



*Where did your last meal
come from?*

**University of the Fraser Valley
Agriculture Student Association**

**GO AG Event
Farm Credit Canada
March 28, 2013**

wendyholm.com
wendy@wendyholm.com



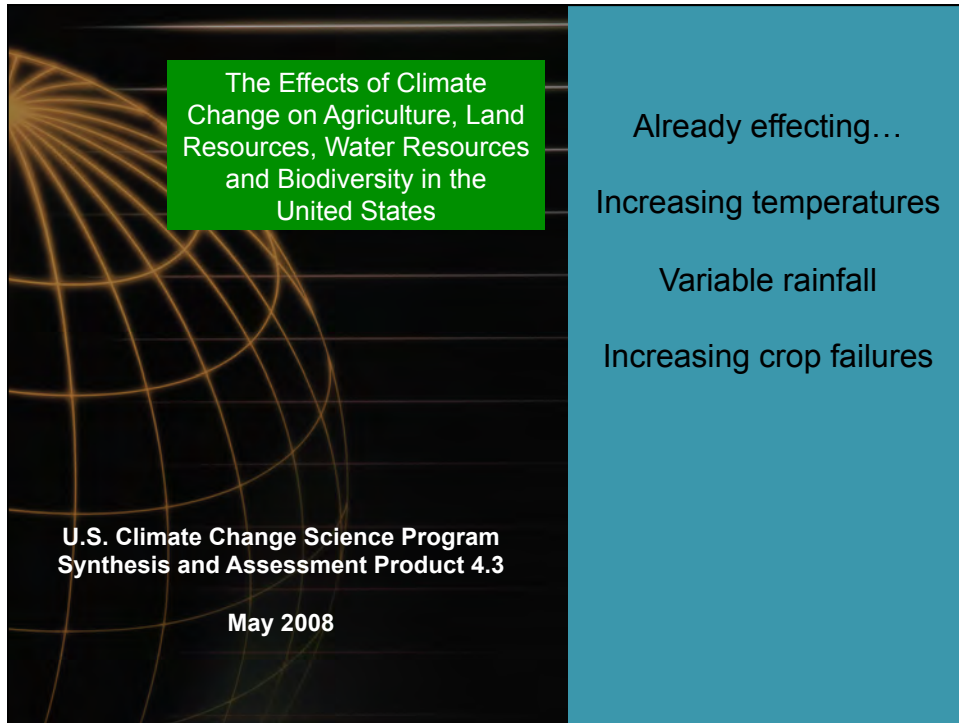
Rosemary
Davis Award

Farm Credit
Canada



PASSION...





The Effects of Climate Change on Agriculture, Land Resources, Water Resources and Biodiversity in the United States

U.S. Climate Change Science Program
Synthesis and Assessment Product 4.3
May 2008

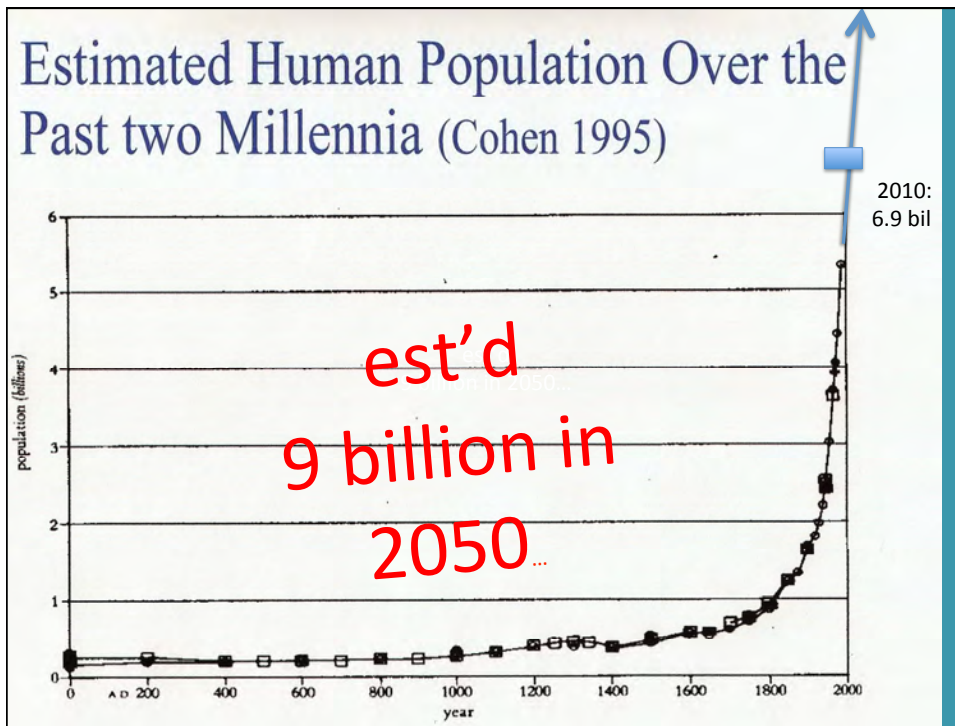
Already effecting...
Increasing temperatures
Variable rainfall
Increasing crop failures

US military warns oil output may dip causing massive shortages by 2015

- Shortfall could reach 10m barrels a day, report says
- Cost of crude oil is predicted to top \$100 a barrel

[Terry Macalister](#)
guardian.co.uk, Sunday 11 April 2010 18.47 BST







Peak Oil?
Climate Change?
Population Growth?
Food Shortages?
=
Food Safety
Food Security
Food Sovereignty
Sustainable Food
Local Food
Food Footprint
Urban Agriculture

WHO WILL
CONTROL OUR
FOOD SUPPLY?

Capital or Community?

