

# **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**

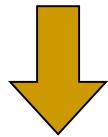
# Capital investment in agriculture

- early 17<sup>th</sup> C. - population rise

→ ∴ surplus labour



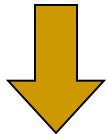
∴ landowners could deploy additional labour



∴ productivity ↑



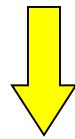
- extra demand for food resources



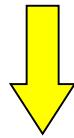
∴ farming = very profitable



- after 1656: population stagnation



∴ reduced size of labour market



∴ led to general rise in wages



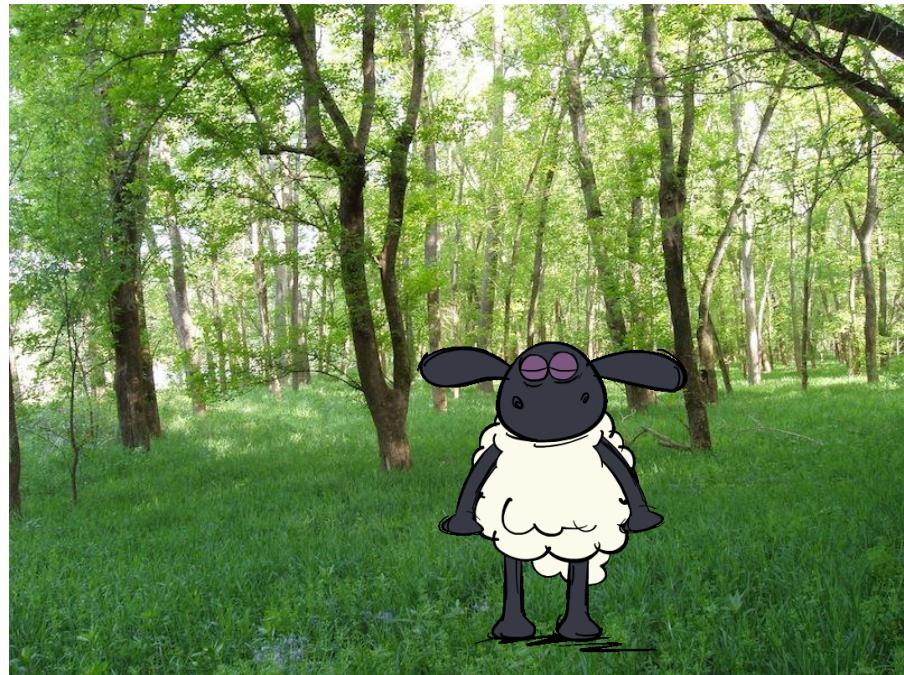
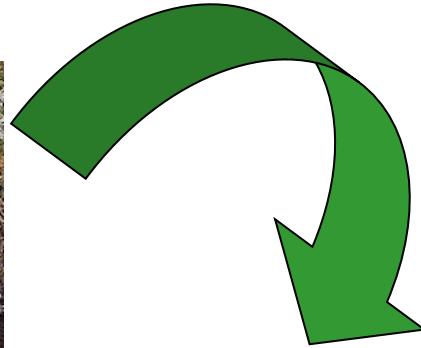
∴ landowners aimed for better exploitation of existing land  
- through capital investment



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

∴  $\uparrow$  grass crops



(with few cm of water)

