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Article

Efficiency of Edible Agriculture in Canada and the U.S. Over the Past Three and Four Decades

Abbe Hamilton, Stephen B. Balogh *, Adrienna Maxwell and Charles A. S. Hall

College of Environmental Science and Forestry, State University of New York,
1 Forestry Dr. Syracuse, New York, NY 13210, USA; E-Mails: avhamilt@syr.edu (A.H.);
amaxwell@syr.edu (A.M.); chall@esf.edu (C.A.S.H.)

* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed; E-Mail: sbbalogh@syr.edu;
Tel.: +1-315-744-8010; Fax: +1-315-470-6934.

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Abstract: We examine technological progress in the US and Canada to answer the question: has the efficiency (e.g., the edible energy efficiency, or EEE) for producing agricultural products in the US and Canada increased in recent decades? Specifically, we determined the energy efficiency of agriculture at the farm gate in recent decades by dividing the *outputs* (the total annual crop and animal output in energy units minus the feed used for animal production and the grain used for ethanol production) by the energy inputs: all the energy used by the nation to produce food (the energy used to generate and apply the fertilizer, pesticides, seed and to operate machinery) minus the energy inputs to produce grain for ethanol. Our data comes primarily from national and international agricultural censuses. Our study found that the energy efficiency of US agriculture has more than doubled from 0.8:1 in 1970 to 2.2:1 by 2000, then increased more slowly to 2.3:1 by 2009. The energy efficiency of the agricultural sector in Canada has not changed appreciably since 1980, and has varied about a mean of 2:1 from 1981 to 2009. Our study found that EEE improvements in the US could be attributable in part to advancements in crop production *per* hectare, and lower direct fuel consumption, but also a greater proportion of less energy-intensive corn and changes to the diet of livestock (e.g., increased use of meals and other by-products which have increased the availability of grain). Thus increases due to technological progress alone for the last several decades appear small, less than one percent a year.

Keywords: agriculture; energy; efficiency; United States; Canada; EROI

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1. Introduction

Both the US and Canada use highly industrialized agriculture and are among the World's top producers of crops. Combined they produce nearly half of the World's corn and one third of the World's wheat exports [1]. Modern agricultural practices, though very productive from a human labor standpoint, are highly dependent on fossil fuels, especially petroleum. In the years from 1900 to 1970, the shift from entirely human and animal labor to almost entirely mechanized labor changed the ratio of energy outputs to energy inputs (energy return on investment or EROI) of farming. In traditional cultures 5 to 50 kcal of food were obtained for each kcal invested; by 1970 one kcal of food was obtained for every 5–10 kcal of total energy (fossil and human labor) invested [2]. White [3] hypothesized that the development of human societies is constrained ultimately by their ability to generate surplus energy (including food). The ability to do so is a function of quality of available energy and energy transformers (technology), and over the long run it is determined by the amount of energy needed to return the next unit of energy. Societies that fail to produce an energy surplus are doomed to failure [4–6]. With the widespread introduction of fossil fuels and machinery in agriculture, the situation for modern societies has become more complex than for traditional ones, yet the same premise appears to hold: Increasing fossil fuel dependence and poor energy efficiency has ominous implications for the future success of food production, as a highly inefficient system may encounter greater problems in a future of (probably) more constrained energy than a more energetically efficient system [7]. The high demand for fossil fuels in agricultural production, combined with rising global demand, especially by developing nations, have led to increased fuel prices and have created a powerful incentive for agronomists to increase the energy efficiency of agriculture [8,9]. Thus the energy efficiency of US and Canadian agriculture is of global concern.

The industrial agricultural practices and technologies employed in the US and Canada are increasingly being applied worldwide. Currently, food production, transportation and preparation systems in the United States use about 15–20 percent of all industrial energy [10,11]. *Per capita* energy consumption for food (including all elements of the consumer food chain) increased six times faster than the rate of increase for total domestic energy consumption from 1997 to 2002 in the US [11]. It is surprising, therefore, that although the use of energy in agriculture has been thoroughly analyzed for different products, agricultural systems in other parts of the World, and in relation to climate change and farm size (see e.g., examples given in [9]), we have been able to find only a few analyses of the efficiency of North American agriculture at the national level: Steinhart and Steinhart [2] and Cleveland [12] undertook analyses of the whole food production system at the farm gate, with Steinhart and Steinhart's analysis extending to the processing and consumption aspects of the food system. Canning *et al.* [11] performed a meta-analysis of the energy intensity of the U.S. agricultural system from production to household consumption. Oltjen and Beckett [13] used the term "humanly edible energy" to describe the energy pertinent to human nutrition as opposed to inedible animal feed. They go on to calculate the "humanly edible energy efficiency" of livestock which compares the edible energy of animal feed with the edible content of the resulting animal product, although their analysis differs from the focus of this paper. Several studies of agricultural energy efficiency exist for developing nations. Cao *et al.* [14] found that the energy ratio for agriculture in China decreased 25% from 2:1 in 1978 to 1.5 in 2004, due to increases in fossil fuel use outpacing increased food production. Karkacier *et al.* [15], however, found a positive relation between increasing energy consumption and agricultural output in Turkey, with each additional ton of oil equivalent increasing agricultural output by 0.167 units. Other edible EROI studies have been conducted on national and international levels for specific crops such as rice. Pracha and Volk [16] performed an analysis of the edible energy return on investment for Pakistani rice and wheat from 1999 to 2009. The authors found that the average EROI was 2.9:1 for the edible portion of wheat and 3.9:1 for rice. Mushtaq *et al.* [17] calculated energy ratios (EROI) for rice for eight nations, and found that the EROI varied from 4:1 to 11:1 (including the embodied energy in straw), and from 1.6:1 to 5:1 when including only the edible portion.

