



## **DEFINITION OF AGRICULTURE**

In the past, definitions of agriculture have tended to serve regulatory functions and usually focused on farm production of food and fiber. Newer definitions out of Europe emphasize farming's connection to the soil and environmental implications.

In the context of regional economic development, a much broader definition could also capture farm input suppliers, food processing, and the emerging bio-economy.

Working definition:

The **Agricultural Industry** includes:

- (a) Commercial farms, ranches and other firms producing food, fiber, biomass and horticultural products from soil and water resources;
- (b) Companies that derive the majority of their gross revenues from supplying inputs and specialized services to (a); and
- (c) Companies that process, market and distribute outputs from (a) for consumer and/or industrial use.

This definition does not include:

- Forestry and paper industries (biomass)
- Private woodlots (biomass)
- Wind farms
- Horse stables
- Agri-entertainment