FOOD DEMOCRACY



Context – where we came from



Mid '80's onward: policy abuse

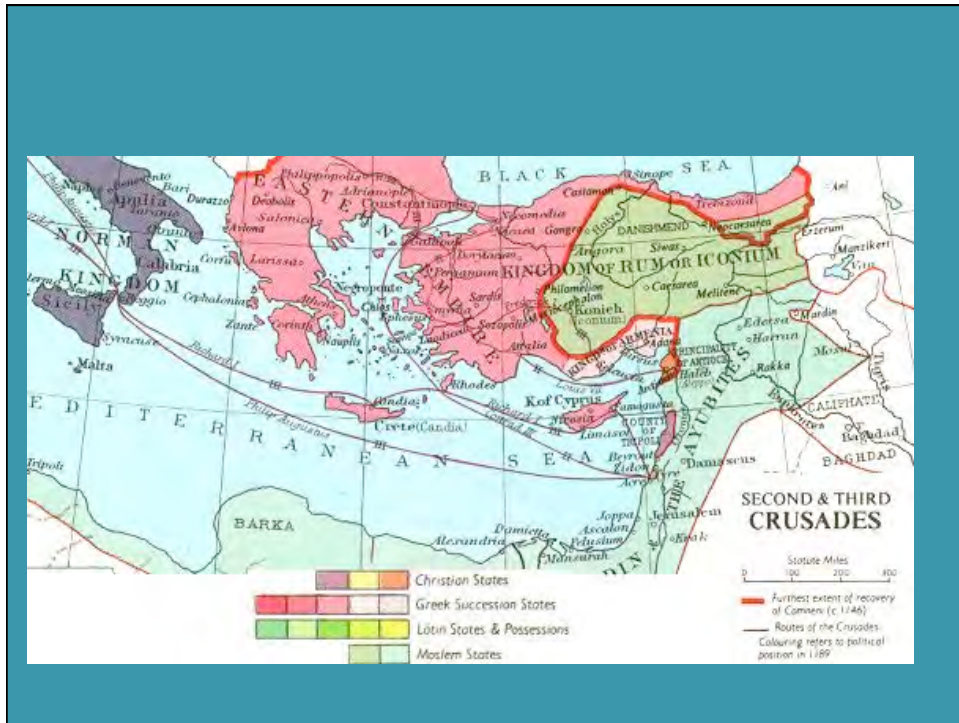


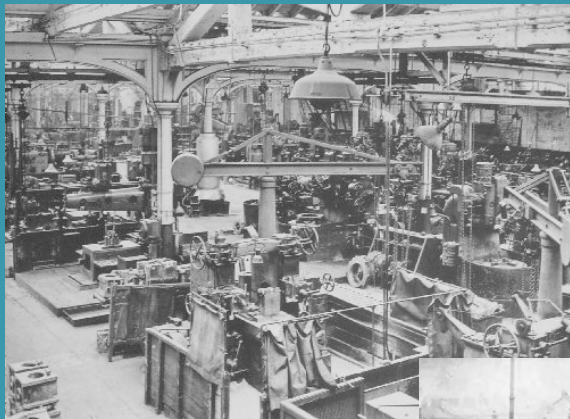
Results: Where we are today...



Models and Choices for Tomorrow









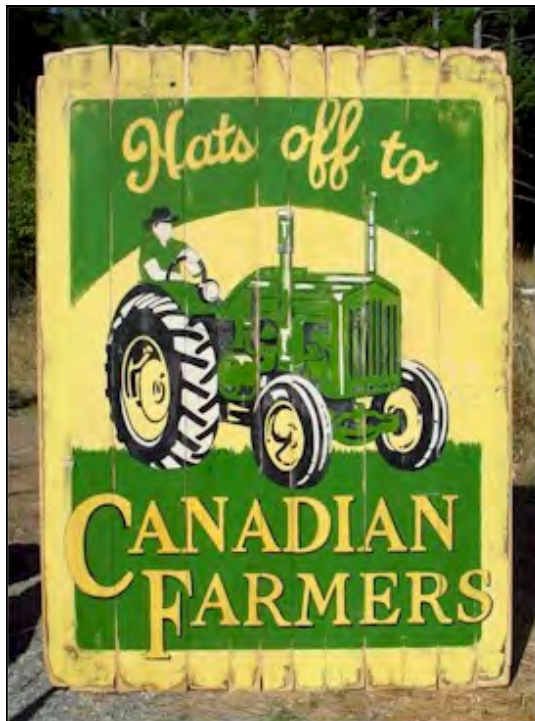
GLOBALIZATION





Farmers + cooperation built the west...
credit unions
wheat pools
co-ops
CCF

(Co-operative Commonwealth Federation)



The 20th Century

RESPECT


for

FARMING

IN THE MID '80's EVERYTHING BEGAN TO CHANGE

MID 1980's

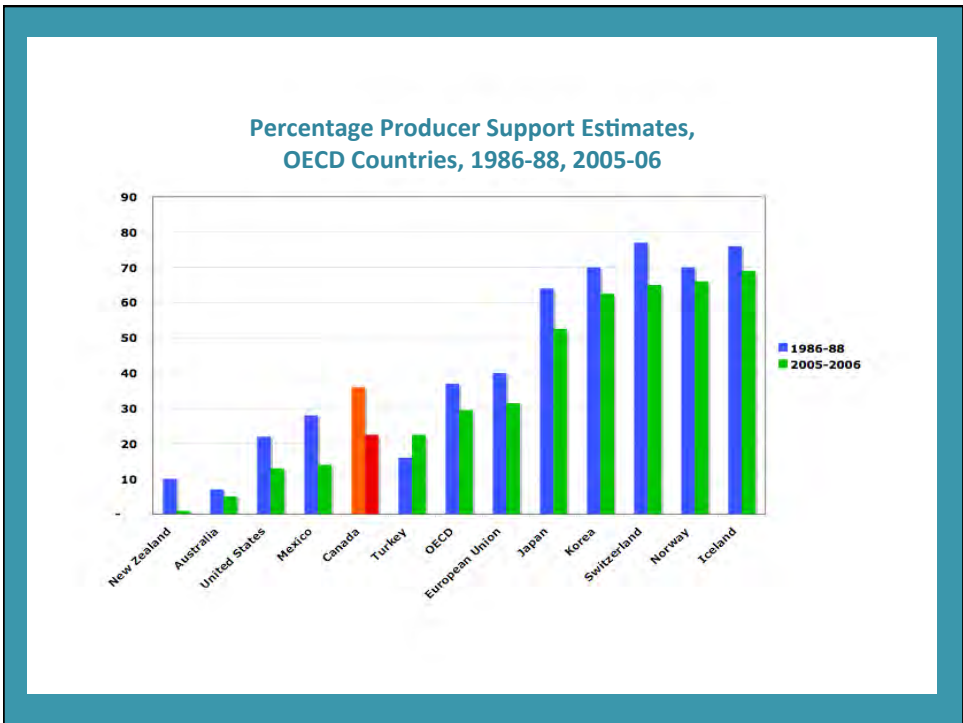
- ✓ loss of regulatory & policy **sovereignty**
- GATT → WTO → FTA → NAFTA
- ✓ Weakening of Canada's **Competition Act**
- ✓ Increase **market concentration** pre/post farm gate
e.g. beef, hogs, grain, dairy
- ✓ Erosion of **local infrastructure**
- ✓ Drop in farm **policy support**
- ✓ Loss of **domestic market share**
- ✓ Escalating feed and fertilizer **prices**

