1.12.16

Agriculture notes cont.

Irrigation – this has allowed us to farm areas that couldn’t be farmed, bringing water from one place to another

about 20% of our cropland in the US is irrigated

Ogallal Aquifer – the largest aquifer in the world, it contains water that was put down during the last ice age, about 10,000-15,000 years ago, we are depleting it, at a rate faster than its being recharged, in some areas the discharge rate is 8-10 times the recharge rate

90% - frozen, powdered, canned

destroys the natural taste and flavor

huge companies are set up to put back taste, color, and smell into the foods that we eat

we have mixtures of foods

in 1790, there was the first US Census, 95% listed their occupation as farmers

in 2010, less than 2% were farmers

we have the most fertile soils in the world, we have a favorable climate, we have access to the latest technology

25% of the world’s beef comes from the US

15% of the world’s grain, milk, and eggs come from the US

¼ of the world’s food exports comes from the US

in PA there are about 59,000 farms, 9 million acres are cultivated, we are #18 in the US in annual income from farms, we are a leader in milk production