

# **Economy, trade and empire, 1625-1688.**

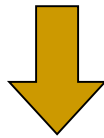
- 1. Agriculture**
- 2. Development of national markets**
- 3. London & economic development**
- 4. Imperial expansion**
- 5. Development of trade overseas**

# **Economy, trade and empire, 1625-1688.**

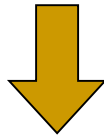
# **1. Agriculture**

# Capital investment in agriculture

- early 17<sup>th</sup> C. - population rise  
→ ∴ surplus labour



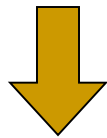
∴ landowners could deploy additional labour



∴ productivity ↑



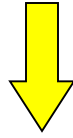
- extra demand for food resources



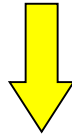
∴ farming = very profitable



- after 1656: population stagnation



∴ reduced size of labour market



∴ led to general rise in wages



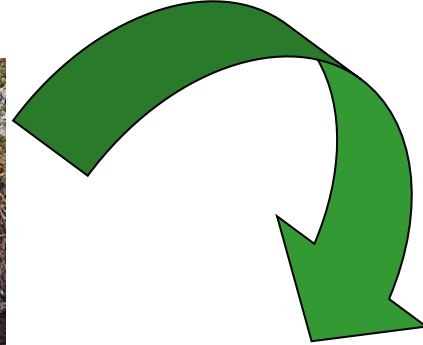
∴ landowners aimed for better exploitation of existing land  
- through capital investment



in order to increase productivity



- many woodlands = cleared
- converted to pasture





- most extensive land clearance:
  - in fenlands of East Anglia
    - 4,000 Dutch drainage experts = employed
    - to bring land under cultivation



**The Fens**, also known as the **Fenlands**, are a coastal plain in eastern England. Despite being a natural marshy region, most of the fens were drained several centuries ago, resulting in a flat, dry, low-lying agricultural region supported by a system of drainage channels and man-made rivers (dykes and drains) and automated pumping stations.



# Changes in agricultural techniques

- mid-17<sup>th</sup> C.: due to population stagnation
    - some farmers became more efficient
    - by exploring
      - new techniques
      - new crops
- (that offered better profits)



- improved agricultural techniques:

- floating water meadows → enhanced **grazing**

- meadows = flooded annually
    - protected land from frosts
- ∴ ↑ grass crops



(with few cm of water)

- improved drainage



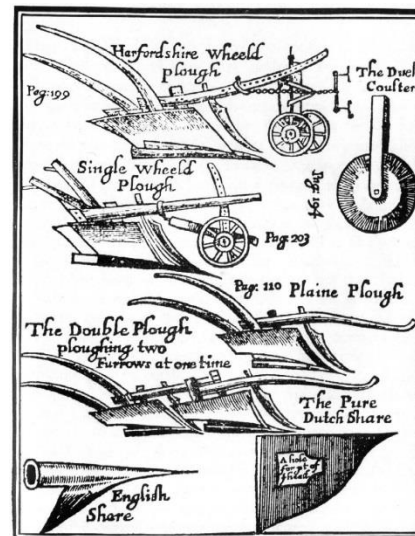


- better rotation of crops



- use of root crops such as potatoes, carrots and turnips

- improvements to farm equipment



- selective breeding of livestock



- ↑ in amount of land farmed





- more extensive use of manure



- more extensive use of fertilisers



- introduction of new ideas & techniques from the Netherlands



- changes enabled farmers to maintain large numbers of animals



- e.g.:
  - used turnips as fodder
  - used clover as new breed of grass



- ∴ helped overcome shortage of
  - fertilisers
  - animal manure

turnips & clover → could be stored for winter feed

introduced in East Anglia



- turned areas of heath & chalk into land suitable for grain

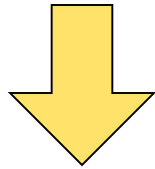
- from 1670: England became grain exporter



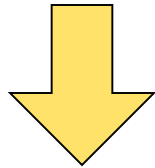


# Specialised farming

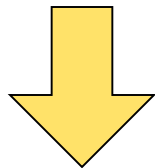
growth of urban employment



∴ less farm labour



∴ needed to ↑ production



∴ developed specialised farming



**- development of specialised farming:**

enclosure

growth of wider  
range of crops

larger, more  
commercial farms

use of new  
techniques

(e.g. from the  
Netherlands)

**- did not happen countrywide**

**- no agricultural revolution in 1600's**

**- but: agrarian economy = more efficient**

- growth of London
  - increased demand
  - spurred more specialised regional farming



- spurred commercialisation
- helped develop a *National Market*



- regional specialisation
- emerging *National Market*

linked to England's

geography  
climate

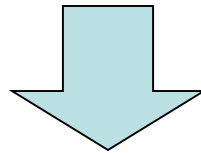
- in general:
  - the north & west (highland) → pastoral farming



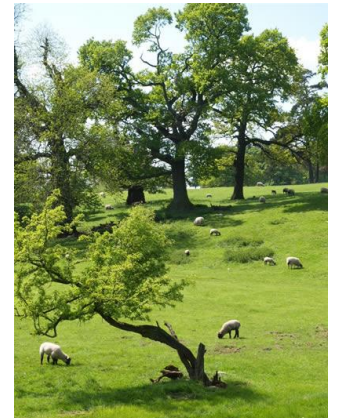
- the south & east (lowland) → arable farming



- within this:  
further specialisation based on local climate or soil



- north-west Norfolk → arable
- south-east → wood pasture







The  
End