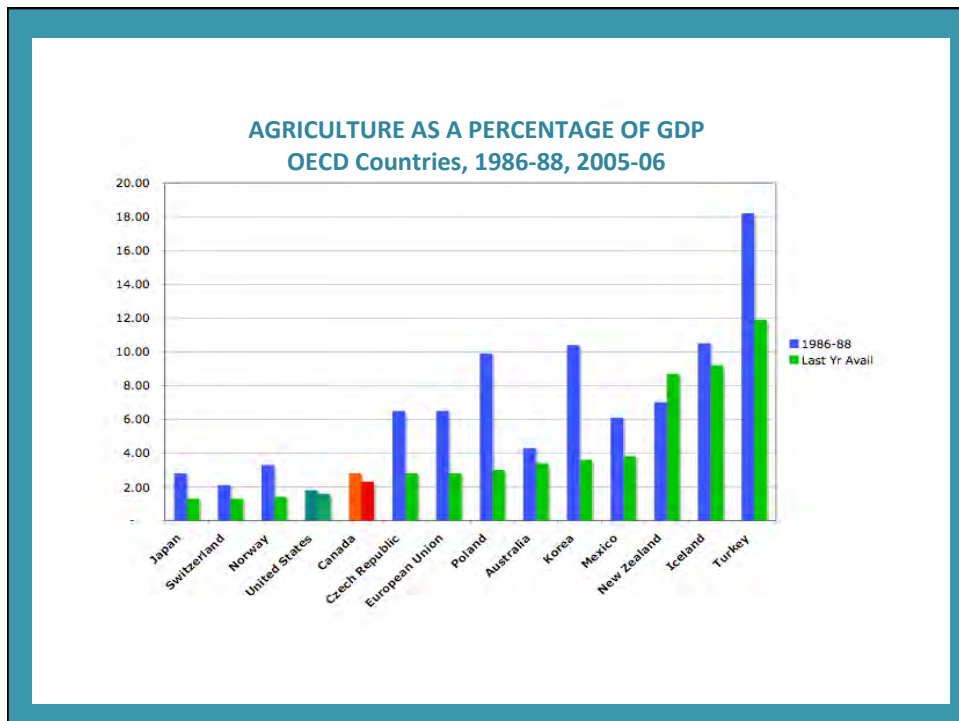
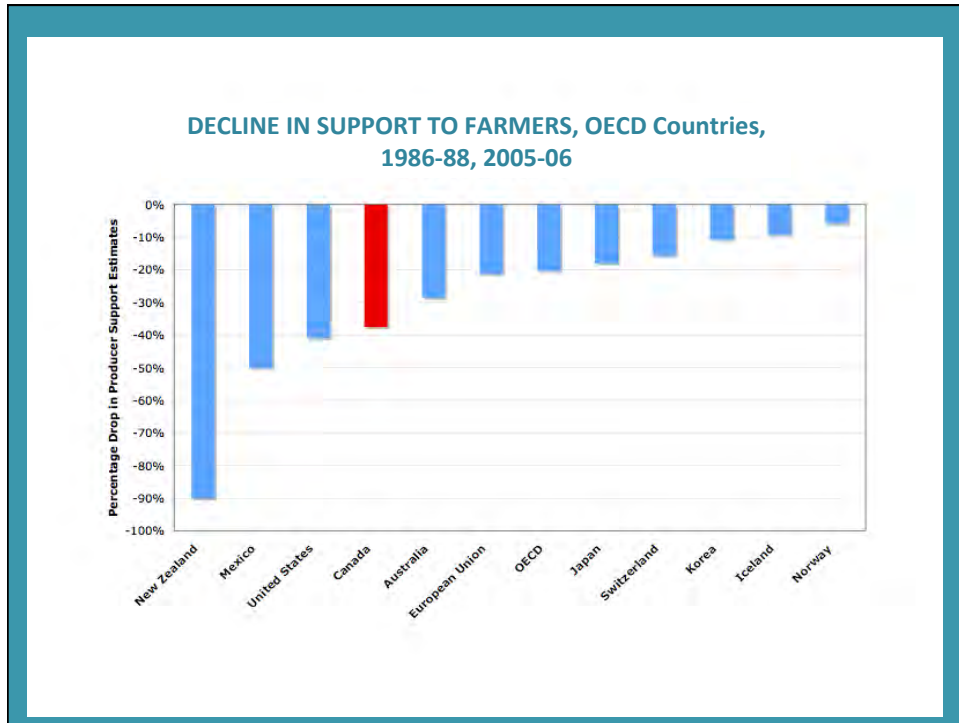


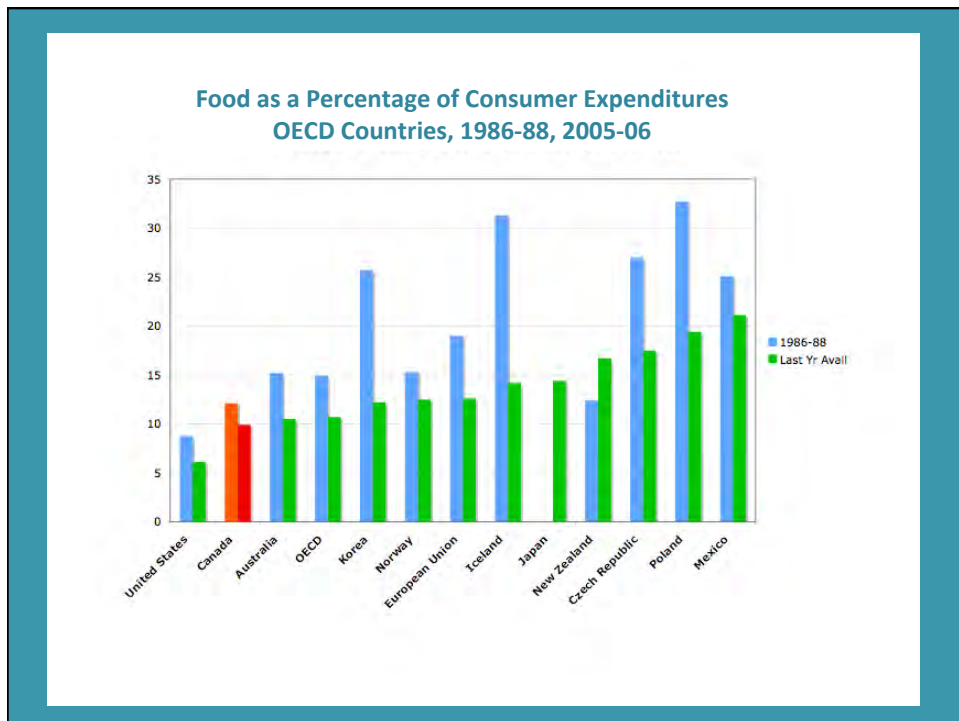
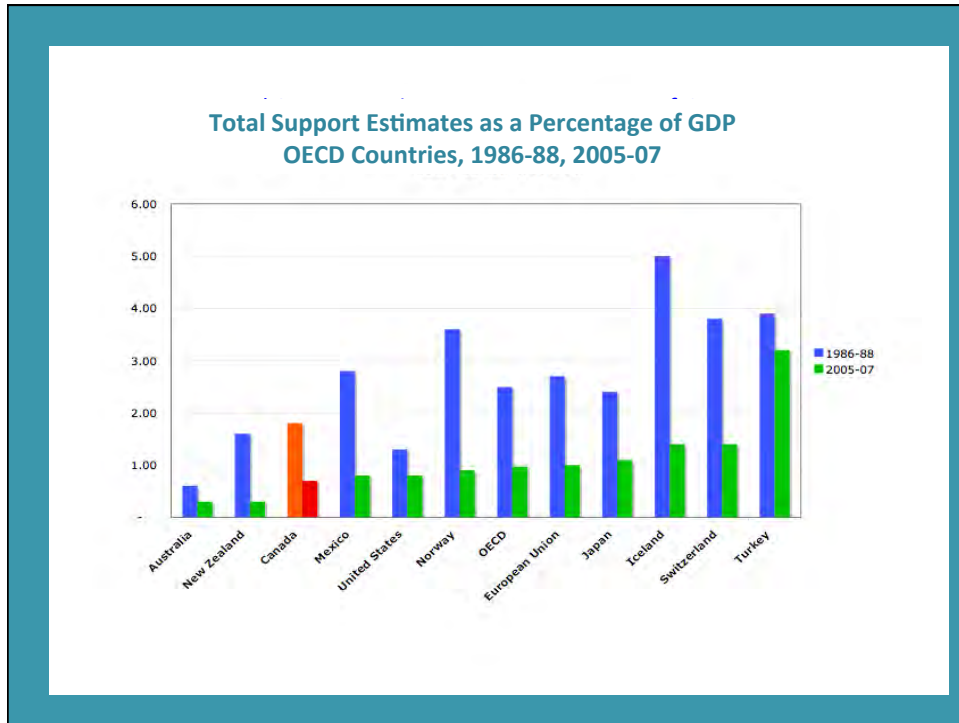
Agricultural Policies in OECD Countries
MONITORING AND EVALUATION 2007

MEASURING UP...