Many neoclassical economists, other technology supporters and some empiricists [18–20] argue that technological advancements will allow indefinite growth in agricultural productivity. They postulate that new technology [such as Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) or better irrigation systems] will make crop production yields higher and also more efficient. Most economists believe that market incentives such as higher fuel prices should generate greater energy efficiency in agriculture through technical and managerial changes [12,21]. These changes could include reducing land in cultivation (hence increasing average quality used), increasing farm size, and reducing rates of energy use through technological improvements. Cleveland [12] concluded that US agriculture made a “significant increase in energy productivity” from 1978 to 1990 as a response to higher fuel prices through technical and managerial changes, however by 1990, US agricultural energy efficiency had returned to energy efficiencies obtained in 1950.

Global energy resources face an uncertain future in our post-peak oil age [22]. Real crude oil prices have increased at least four-fold in recent decades [23]. As we wait on the brink of what is likely a very large change in how humans obtain and use energy, we regard the uncertain future and price hikes as a powerful but possibly insufficient incentive for increasing energy efficiency. We believe it important to determine the energy efficiency of agriculture using an energetic analysis rather than a traditional economic cost-benefit analysis. Our objective was to determine whether the energy efficiency in agriculture has increased substantially in the US and Canada over the past several decades. We chose to focus on human food energy produced by agriculture instead of all energy produced by agriculture, which would include the energy implicit in inedible silage, fiber crops, animal bones and fuels. We also sought to determine the amount of energy (in joules) used by each major agricultural input and compare their individual efficiencies; determine the percentage of output present as crops, meat or feed for livestock; the influence of an increasing amount of crops grown exclusively for the production of biofuels; and compare our results of this study against the results of two extant studies of the energy efficiency in the US.

2. Methods Section

We define the boundaries to the agricultural system as all the land on farms cultivated for crops or growing livestock and the technical and industrial portions of the economy needed to support that system. We determined the energy efficiency of energy used in agricultural production in the US and Canada by dividing the food output, *i.e.*, the caloric energy of the top 15 crops (including animal products) with the highest tonnage output for each ten or five year interval produced in that year, minus the feed used for animal production, by all energy inputs *i.e.*, the energy associated with producing the major inputs of the agricultural system: fertilizer, seed, pesticides, fuel, and machinery [Equation (1)]:

$$\mathrm{EEE} = \frac{\sum \text{15 highest crops and/or animal products by weight} - \sum \text{Feed for livestock} - \sum \text{Corn for Ethanol}}{\sum \text{Energy in Fertilizer, Seed, Pesticides, Fuel, R\&D, Embodied energy in machinery} - \text{Energy used to grow ethanol grains}} \quad (1)$$

This is a variation of the EROI equation used in fuel energy analysis which states that the energy return on investment (the energy efficiency, and in this case the Edible Energy Efficiency, or EEE), is expressed as the ratio of the outputs compared to the inputs of a system [7]. We used only the top 15 crops and animal products, not the entire crop and animal production for that year—however these 15 products on average make up 95% of total production by weight and >95% in terms of energy content. Our analysis ends at the farm gate. Although much of the food produced in the US and Canada is exported and lost to processing, such considerations are beyond the scope of our study. We sought only to understand how much energy was used to make potentially edible food. An increasing percentage of the US corn crop since 2000 has been diverted from the food stream into ethanol production. In Canada, ethanol production includes both corn and wheat feedstocks, however, significant production from domestic feedstock did not begin until after 2009 [24]. While this corn (and wheat) is potentially edible, since it is not consumed by humans or domesticated animals we excluded it from the EEE calculations. Thus we must subtract also the energy inputs used to produce the grain for use in ethanol production. To determine the energy inputs for the corn crop, we multiplied the bushels of corn used in ethanol production [25] by an energy intensity factor derived from Hall, Pimentel and Dale [26]. We performed a sensitivity analysis to determine how including the corn (and wheat) used for ethanol in the energy output (numerator) and including the energy cost to grow that grain (in the denominator) might change the EEE in the US and Canada.

