



**Agriculture**

**Commercial Farming**

# Commercial Farming

- **Definition:**
  - Commercial farmers produce their crops to sell them in the marketplace
- **Commercial farming types include mixed crop and livestock farming, ranching, dairying, and large-scale grain production**
- **Plantation farming is a form of commercial farming**
  - **Mainly practiced in less developed countries**





# Commercial Farming

## Mixed Crop and Livestock farming

### Definition

- Involves a farm that grows crops and raises animals

### Most crops grown on mixed farms are used to feed the farm's animals

- Provides manure fertilizer for sale as well as goods



- Most of mixed farm's income comes from sale of its animal products

- Reduces farmer's dependence on seasonal crops

- Devotes nearly all land to crops but 3/4ths of income comes from sale of animal products

- Exists widely throughout Europe and Eastern Northern America

- Usually farms are near large, urban areas

- Most mixed farms practice crop rotation

# Ranching

- **Definition**
  - Commercial grazing, or the raising of animals on a plot of land on which they graze
- **Ranching is usually extensive**
- **Cattle and sheep are most common animals on ranches**
- **Practiced in areas where the climate is too dry to support crops**
  - Semi-arid, arid land
  - Western U.S, Argentina, southern Brazil, and Uruguay
    - In U.S. part of pop culture
  - Also on coast of Latin America and Northern Mexico
  - **Declining in importance**
    - Began declining in U.S. in 1880s
    - Partly because of low grain prices and because of U.S. meat quality standards
    - Many U.S. ranches are being converted into "fattening" farms





# Dairying

- **Definition**
  - Growth of milk-based products for the marketplace
- Dairy farms closest to the marketplace usually produce the most perishable, fluid-milk products
  - while those farther away produce goods such as cheese and butter
- Most economically productive type of commercial agriculture
  - practiced near cities in the northeastern U.S, southeastern Canada, and northwestern Europe



# Dairying

- Dairy Farms usually very small and capital intensive
  - Uses a lot of machinery in the farming process
  - Labor-intensive uses more human labor
- Growth in transportation technology has increased area of the milkshed
  - Improved technology and feeding systems have led to increases in the amount of milk produced per cow
- The *milkshed* is the zone around the city's center in which milk can be produced and shipped to the marketplace without spoiling