Where Canada Stands in support for farmers







MARKET CONCENTRATION



BEEF



CONCENTRATION IN MEAT PACKING

May 2009: US Senate Hearing into Five Rivers Ranch

JBS - Jose Batista Sobrinho (Brazil)

2009 Buys : Swift for \$1.5 billion

US Premium Beef

Smithfield Foods \$1.3 billion

2009 Bid: Tasman Group (Australia) \$149 million

- Now World' s Largest Packer
- Reduced US major firms from 5 to 3
- Five Rivers Ranch (Tx, Co, Id, Ka, Ok)
 - Joint Venture Smithfield and Continental Grain
 - 815, 000 hd capacity
 - slaughter 2 million hd yr at 1300 lbs
 - Prompted US Senate Hearing May 2009



“Deal will basically make us tenant farmers on our own land with take it or leave it bids... The ability to vertically integrate by allowing more consolidation among packers and (allowing them to have) large feedlots like Five Rivers is economic waterboarding...”

Randy Stevenson, Wheatland, Wyoming

HOGS



CANADIAN WHEAT BOARD



AUSTRALIAN WHEAT BOARD

"Since 2006, the AWB's share of Australia's wheat sales has dropped to 23 per cent with 25 other companies in the market, all looking to make money on the spread between purchase and sale prices."

"When the AWB had its single desk power, Australian wheat could command premiums of over \$99/tonne over American wheat, but by December 2008 it had dropped to a discount of \$27/tonne below U.S. wheat..."

Doug Clarke, Chairman,
Western Australia Grains Group
Thompson Citizen Oct. 24, 2011

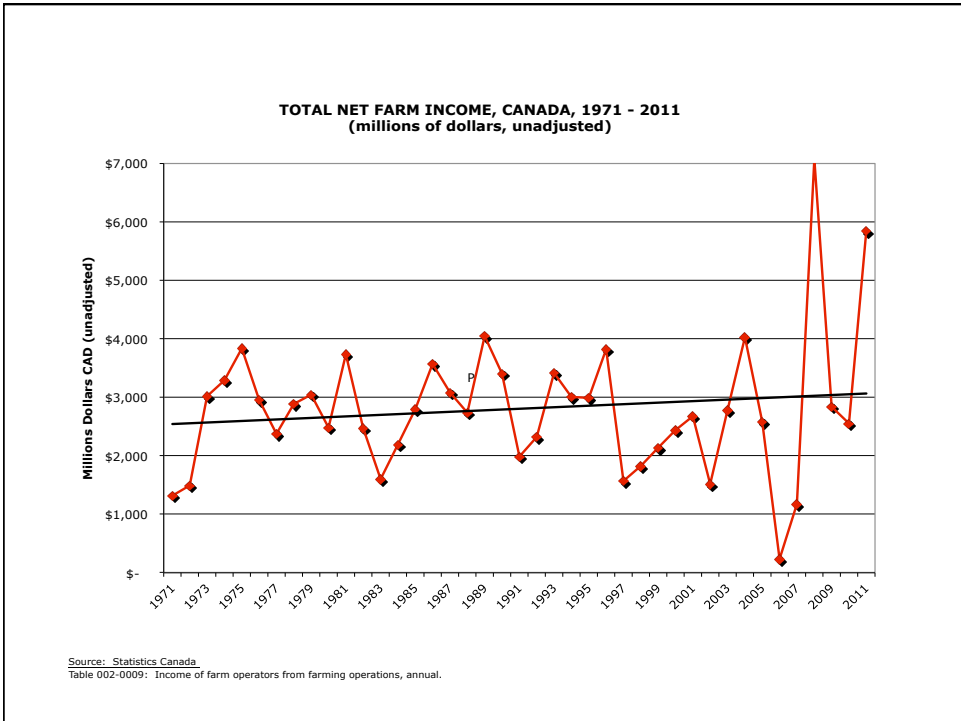
SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

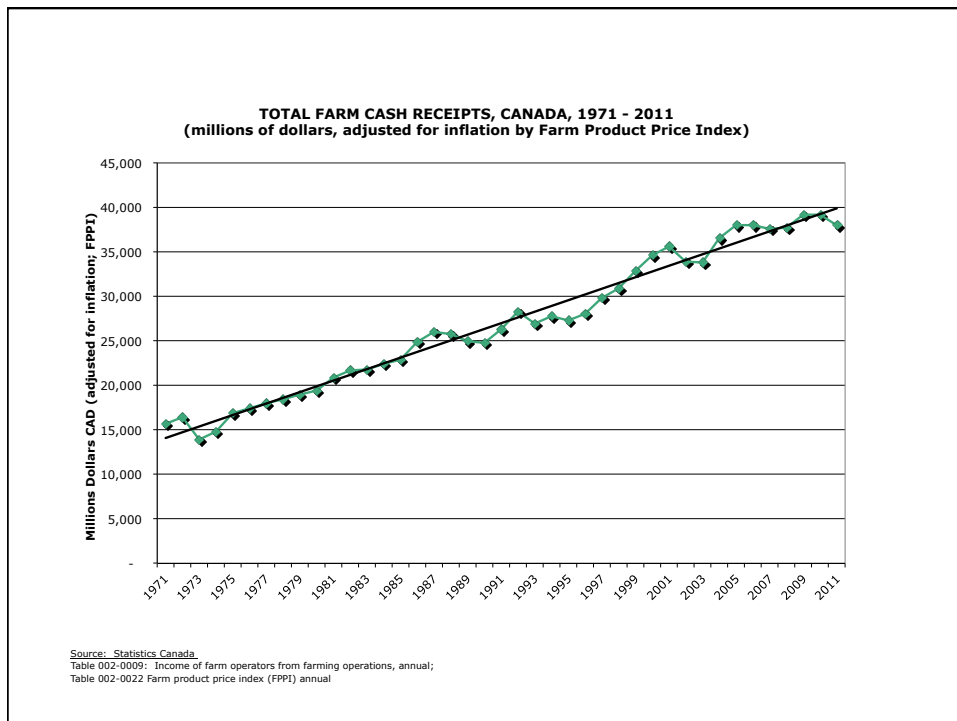
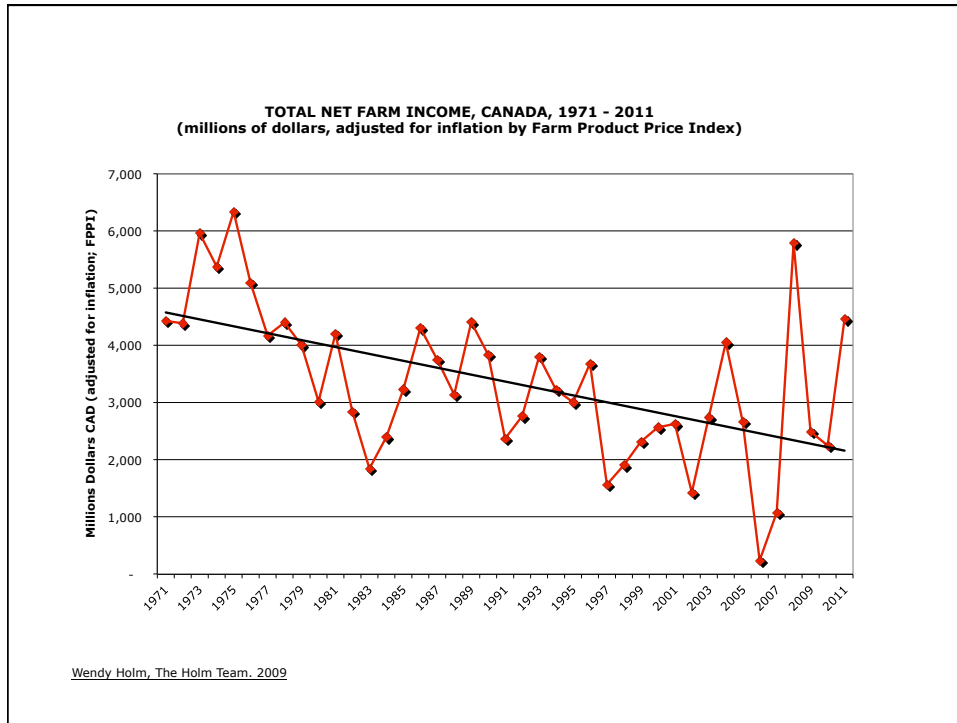