2.1. Energy Outputs

We determined the output of agriculture by converting the annual yield of a country's pertinent crops in tons to its caloric energy equivalent. Because the crops were weighed in their rawest, least processed forms, we converted the weights to energy using the USDA calorie conversion data for the most unprocessed forms of the food crop [27].

To avoid double counting of both animal products and the grain that fed them, we subtract the grain fed to livestock from total crop outputs. The USDA published feed crop production and consumption by livestock from 1976 through 2010 [28]. Since similar data has not been published in Canada, we derive the ratio of kcal of feed grain to kcal of meat output from the US data for the year of interest.

We then multiply the kcal of edible animal product output in Canada by this ratio to estimate the feed grain demand from Canadian livestock. The total feed crops consumed by livestock are then subtracted from the Canadian total crop output. All conversion factors and calculations for the feed subtraction and crop production can be found in the appendices. The ratio of food energy to meat energy varies from 6:1 in 1970 to 3.6:1 by 2010. It's important to note that the remaining food energy demand from livestock is met through pasturing, grasses, food meals as byproducts of food processing (e.g., soybean meal), silage and other feed not directly consumable by humans.

2.2. Energy Inputs

We used a combination of physical energy measures and monetary quantities from government databases in the US and Canada to calculate all the energy inputs into the agricultural production system. We used physical quantities when they were available (for roughly 85% of inputs) and converted monetary values to approximate energy values when physical data was unavailable (see appendices for details). We summed the energies embodied in or required to produce the following agricultural inputs: fertilizer, fuels, pesticides, seeds, research and development, and machinery. Country specific methodology and data sources are included in Sections 2.3 and 2.4.

2.3. Data Sources and Specific Methods for the United States

We assessed the energy efficiency US agricultural production every ten years from 1970 to 2010 because much of the information needed to calculate EEE was collected only in ten year increments. We converted crop production [1,27] and livestock feed [28] into kcal and then petajoules (1 PJ = 10^{15} J). We also converted physical quantities of inputs: fuels [29,30], pesticides [31–34] and fertilizer [35,36] to PJ using published estimates of embodied energy. Where physical quantities were not available, e.g., seed expenditures [37,38], research and development expenses [39], and machinery [40–44], we converted monetary quantities to PJ of energy. These categories never summed to more than 26% of the total energy used in the inputs. The conversion methodology we used for these variables were summarized in Hall *et al.* [26,45]. Briefly, we multiply the amount spent (in nominal dollars) on an agricultural input, e.g., seeds, by the energy intensity of the economy (total primary energy consumption divided by the GDP in nominal dollars) for that year. For the US, we define the "machinery" category as the energy used to construct and maintain tractors and other farm equipment such as trucks, and harvesters. This does not include the fuels used by these machines (gasoline, diesel, LP gas, natural gas and electricity), which are categorized separately. The literature provided varying estimates of the embodied energy consumed in the production of fertilizers and pesticides and we do not know which is correct, so for these categories of energy inputs we gathered a low and high estimate and calculated an average estimate. This uncertainty is reflected in the ranges of EEE (Figure 1) and in our tallies of energy inputs (Table 1), but all other graphs and data use the average estimates for these two inputs for sake of simplicity. This range of values provides a degree of uncertainty to our final energy efficiency estimates but fertilizer and pesticide inputs play a relatively small role in the analyses in which we use the calculated average that we believe the validity of our calculations is not compromised.

Figure 1. Edible energy efficiency (EEE) for the United States from 1970 to 2010. The vertical bars represent uncertainty in estimates of the energy intensity of fertilizer and pesticides.