- improved drainage

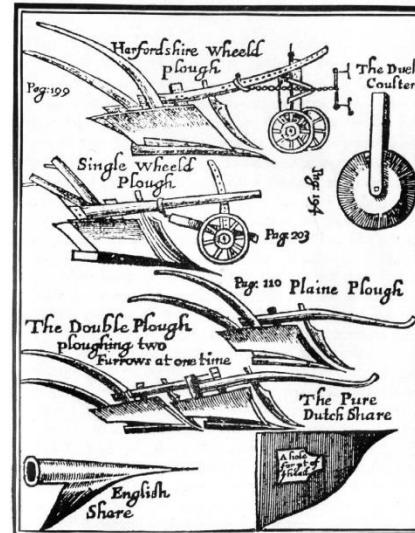


- better rotation of crops

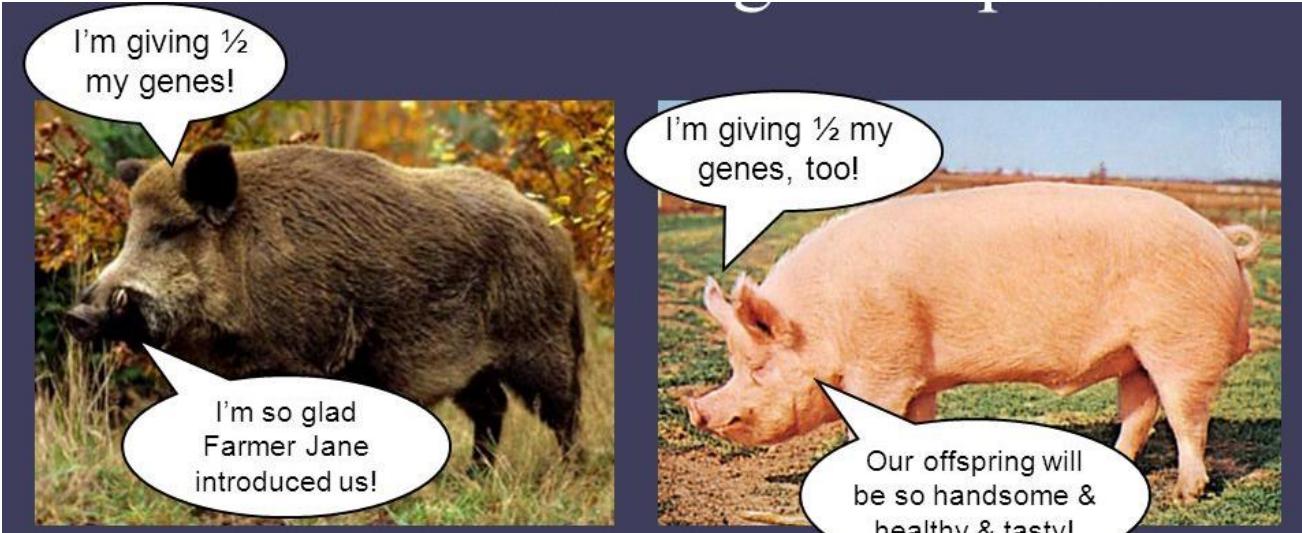


- use of root crops such as potatoes, carrots and turnips

- improvements to farm equipment



- selective breeding of livestock



Tough wild boars mated with friendly meaty pigs give you robust & meaty pigs for your farm.

- ↑ 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

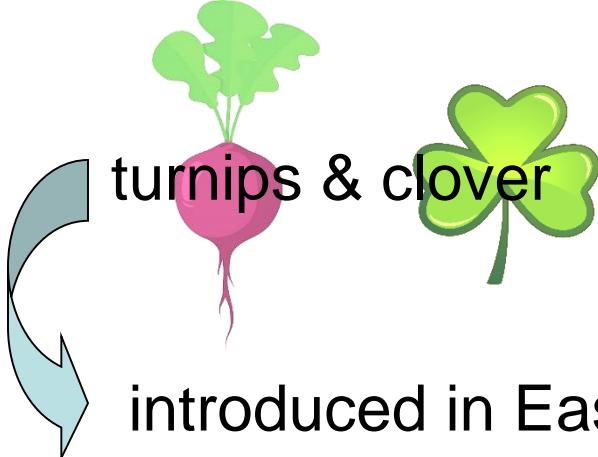


- e.g.:
  - used turnips as fodder
  - used clover as new breed of grass



∴ helped overcome shortage of

- fertilisers
- animal manure



turnips & clover

→ could be stored for winter feed

introduced in East Anglia

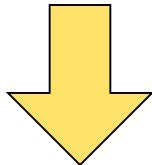


- turned areas of heath & chalk into land suitable for grain
- from 1670: England became grain exporter

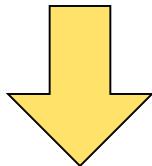


# Specialised farming

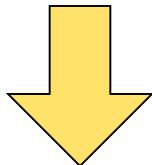
growth of urban employment



∴ less farm labour



∴ needed to ↑ production



∴ developed specialised farming





## - development of specialised farming:



## - 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

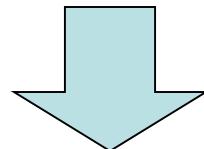
- in general:
  - the north & west (highland) → pastoral farming



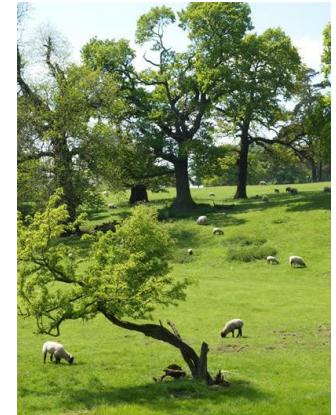
- the south & east (lowland) → arable farming



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



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





The  
End