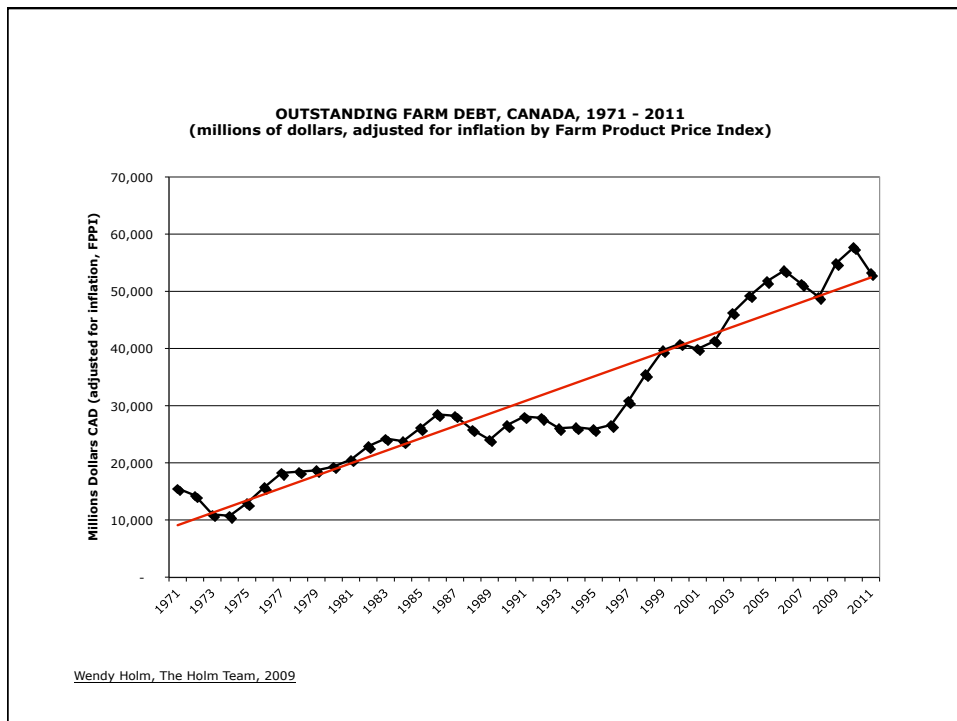
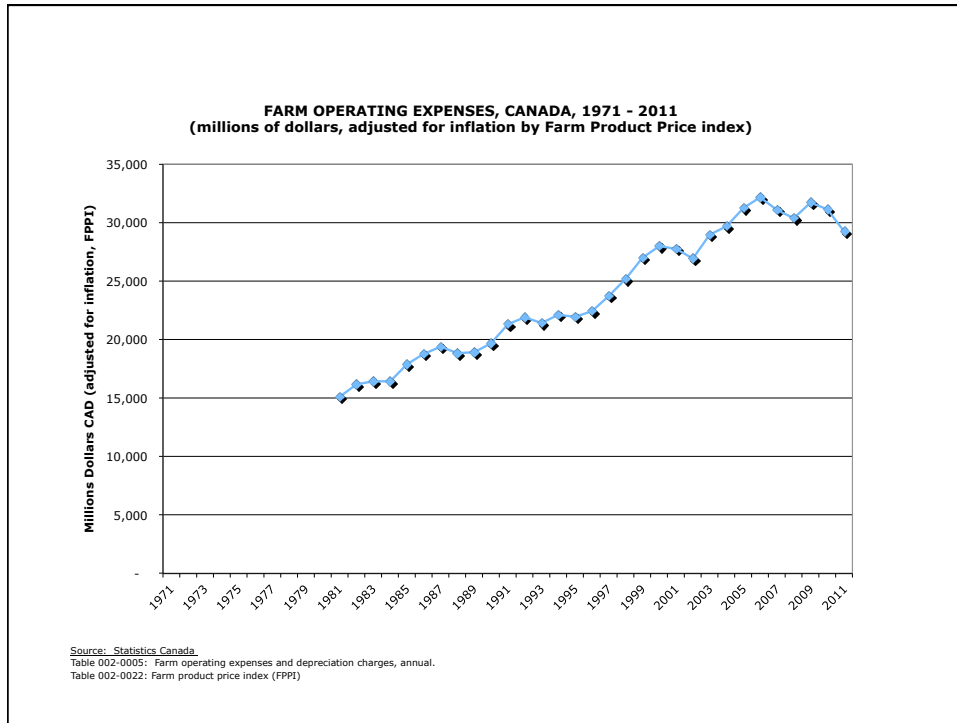
NOT SUSTAINABLE