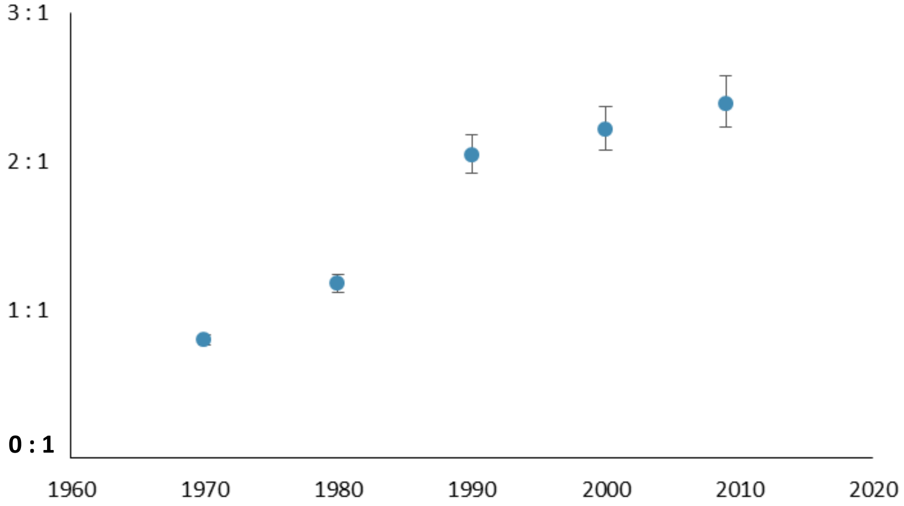


Table 1. Outputs and inputs of US agriculture in energy units (Petajoules).

Inputs/Outputs	**Year**	**1970**	**1980**	**1990**	**2000**	**2010**
Agricultural Outputs Edible Crop Production	Crop production[a]	3939	5533	6388	7447	8542
	Grains	*2484*	*3920*	*4582*	*5014*	*6264*
	Non-grain veg.	*1100*	*1226*	*1370*	*1892*	*1709*
	Meat products	*355*	*387*	*435*	*541*	*602*
	Livestock feed[a]	2078	2236	2078	2426	2171
	Ethanol feedstock	-	14	136	245	1788
	Edible energy output *	1861	3206	4091	4649	4449
Agricultural Inputs High estimates (low estimates in parentheses)	Machinery [b]	363	521	233	136	141
	Fuel[a]	1297	1382	1009	1152	1172
	Seeds [b]	64	95	69	79	117
	R&D [b]	69	83	84	82	81
	Pesticides [a] (low)	149 (127)	110 (101)	93 (86)	99 (90)	93 (85)
	Fertilizers [a] (low)	508 (317)	755 (479)	715 (461)	778 (506)	775 (506)
	Minus the energy cost of growing corn for ethanol	-	3	25	41	328
	Total Inputs* (low)	2450 (2237)	2943 (2661)	2178 (1917)	2285 (2004)	2051 (1773)

Notes: [a] Derived from physical units; [b] Derived from economic units; * Due to rounding, some totals may not add up perfectly.

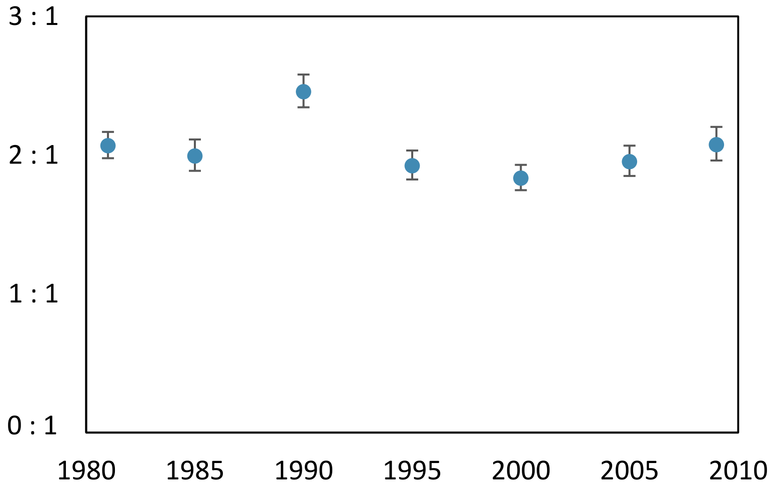
2.4. Data Sources and Specific Methods for Canada

Canadian data was available only for 1981 and later, but in consistent five year intervals, so we took advantage of its availability and calculate Canadian agricultural energy efficiency in approximately five year intervals over that time period. We converted physical measures of crop production [1,27] and livestock feed [17] into kcal and then PJ. We converted physical quantities of fertilizer [36,46,47] and, where available, pesticides [33,48,49] to PJ. Detailed calculations for all categories are included in the appendices. Statistics Canada published the amount overall of primary and secondary energy consumed on farms from 1981 to 2001 [50]. When necessary, we converted monetary expenditures to energy for: seed [49] and machinery (repairs and other) [49]. To do so, we used the used the methods outlined above for converting US dollars to energy, but calculated the Canadian energy inputs using the energy intensity of the Canadian economy for that year [51,52]. Data on agricultural research and development was unavailable prior to 2000, and so we extrapolated the spending trend from 2000 to 2010 back to 1981 [53].

