**Key Issue 4: Why Do Farmers Face Economic Difficulties?**

***Pages 374-387***

1. According to the **“Boserup Thesis”**, in what ways can subsistence farmers increase food supply?
2. Look at the graphic below. What is basically happening?

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| **Forrest Fallow<----------** | ---------------------------------   **Time** | **---------->Multicropping** |

1. What is the **dilemma** that is faced by LDCs as they seek to increase the amount of export crops to sell to MDCs?
2. Summarize Africa’s food-supply struggle.
3. Some LDCs turn to the production of drug crops for export. The geography of these crops is distinctive. Identify the countries associated with the crops below.

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| Cocaine (Cocoa Leaf) |  |
| Heroin (Opium) |  |
| Marijuana |  |

1. Why have food prices been a more serious problem than food supply?
2. How have efficient agricultural practices, fertilizers and mechanical equipment, etc. created a problem for commercial farmers?
3. Create **three** bulleted points that highlight current ways in which the U.S. government currently deals with excess agriculture capacity, and explain each.
4. Answer the following six questions about **von Thunen’s model** using pages 378-379 and Figure 10-52.
   1. Who was von Thunen?
   2. According to this model, what two factors does a farmer consider when deciding what to plant?
   3. Draw a sketch of agricultural land use according to von Thunen.

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* 1. How does cost determine what farmers grow?
  2. How does transportation cost influence profitability of growing wheat?
  3. How could von Thunen’s model be applied at a global scale?

1. **Four** strategies have been proposed to increase the world’s food supply in places where populations are underfed. Explain each of them.











1. List the largest regions and countries exporting agricultural products.
2. What countries are the leading importers of food?
3. What country exports the most grain? What kind and how much?
4. There is little new land actually available for farming. In fact, the current trend is to reduce agricultural land rather than increase it. Identify and briefly describe **three** reasons why land is currently being removed from agricultural use.
5. Define ***aquaculture (or aquafarming)***:
6. What countries are the leading fishing countries?
7. Have MDCs or LDCs consumed more fish?
8. What are the **two** main practices of the **Green Revolution**?
9. Because of the Green Revolution, agricultural productivity at a global scale has   
     
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10. Describe the characteristics of the **“miracle wheat seed”**.
11. Describe the characteristics of the **“miracle rice seed”**.
12. What specific problems do farmers in LDCs have which might prevent them from taking full advantage of the Green Revolution?
13. What **three** crops are often **genetically modified**?
14. Approximately how much of major crops in the US are **genetically modified**?
15. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of **genetically modified** foods.
16. Define ***sustainable agriculture****:*
17. What are the principal practices that distinguish farmers practicing ***sustainable agriculture*** from those operating conventionally?
18. List the advantages of **ridge tillage**.
19. In what ways are animals treated differently in sustainable agriculture? And, how is this a benefit?