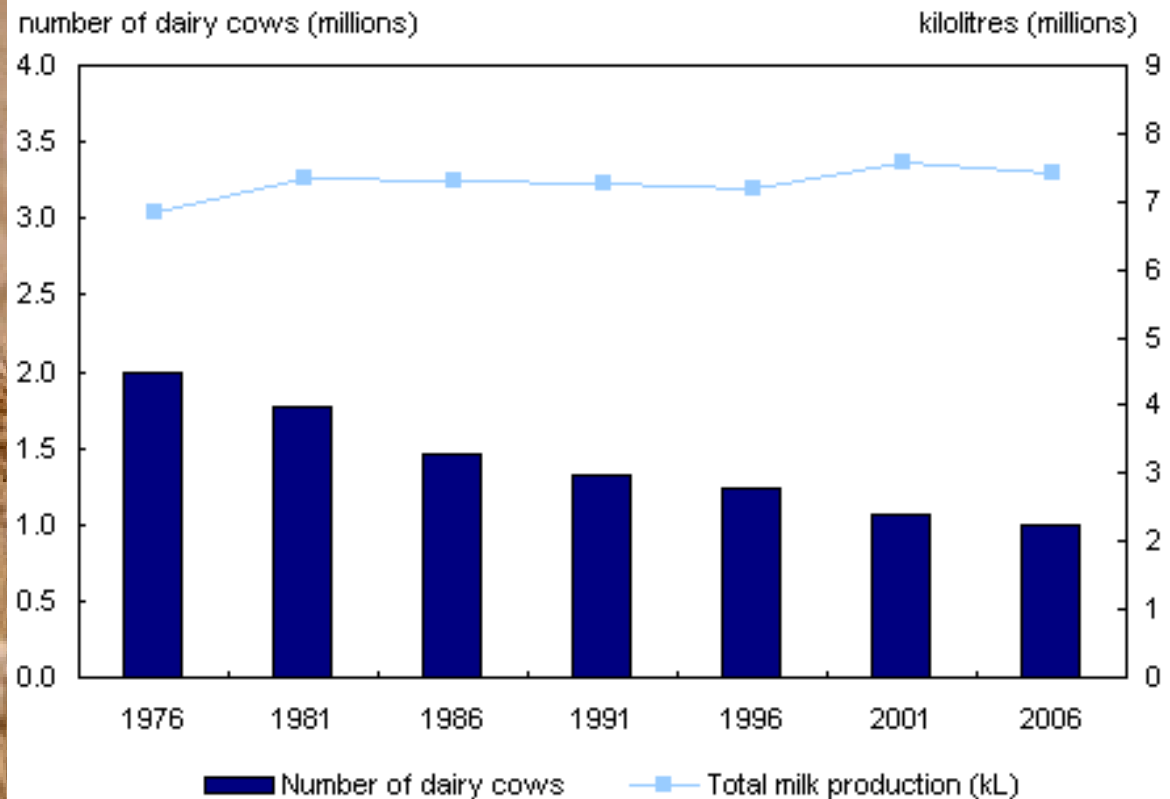
# Dairy Production In Canada

- 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 increased 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



**Burlington Farmers Market**

- Some grocery stores are making efforts to buy Canadian grown produce
- More people are concern 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.**