3. Results and Discussion

Our results find that agricultural energy efficiency (EEROI) more than doubled in the US from 1970 to 1990, from 0.8:1 to 2.0:1, then increased more slowly to 2.3:1 by 2009 for a total increase of 2.6 fold (Figure 1). No clear trend exists for Canada, energy efficiency increases in some years while in others it declines. The EEE for Canadian agriculture varies about the mean of 2.0:1 from 1981 to 2009 (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Edible energy efficiency (EEE) for Canada from 1981 to 2009. The vertical bars represent uncertainty in estimates of the energy intensity of fertilizer and pesticides.



Gross agricultural production in the US increased 113% from 3939 PJ in 1970 to 8426 PJ in 2009. After accounting for animal feed and ethanol feedstock, the net output increased by 140% over this period, perhaps reflecting a lower edible grain requirement for livestock (perhaps due to the replacement of whole grains by by-products such as soybean meal and distillers dry grains [25,28]). Total energetic inputs decreased slightly over this period: from 2450 PJ in 1970 to 2050 PJ in 2009 (Table 1; high estimates). Average yields for grain crops increased rapidly over this period. Corn e.g., increased from 72.4 bushels $\times \text{acre}^{-1} \times \text{yr}^{-1}$ (28.1 GJ $\times \text{acre}^{-1} \times \text{yr}^{-1}$) in 1970 to 164 bushels $\times \text{acre}^{-1} \times \text{yr}^{-1}$ (59.3 GJ $\times \text{acre}^{-1} \times \text{yr}^{-1}$). Gross agricultural output in Canada grew by 25% from 1981 to 2009; or 24% when excluding feed for livestock and ethanol feedstock (Table 2). Canada's energy inputs increased by 25% also, driven by increases in fuel and fertilizer inputs (Table 2).

Table 2. Outputs and inputs of Canadian agriculture in petajoules.

Inputs/Outputs	**Year**	**1981**	**1985**	**1990**	**1995**	**2000**	**2005**	**2009**
Agricultural Outputs Edible Crop Production	Crop production [a]	855	842	973	940	978	1037	1067
	Livestock Feed [a]	247	268	217	269	301	305	270
	Ethanol feedstock	-	-	-	-	-	-	43
	Edible energy output	608	574	756	671	676	732	754
Agricultural Inputs High estimates (low estimates in parentheses)	Machinery [b]	30	27	26	28	24	23	20
	Fuel [a]	188	170	195	209	232	226	210
	Seeds [b]	9	9	9	10	11	12	13
	Fertilizer [a] (low)	71 (44)	88 (56)	81 (52)	107 (70)	105 (70)	120 (79)	126 (84)
	Pesticides [a] (low)	2 (1)	2 (1)	2 (1)	2 (2)	3 (2)	3 (2)	4 (3)
	R&D [b]	8	9	10	10	11	12	13
	Minus the energy cost of growing corn for ethanol	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
	Total Inputs (low)	307 (280)	304 (272)	322 (293)	368 (330)	387 (350)	396 (354)	385 (342)

Notes: [a] Derived from physical units; [b] Derived from economic units; *Due to rounding, some totals may not add up perfectly.

3.1. Comparison of Trends in Canadian and US Energy Efficiency

The EEE of US agriculture has increased over the last four decades while that for Canadian agriculture has not. Why? The normal assumption is that technology and/or free markets has generated progress for increasing efficiency. Does that mean that US investigators or markets are better than those for Canada? This may be true. An alternative hypothesis is that the US is increasingly growing energy-efficient grain (maize) compared with non-grain vegetables and animal products. This ratio has changed from 63% grain (by energy content) in 1970 to 73% grain in 2009. If we keep the proportion of grains at 63% and subtract both the increase (as %) of grain and the energy required to grow it, then there is virtually no (0.2%/yr) increase in efficiency since 1990 (Figure 3).

Some 1.6 to 5 EJ (1600 to 5000 PJ) of total US agricultural output is corn (Figure 4). Of this an increasing proportion of output is for ethanol production, which is technically "edible" but does not enter the US food system. Our basic analysis does not include ethanol corn in the numerator or the energy to grow that grain in the denominator (Table 1). If we do include this corn as output the efficiency (defined as calories out over calories in) increases, reaching 2.8:1 by 2009 (Figure 3). While this may look as if the US agricultural system is becoming more efficient in fact what is happening is that we are producing more of an inherently more efficient product—*i.e.*, grain, which uses only half or a quarter as much energy per ton compared to the amount used if it were turned into meat or if instead vegetables were grown. This makes it difficult to determine as a whole whether US agriculture is becoming more efficient or is just producing a larger proportion of a low energy-intensive product. But since most studies show that corn-based alcohol returns at worst less energy, or at best only 10 to perhaps 60 percent more energy than what is invested into growing and distilling it is not clear that the output should be counted for anything [54–56].

