

Agriculture & Rural Land Use
Market Gardening/Truck Farming and the von Thunen Model

“A Portion of Each Crop is Eaten By the Wheels!”- von Thunen. Germany, 1820’s.

Please read the attached and answer the following (on separate paper):

Page 1:

1. Where are truck farms typically located and what do they specialize in?
2. What is the truck farms output raised for?
3. Besides the United States, where else in the world can market gardens be found?
4. What does the word truck mean?
5. Who buys MOST of the fruits and vegetables produced by truck farms?
6. Briefly explain why truck farms are considered highly efficient?
7. Briefly describe what is meant by specialty farming?

Page 2 thru 5 & 7: Access to markets and von Thunen

1. What are the two economic factors which influence the choice of crops by commercial farmers?
2. What is the significant connection of dairying to the idea that the commercial farmer needs to have proximity to the market?
3. Which two costs is the commercial farmer most concerned with?
4. Briefly explain why “distance to market” is so critical according to von Thunen?
5. According to von Thunen, what two sets of monetary value must be combined to determine the most profitable crop?
6. Briefly describe which specific crops were produced in each ring of von Thunen’s model?
7. Identify and briefly explain TWO points which support von Thunen’s assumptions and TWO points which do not support von Thunen’s assumptions noted from the reading and your associated interpretation. Please keep in mind historical context when doing this analysis. I.e. Von Thunen suggested this model 150 years ago! Also, please try to give specific examples wherever you can.

Page 6: Map – generalized agricultural regions of North America – Truck and Fruit Farming

1. By using the Goode’s Atlas and the following web site, <http://www.nass.usda.gov/research/atlas02/atlas-crops.html>, identify the crops and the associated areas that are dominant with regard to truck and fruit farming.

Finally, please respond to the following statement using pertinent examples from the reading and class discussion:

There is a significant connection that can be made between the concept of truck farming/market gardening and von Thunen’s Model. Please give examples to support your rationale.