

**Unit
5**

The Changing Geography of Agriculture

Rural Geography

The following information corresponds to Chapter 11 in your textbook. Fill in the blanks to complete the definition or sentence. Note: All of the following information in addition to your reading is important, not just the blanks you fill in.

Environmental Impacts

- _____ agriculture creates significant environmental change; affects the _____ perhaps more than any other human activity (impossible to measure).

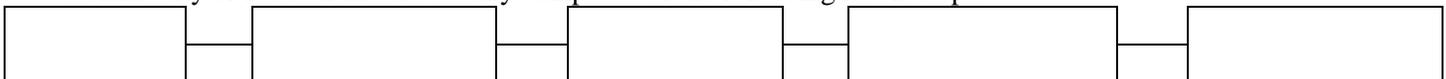


- _____ - leading to the decline of fish stocks (250,000 bluefin tuna in 1975; _____ left today)
- Clearing of forests for _____ grazing in Central & South America (more land needed for feed grains as well – major cause of world hunger)
- _____ of hillsides in S.E. Asia (prevents soil from washing downhill, more land area)
- Changes in the organic content of _____; presence of chemicals in the U.S. (fertilizers, pesticides, antibiotics, growth hormones, herbicides,...)
- Expansion of livestock herding into semi-arid regions in Sub-Saharan Africa (can lead to _____)

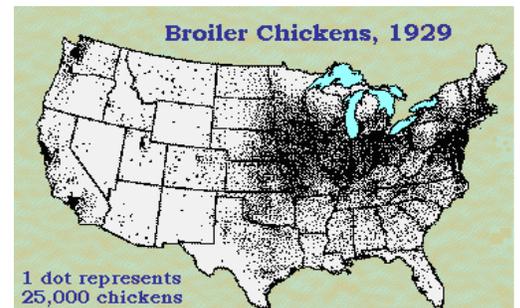


Agribusiness

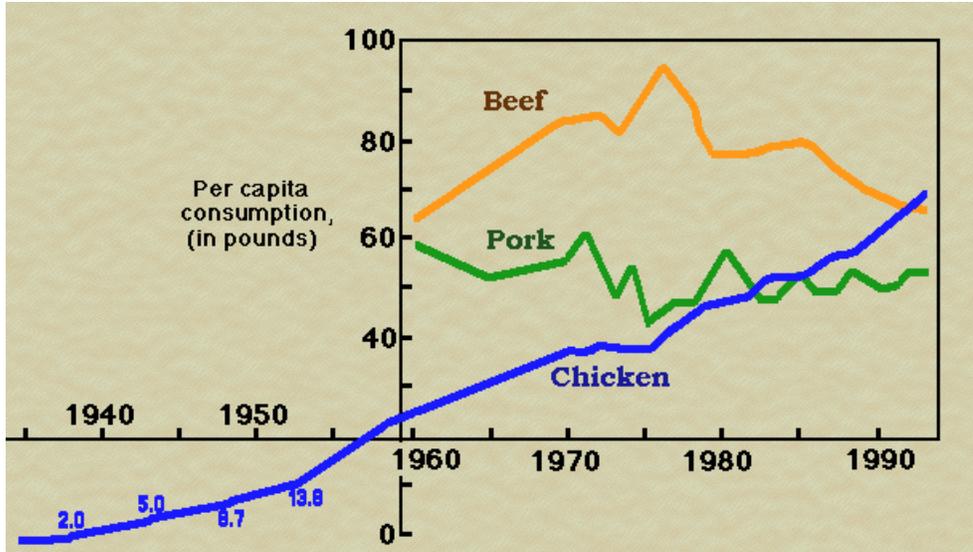
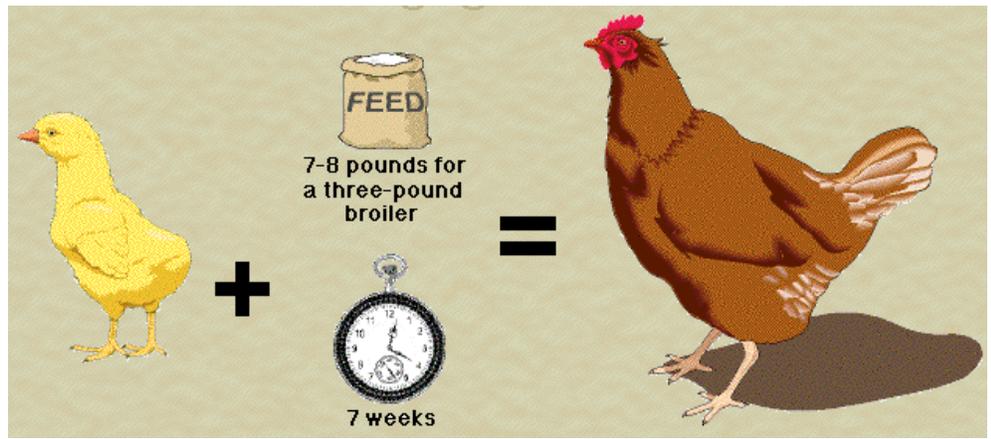
- **Def'n:** large-scale, mechanized industrial agriculture; act as corporations.
- Commodity or food chains are usually composed of the following levels/steps:



- The poultry, turkey, pork,... industries have transformed from single farmers to _____ integrated companies. Today, poultry companies operate _____, _____ mills, and _____ plants; they supply _____ and feed to the farmers, or to the large _____.
- Selective breeding has produced faster growing & bigger _____ housed in enormous factories.
- _____ - located around AK, GA, the Piedmont areas of NC, and the Shenandoah Valley of VA.
- “Farmers” are involved in _____ much more than they are in primary activities (e.g., process the chickens via conveyor belts, work with bank officers & vendors).
- Americans eat _____ times more chicken today than in the 1930s.
- Economies of _____; “farmers” _____ - _____ chickens, buy in _____, buy modern _____ (computerized feeders, ventilation & waste systems – replaces _____ labor).
- _____ companies (Tyson, Purina, Perdue) are involved in the _____ of eggs, supplying _____ to the broiler raisers, providing _____ care, transporting broilers (take _____ weeks to grow), _____, _____, & nationwide _____.



- Better _____ and _____ - southeastern U.S. has a lower cost of living (lower _____), warm weather for _____; Midwest is good for _____ growing; close proximity = good _____ (low _____ costs, fast _____ of corn from the Midwest to the South & chicken from the South to the big markets).
- _____ production is done in much the same way; with the rapid increases in Oklahoma and the Texas panhandle.



- _____ agriculture (e.g. China) – consists of collective farms (results in the significant displacement of rural people) have mixed results; farming _____ is currently under way in China.
- Another trend is _____ –without synthetic or industrially produced pesticides and fertilizers; > \$___ billion/yr sales in U.S.; crops = coffee, tea, cocoa, nuts, oils, spices, as well as certain fruits and vegetables.

* Few farmers in distant lands have real control over land-use decisions, for the states in the global economic _____ continue to decide what will be bought at what price.

Loss of Productive Farmland

- Some of the most fertile, productive farmlands are lost to _____ and _____ developments; many _____ are absorbing the productive farmlands as they expand.
- As _____ populations continue to grow and expendable _____ increases for the wealthiest, more agricultural lands will be converted to housing developments.

