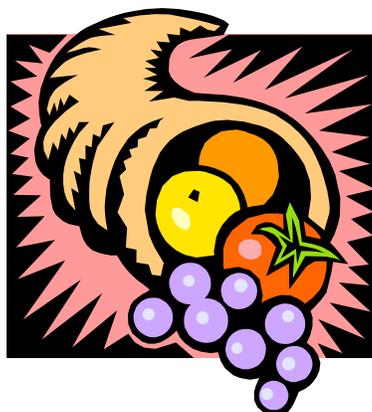


A hundred years ago, three-quarters of Canadians lived on farms and in small towns and villages in the countryside. Everyone had a brother, an uncle, or a cousin who was a farmer and, because there was no electricity or motor-driven machinery, farmers relied on the help of their families to plant the crops and bring in the harvest.

In addition, because no one had refrigerators and there were no supermarkets, many families had a big garden to produce fruits and vegetables. A lot of work around the house went into preserving and storing food from the farm and garden so that the family would have enough food for the long winter months.



If the harvest was good, there would be enough. . . pickles, jams, potatoes, cucumbers. . . to take into town and sell at the market. Everyone in the family was involved in producing food, from the farm to the table.

Today, even though one in seven people work in the agri-food sector, most of these people do different jobs. Instead of the farm family doing all the work of bringing food to the table, the production, processing, distribution and selling of food is now divided into different sectors. Even consumers (that's you!) are now given a title in the agri-food chain.

Notes:

agri-food sector: industries involved in producing, processing, and selling food products for consumers.

Source: From Farm to Table, Agriculture in the Classroom:
<<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/agriculture/top.htm>>