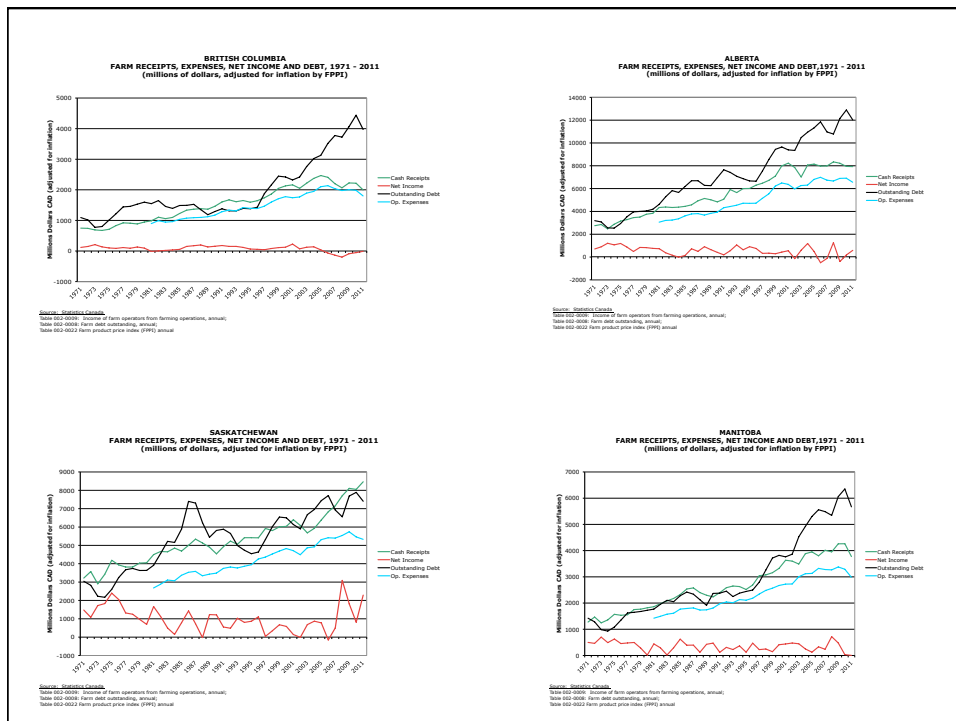
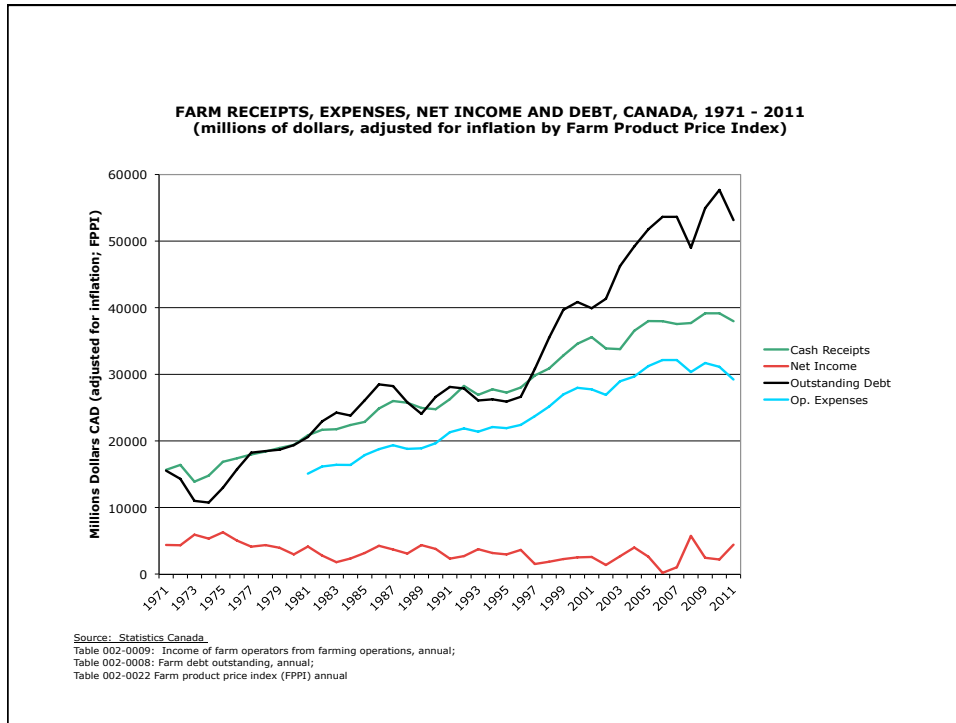


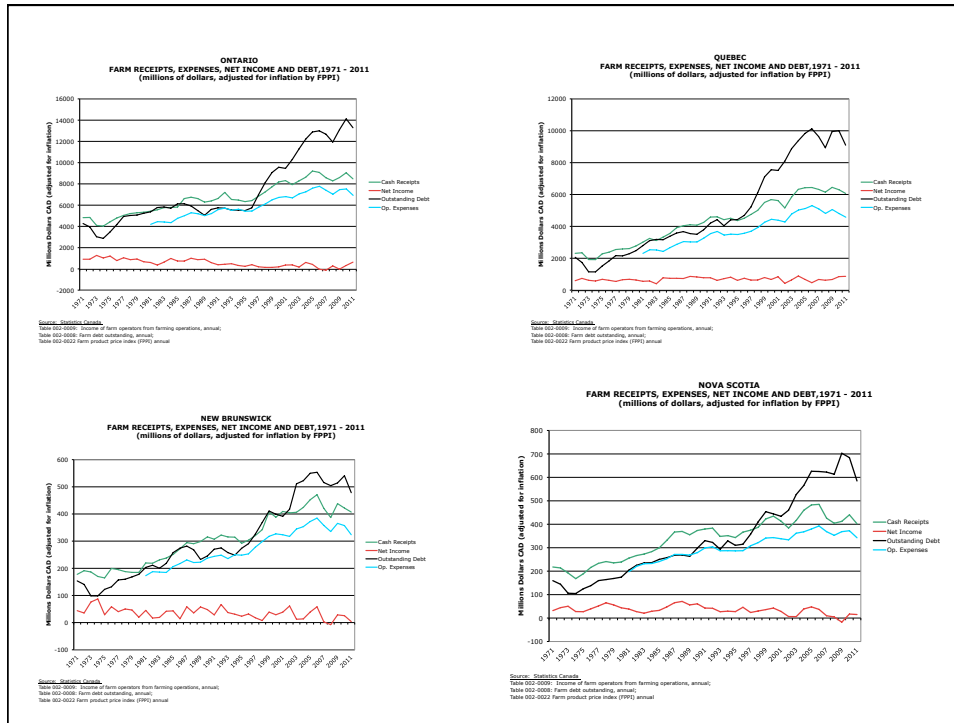
EFFECT ON FARM INCOMES











FARM DEBT

1970: for every dollar in their pocket at the end of the day, farmers carried \$3.40 in debt.

1980's: the debt to income ratio rose to \$7.42

1990's: farmers owed \$10.47 for every dollar earned.

2000-2010: debt rose to a staggering \$23.25 a sevenfold increase over 1970 levels.

Elephant in the room? FOREIGN BUY-UP OF FARMLAND...



GLOBAL FARMLAND GRAB

World Bank Fall 2010 Report:

45 million ha large-scale holdings changed hands 2009
 1998-2008 average= 4 million ha/yr
 TEN FOLD INCREASE

\$100 billion global capital funds targeted for farmland
 120 funds, majors include

- Optima Fund
- Australia's MacQuarie Agricultural Fund
 (7 million acres now, headed for Brazil),
- Pharos Financial Group
 (Moscow, investing in Asia and Africa),
- Monaxion
 (China, 99,000 acre goal), and the
- Hancock Agricultural Investment Group.

Who is buying?

Spain, Switzerland, China, Egypt and Iran
 over million acres prime California farmland
 next: US Midwest

Texas
 Mississippi
 Idaho
 Dakotas

Gulf States, China, Japan, S Korea, W Europe
 Hundreds of millions of hectares of farmland
 Sub-Saharan Africa
 Central & Latin America
 Eastern Europe

