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Mechanized Agriculture and The Canadian Family Farm

**Mechanized Agriculture:**

* Same as industrialized agriculture
* **Definition**: Large-scale agriculture dependent on complex technology and biotechnology rather than human power to increase production.
* results in larger farms => less human labour => More machinery
* More usage of fertilizers, insecticides, and other chemicals that maximize production
* Negatives:
	+ added expenses of purchasing the essentials
	+ consumption of more energy
	+ environmental damage (water pollution from pesticides and fertilizer runoff)
	+ Possible health risks due to genetic enhancement of seeds
* In Canada, government agencies control the financial aspect of the mechanized agriculture.
	+ For example:
		- the purchase of land
		- taxation

**The Canadian Family Farm:**

* Immigrants play a dominant role in the development of the mechanized agriculture industry.
* They bring their agricultural expertise that aids the process
* Despite the increasing dependence on technology, the true essence of Canadian farming remains the family farm as it is a strongly independent family-owned enterprise.
* Jobs on the farm are divided in terms of gender.
	+ Men do physical jobs
		- such as operating farm equipment
	+ Women do chores and take care of the children
	+ However, women may help the men
		- driving grain trucks and picking up machine parts
	+ Children are expected to help at an early age
* Successful until the mid 1970s
* Recently, they have been facing many problems
	+ Such as rising expenses, increasing debt and fears of environmental contamination
* These obstacles cause a threat to Canadian family farms
	+ Statistics show that:
		- In 1976, Canada had 338 552 farms, in 1996 Canada had 276 548 farms