

IV 2nd Agricultural Revolution

- * started with the Industrial Revolution (Great Britain 18th century)
- * mechanized farming, improved transportation, large scale irrigation, consumer patterns
- * food production greatly increased

A. The Effects of Tech

1. Better Diets, Longer life spans, inc in population
2. Less workers required for farms, many moved to cities for factory jobs.

B. Land Usage

1. Enclosure Acts: British Law: enabled landowners to purchase and enclose land for their own use that had previously been common land used by peasant farmers.

- a) Farms became larger + more efficient, farming became profitable
- b) People were forced off of land which allowed them to work in factories.

C. Specific Tech Advances

1. Iron/Steel plough : 1819: Reduced human labor, broke through harder soil
increased amount of crops per acre, farm size ↑
2. Mech Seed Drilling: 18th cent: Planted and covered seeds quickly, inc Yield
3. McCormick Reaper : 1831 : Increased Harvest, Reduced Crop loss
4. Grain Elevator : 1849 : Inc Storage Space + Food Supply, Protected food from ~~weather~~ elements
5. Barbed Wire : 1870s: Inexpensive fencing
6. Mixed Nitrogen and Nitric Acid Fertilizer: 1903: Inc Yield

D. Agricultural Changes and Shifting Demographics

1. Fewer, larger, more productive farms.
2. Dec in farm owners + workers