**TODAY'S TARGET? Canada and Australia:
good infrastructure, good government,
good farmland and low land prices**

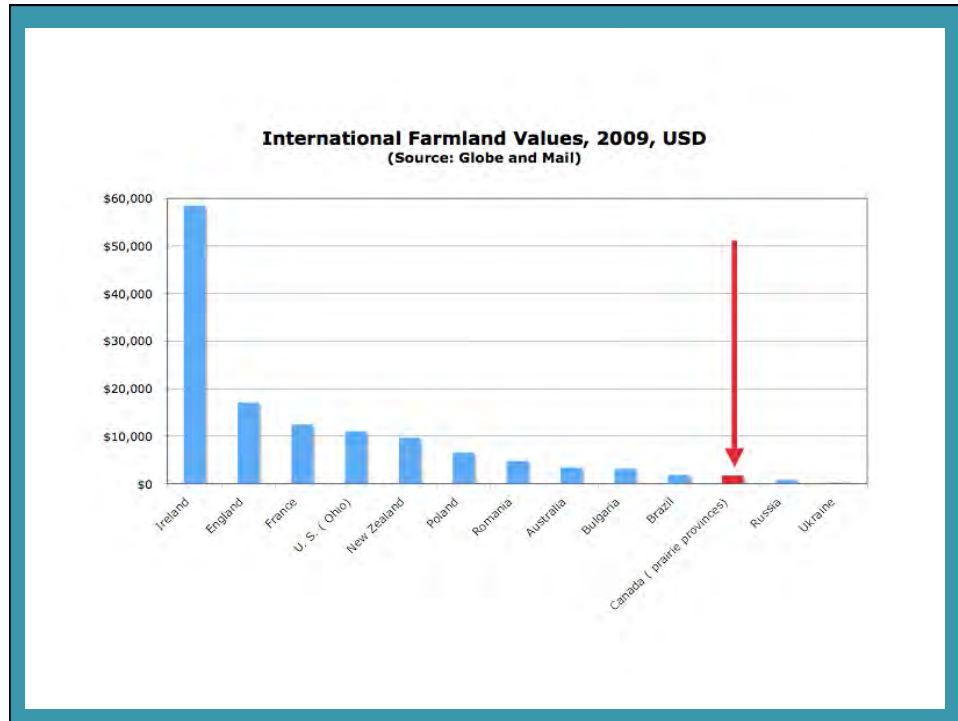
**Ha of comparable land, January 2010:
Canadian Prairies= \$1,725 USD
England = \$17,000
Australia = \$3,450**

Globe and Mail, Aug 19, 2009
"Cheap Canadian Farmland lures foreign buyers"

FARMLAND PRICE PER HECTARE, \$ U. S. 2009

Ireland	\$58,500
England	\$17,100
France	\$12,500
U. S. (Ohio)	\$11,000
New Zealand	\$9,643
Poland	\$6,600
Romania	\$4,855
Australia	\$3,450
Bulgaria	\$3,120
Brazil	\$1,850
Canada (prairies)	\$1,725
Russia	\$800
Ukraine	\$250

Source: Globe and Mail, Aug 19, 2009. Cheap Canadian Farmland lures foreign buyers



CANADIAN FUNDS:

Assiniboia Capital

100,000 ac Saskatchewan farmland, holdings tripled in 2 years

Agcapita Partners

60,000 ac & \$100 million under management

Walton International

36,000 ac "development-ready farmland" surrounding Cdn cities

Bonnefield Financial/Sprott Resources

First Nations/private sector; plans 200,000 ac under mgn't

Hancock (Manulife Financial)

183,000 acres of US farmland;

looking north: just bought 1,100 ac cranberry farm Quebec

HARMONIZATION?



MUZZLING OF PROFESSIONALS

“...control the message...”



TIME TO
TURN THIS
AROUND

FOOD DEMOCRACY

WHO WILL CONTROL OUR FOOD SUPPLY?

Capital or Community?

Food Safety
Food Security
Food Sovereignty
Sustainable Food
Local Food
Food Footprint
Urban Agriculture

Peak Oil?
Climate Change?
Commoditization of farmland?
Farm Debt?

FOOD DEMOCRACY

“Food democracy is based on the principle that citizens or “food citizens” have the power to determine food policies and practices locally, regionally, nationally and globally.

Food democracy asserts it is a right and responsibility of citizens to participate in decisions concerning their food system...”

foodfirst.org

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

...the right of peoples, communities, and countries to define their own agricultural, labor, fishing, food and land policies which are ecologically, socially, economically and culturally appropriate to their unique circumstances.

Institute for Food and Development Policy
Food First

FOOD POLICY (FOOD AS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT)

Every Canadian has the right to a secure daily supply of affordable, accessible, safe, culturally appropriate and nourishing food produced in a manner that respects the soils, the farmer, the environment and the community.

“With globalization and increased trade, B.C. and Canada have substantially increased their levels of both food exports and imports.

This shift to sourcing increased levels of food from outside the province and the country reflects the federal government’s food security strategy (Government of Canada 1998).

This strategy is a global commitment that includes enhancing trade in the food and agri-food sectors as a way of reducing vulnerability to food shortages.

Canada supports fair trade rules and environmentally sustainable trade practices as the means toward increasing food security, rather than agricultural protectionism and promotion of food self-sufficiency.

In B.C., as elsewhere in the country, this shift has led to decreasing levels of food self-reliance. Table 20.8 shows that B.C.’s overall food self-reliance has decreased from the close to 100% self-reliance noted in 1946 to levels close to 50% today...”

*BC Hydro Site C Clean Energy Project Environmental Impact Statement
Volume 3: Economic & Land and Resource Use Effects Assessment. Section 20 Agriculture 20.24*



SINCE 1998:

- 32 Delegations (+600) Canadian farmers
- 8 Classes of university students (UBC LFS 302)
- 2 Delegations of Chefs
- 2 Classes Culinary Students
- 1 Delegation entomologists

**INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION PROJECT
SUSTAINABLE MILK**



REVOLUTION 1959:

- Socialism
- Land Reform
- Alliance with FSU resulted in large state farms
- Formation of agricultural co-operatives

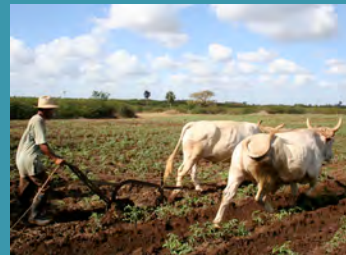
CPA' s and CCS' s

- Economy driven by sugar
- Educated population
- High standard of living



Collapse of Former Soviet Union 1990

- Economy thrown into darkness
- Shortage of energy, food, basic materials
- US tightened economic noose
- How to produce food in countryside?
 - ✓ without chemicals and pesticides
 - ✓ without fuel and tractors
 - ✓ revert to traditional methods
- How to feed the urban population?
 - ✓ without fuel



CUBA'S SPECIAL PERIOD...



6 CRITICAL FACTORS in Cuba's transition

1. Good soils, water, climate
2. Literate farmers
3. Scientific capacity
4. Solid agricultural extension
5. ANAP – one voice
6. **Strong farmer co-operatives**



STEPS:

- Break up of inefficient state farms into UBPC's
- Urban Agriculture
- Ecological agriculture

CUBA:

Cutting edge practices:

Only nation to achieve sustainability based on ecological footprint and social development index (WWF)

World leader in organic agriculture (Right Livelihood Award)

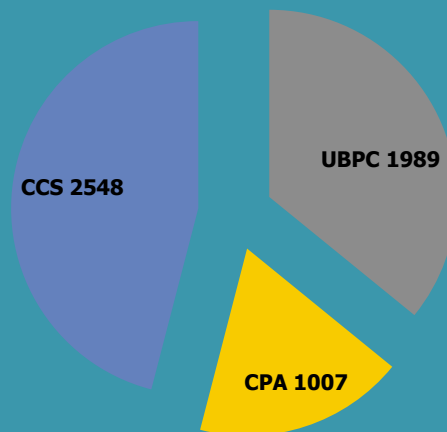
Strong relations with Canada



URBAN + PERI-URBAN AGRICULTURE



Cooperatives in CUBA Today = 79.3% of Farm Production



**Cuban Government Policy to Increase Food Security
by increasing Number of New Farmers**

DECRETO LEY 259/300

(as of SEPTIEMBRE DEL 2011)