Figure 3. Sensitivity Analysis of US EEE, excluding (solid line), and including (dotted line) corn feedstock for ethanol production in agricultural outputs. The dashed line indicates the EEE if the proportion of grains in the agricultural product mix is held at 1970 levels (63% of energetic output).

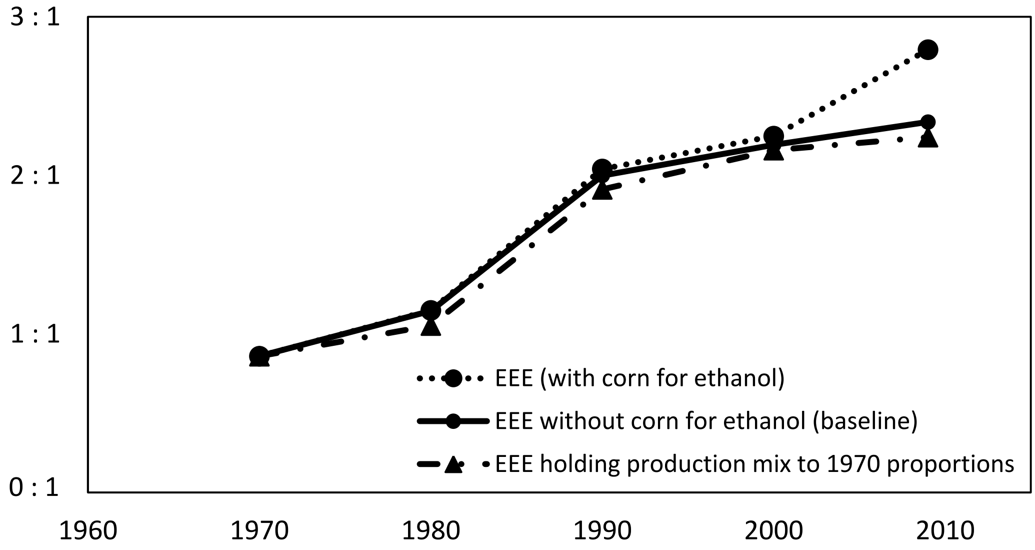
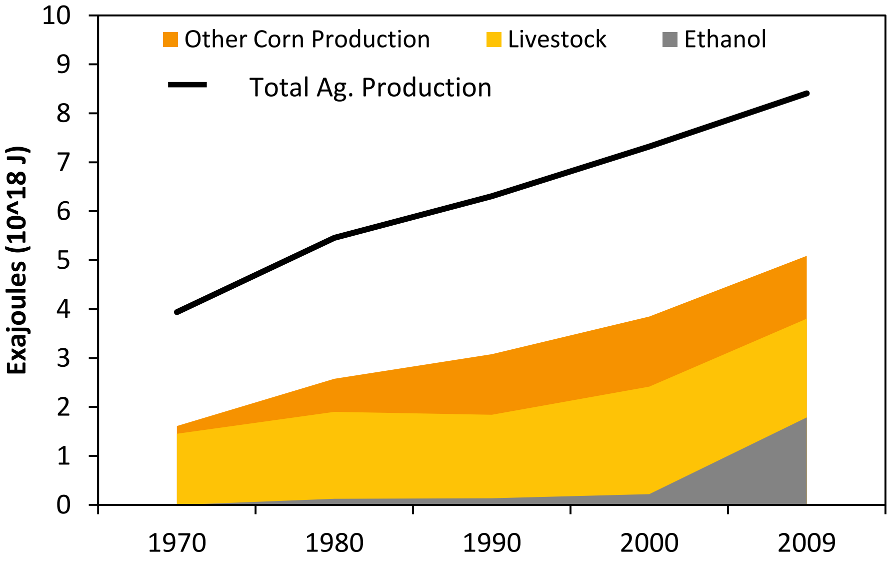


Figure 4. Stacked graph of corn (maize) production in the US in energy units, by end-use, from 1970 to 2009. Total US agricultural production in energy units indicated by the black line.



An interpretation of the energy efficiency (EEE) of individual agricultural inputs over time is provided in Figures 5 and 6. The reasons for the variations in EEE over time can be attributed to various inputs by undertaking an input-by-input breakdown. For example, fuel was and continues to be the largest energy input into the agricultural systems in the US and Canada. Purchases of farm equipment and other machinery increased briefly after the energy crisis of the 1970s (as reflected in the high 1980 data point) and newer machines were larger and more fuel efficient while most switched from gasoline to diesel fuel which led to improved fuel efficiency [11,12] (Figure 5). Despite improvements in energy efficiency, direct fuel consumption and fertilizer use continue to comprise approximately 75%–80% of all energy inputs. Fuel efficiency improved remarkably between 1970 and 1990 in the US, while fuel consumption in Canada increased from 1981 to 2000 implying no such increase in efficiency.

