

Agriculture in Canada

- ⇒ Every year the agriculture industry contributes approximately **\$11 billion** to Canada's economy
- ⇒ The food and beverage industry contributes another **\$17 billion** to Canada's economy
- * Farming is a business that requires a great deal of skill and effort, enough money to purchase property and equipment, and considerable luck in terms of weather and market conditions
- ⇒ Today, Canadians spend about **11%** of their income on food
- ⇒ There are many problems facing Canadian agricultural industries that could force the percentage of income to be spent on food to increase

Land: The Basic Resource

- ⇒ Land is a **renewable resource** in the sense that if properly used, it can support new crops year after year
- ⇒ Land is a **non-renewable resource** because there is a limited amount of it available - especially land that is suitable for farming
- ⇒ About **13%** of Canada's total land area is suitable for farming

Where in Canada is this agricultural land located?

Types of Farming

- ⇒ Farms differ widely across Canada in terms of their size and products
- ⇒ The type of farming that takes place in a particular region is determined by **natural** and **economic** factors

Natural Factors

- fertility of the soil
- amount of precipitation
- length of growing season

Economic Factors

- cost of land and equipment
- transportation costs
- competition

- ⇒ Farmers must take both the natural and economic factors into account when they decide whether to practise **extensive** or **intensive** farming

intensive farming ⇒ A large amount of labour, machinery and fertilizers are used on small farms
⇒ High yields per hectare are obtained

extensive farming ⇒ A small amount of labour, machinery and fertilizers are used on large farms
⇒ Small yields per hectare are obtained