Land distributed in usufruct: 1,319,396 hectáreas

In Production: 79.2 % % (over 1 million hecares)

Individual new farmers: 146,816 (97% of applicants)

New farmers in application process: 4,540

Total New Farmers: 151,356

Average land given per person: 8.7 ha

**One third of new farmers are 18-35 years old,
25% were unemployed and 13 percent were retired.**







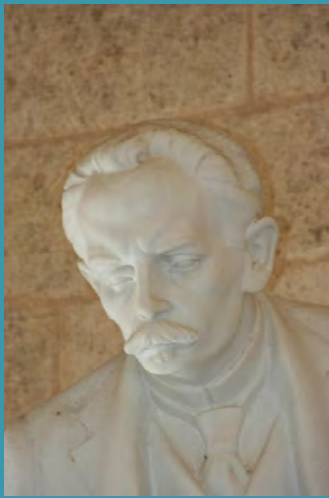
Sustainable Economics

Co-operation



Los Lineamientos: Cuba's new co-operative path





Co-operatives are a **natural economic choice for a socialist society** because they embrace the values of social equity and justice from the bottom up...

The same values embraced by the Cuban Revolution and the writings of Jose Marti.

Under Raul Castro, the Cuban government has mandated strong openings for worker-owned coop engagement in the non-state sector.

Their importance and main direction is **socialism, social ownership, limited privatization and co-operatives.**



- **April 18, 2011: Lineamientos**

6th Congress Communist Party

- **Transition to co-op**

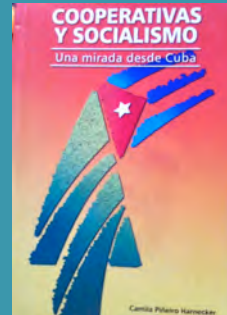
worker control

- **Begin with agriculture -**

create 2nd tier co-ops

- **Production co-operatives**

appropriate form for organizing labour in a socialist society



*“Today, more than ever,
the economic battle is the main task and the
focus of the ideological work of the cadres,
because the **sustainability and preservation of
our social system** depend on that.”*

RAÚL CASTRO RUZ
Ninth Congress, Cuban Young Communist League,
April 4, 2010

Havana Workshops Dec 2011
6th Principle & International Support



**WHERE DO WE
TAKE THIS?**

Instinct to Co-operate?



STRENGTHEN CO-OPS



BREAK DOWN DIVISIONS



DEMAND PAYMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

- ✓ farmland resource
- ✓ riparian habitat
- ✓ wetlands and wildlife
- ✓ endangered species
- ✓ protected zones
- ✓ topsoil
- ✓ water conservation
- ✓ grasslands



Photo courtesy Don Ruzicka

LOOK BEYOND OUR BORDERS...

“Food security is as important to this country’s future well-being – and the world’s - as energy security.

We need to produce more food. We need to do it sustainably. And we need to make sure that what we eat safeguards our health...”

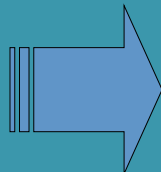
UK Environment Secretary Hilary Benn
and 2030 Strategy, Oxford Farming Conference
January 6, 2010



DEMAND CHAMPIONS AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVEL



economic, social,
environmental...



SUSTAINABLE

MOBILIZE CAMPUS NETWORKS

- 7 out of 10 students at UBC Faculty of Land and Food Systems now say they “want to farm”
- SAIT’s culinary program projected to grow from 200 students this year to 400 within next 2 years ...

SPECIAL POLICY INCUBATOR YOUNG FARMERS

**Apprenticeship co-ops...
Forgive Student loans
Incubator farm-start loans
Support Formation of Networks
OFY, 4-H**

National Restaurant Association
2010 Chefs' Survey
American Culinary Federation

- 1,800 professional chefs
- over 200 culinary items

Top 20 "Hot Trends" on menus:

- #1 Locally Grown Produce
- #2 Locally Sourced Meats and Seafood
- #3 Sustainability
- #10 Sustainable Seafood
- #12 Organic Produce

CALL BS WHEN YOU SEE IT

*Farmers are only 3-5% of population
so it is hard to come up with money
for _____ (fill in the blank).*



*Difficult for government to invest more
than the size of the industry justifies...*

Farmers need to undergo transformational change...

Farmers need to become more competitive...

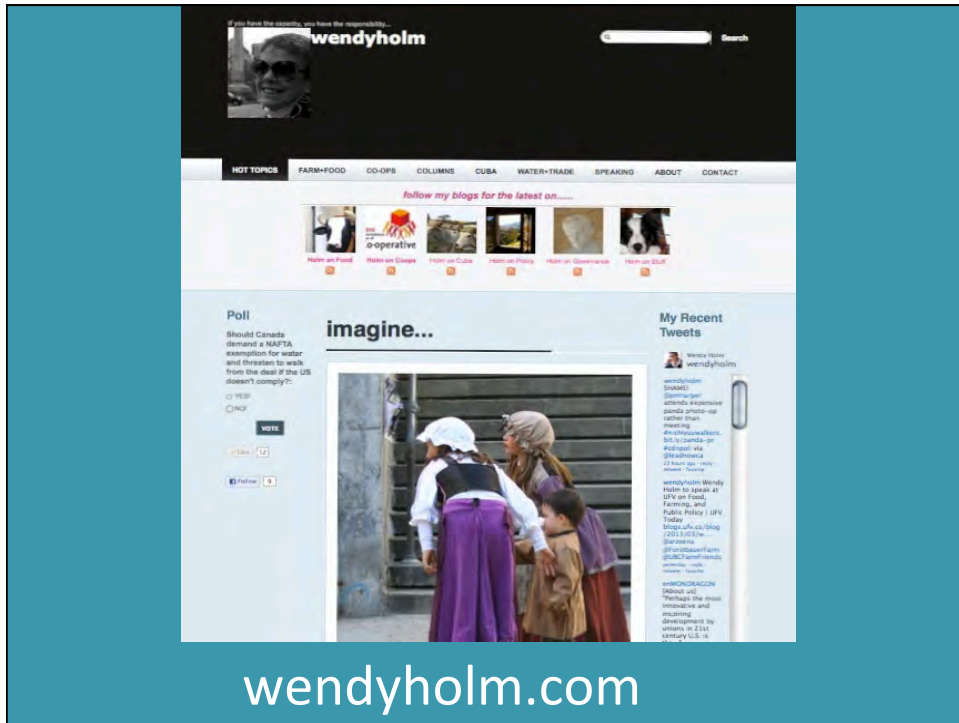
**EXPOSE THE FOREIGN BUY UP OF
CANADIAN FARMLAND**


**Education
Public communication
Activism
Thesis Research**

**SUPPORT
CREATIVE AND DRAMATIC MESSAGING**

GROWING NO MORE?

*Explain what will happen
if Canada's farmers disappear*





**Gene Whelan respected
Canada's farmers...**

Politics is broken

Need PLAN B...

MILK IS A MOTHERHOOD ISSUE...



MOTHERHOOD

MEANS

LOOKING

AFTER

Milk
IS a
motherhood
issue...

If we can't rally
and win *this* one,
we are truly lost...



WHO WILL
CONTROL OUR
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Capital or Community?

FOOD DEMOCRACY

RESPECT



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