Figure 5. Estimates of energy consumption in US agricultural production inputs by year and sector, 1970 to 2009. High estimates for energy in pesticides and fertilizers are used.

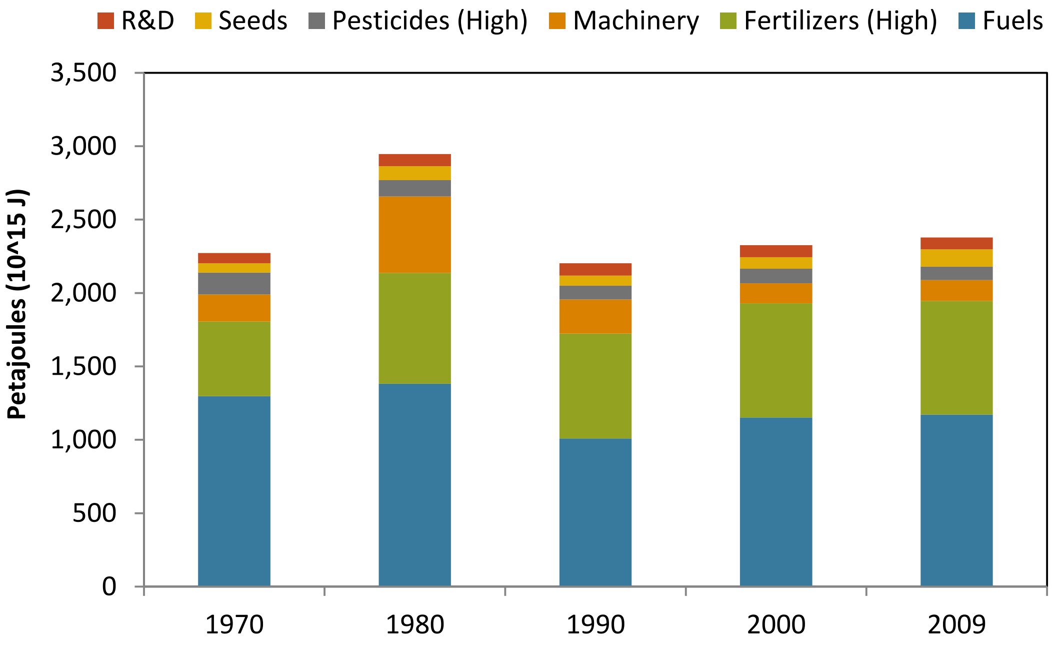
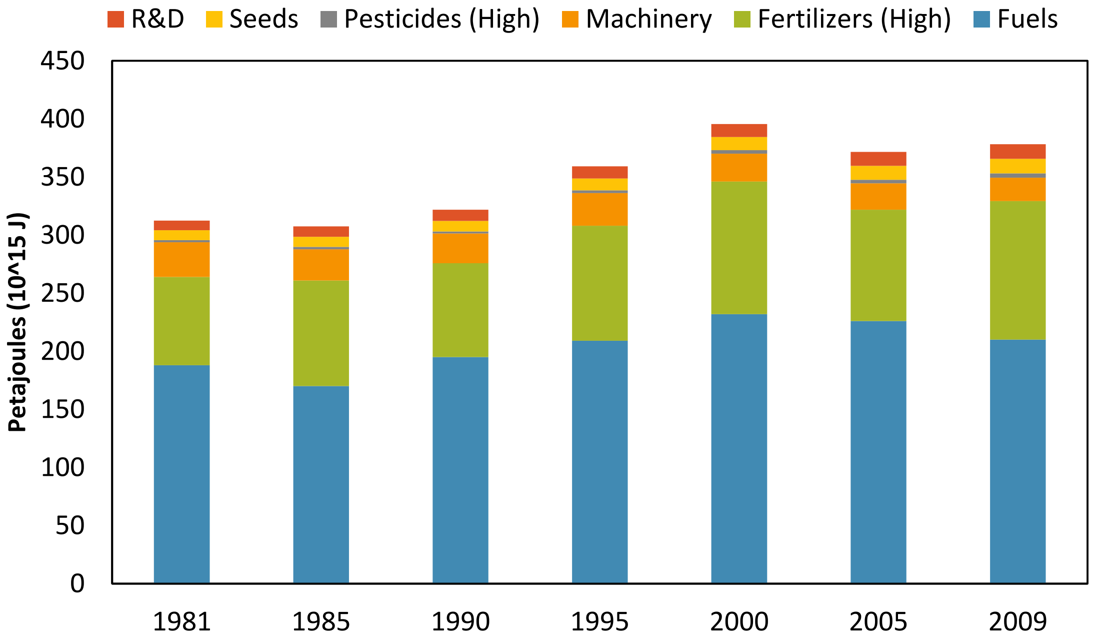
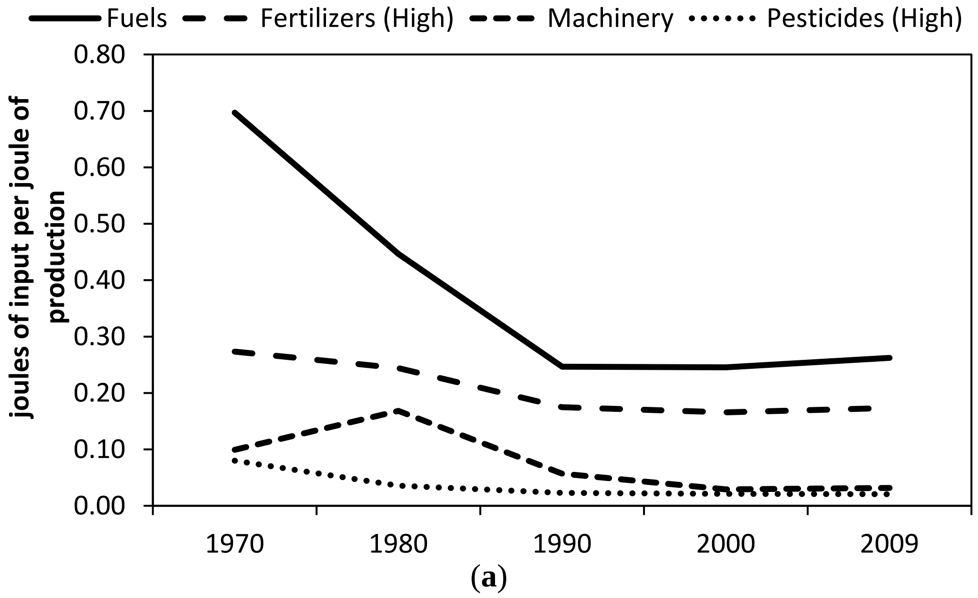


