

Abstract

This paper will survey historical trends in American agricultural structure, including the history and current status of hamlet communities and agricultural industries. We will issue under the premise that changes in the structure of agriculture will be determined by industrialization and how these technologies should be developed and adopted by American farmers.

Keywords: history, agriculture, industrialization

Industrialization of agriculture

Agriculture will persist to play a significant role in the economic development in the U.S. in the industrial era of economic liberalization and globalization. In the beginning of the 20th century, the U.S. was a rural country – about 40% of Americans were farmers and more than half of those people lived in countryside. But, then came the industrial revolution and the requirement to accumulate great numbers of people into towns to “man” the big factories and offices of a growing industrial economy. The contemporaneous industrialization of agriculture – mechanization and specialization – made it viable for fewer peasants to feed more people finer – “freeing” peasants and other country people to find job in the towns.

The changing relative size of country and urban populations is mostly the result of movement of population from rural areas to towns for occupation, educational and other occasions, and of the dislocation of people out of hamlet as a result of industrialization of agriculture. The industrial technologies that pulled farmers toward towns shoved them off the hamlets and out of country communities. These technologies helped to grow production per capita by replacing resources and common knowledge for work and personal management. When effective agricultural technologies were developed, they consistently reduced manufacture costs -- per pint or per pound of production -- but only if each farmhand produced more. So, the motive to accomplish greater benefits by reducing costs was intrinsically a motive to buy greater equipment and more commercial contributions in order to hamlet more land and produce more production. As farmers personally responded to these motives, output in total constantly expanded, market values fell, and the ability of continuing benefits vanished.

These new technologies were now obligatory – no longer for benefits but for survival.

Hamlets were forced to get greater and greater just to survive. Actually, with a restricted population to feed and a restricted number of lands to hamlet, fewer and fewer peasants in the U.S. could possibly survive. Furthermore, big specialized hamlets often had to pass over the local community in purchasing inputs and marketing their outputs in order to stay competitive with other big hamlets. That is why, local businesses lose out. With failing community businesses and hamlets, persons are leaving country regions so grocery shops, drugstores, and even schools are failing. This quandary is resulting in desolate towns. The image looks grim for the country of America according to John Elkerd's book "Rethinking the Role of Agriculture in the Future of Rural Communities". He writes: "Farm households earn about 90 percent of their incomes from something other than farming. As a nation we spend only ten percent or ten cents for every dollar, of our disposable income on farm products. Only a penny of the ten cents goes to the farmer while the other nine cents goes to marketing and input firms. Increased industrialization will only result in the farmer receiving smaller portions of that penny". (Ikerd, John. Sustainable Capitalism: A matter of Common Sense. Kumarian Press, Inc., 2005) Their opponents were not down the way or across the country, but might be half road around the world.

Nowadays, America is no longer an agrarian country. Less than 3% of Americans reckon themselves farmers and even those gains more than half of their yield off the farm. Somewhere near 25% of the people live in non-metropolitan regions – but many, if not most, travel to towns to work.. Industries are in "recession" and "outsourcing" - laying off laborers by the thousands. Population no longer has anything to obtain from later industrialization of agriculture, but it still persists. And country communities in hamlet regions persist to wither and die.

Feeling the pressure of an industrializing country, many small towns turned to industrial reinforcement – trying to become a city more than a town – as a means of survival.

Others have attempted to seize natural advantages in climate or landscapes to become places for tourists from the cities. Those close to the raising industrial places “rented their communities” as apartments for those who are ready to go to the town. Many countryside in farming regions have not been wealthy in their attempts to recover profitability – or still to survive. Most countryside has become and stays a place in search of a proposal.

The bad impacts of industrial agriculture are obvious, but many trust that it still shows the best path for agricultural development. Other people trust that industrialization has little to offer, mainly in the United States. While produce levels for cereal grains have grown since the onset of the industrial revolution, produces since the 1970's have stood steady or still fell. Although it seems like the peak of production has been reached in the United States, it is probable that advances in bio technology and genetic engineering could again make an upward trend in production. Output in the United States already surpasses use, but supporters of grown technology claim that new technology is needed to struggle food shortage worldwide.

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