Figure 6. Estimates of energy consumption in Canadian agricultural production inputs by year and sector, 1981 to 2009. High estimates for energy in pesticides and fertilizers are used.

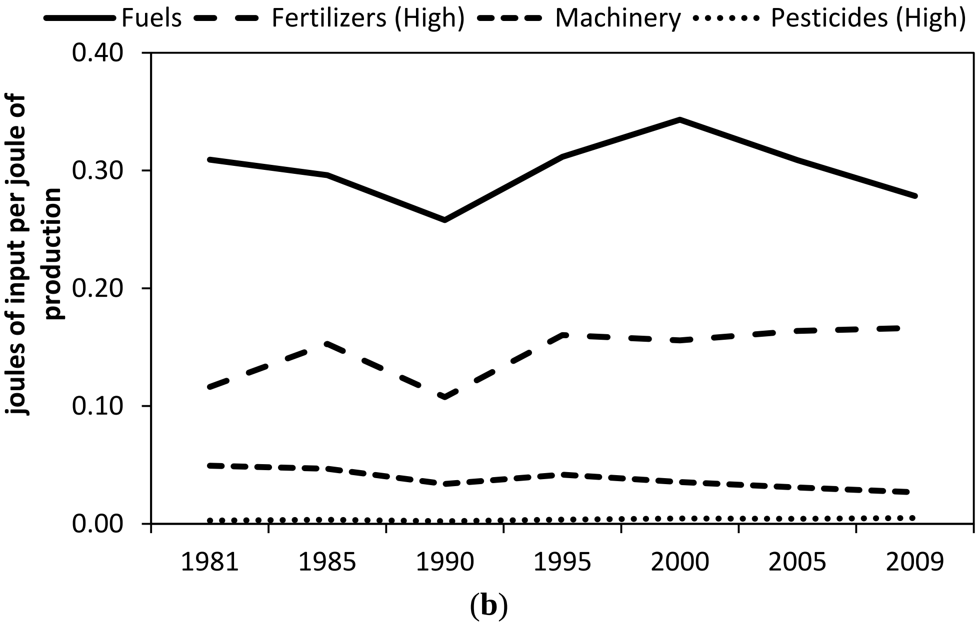


Our results indicate that fuel consumption per unit of output has decreased by more than half for the US since the 1970s to 0.26 per unit, while it has remained near 0.3 units per unit output in Canada (Figure 7a,b). The Canadian agricultural system required increased energy inputs for pesticides and seeds since 1981, though these make up only a small portion of total energy inputs. Fertilizer consumption per unit of output has increased in Canada, while decreasing in the US.

Figure 7. Relation of several energy inputs per unit of edible food output in (**a**) US and (**b**) Canadian agriculture.



(**a**)



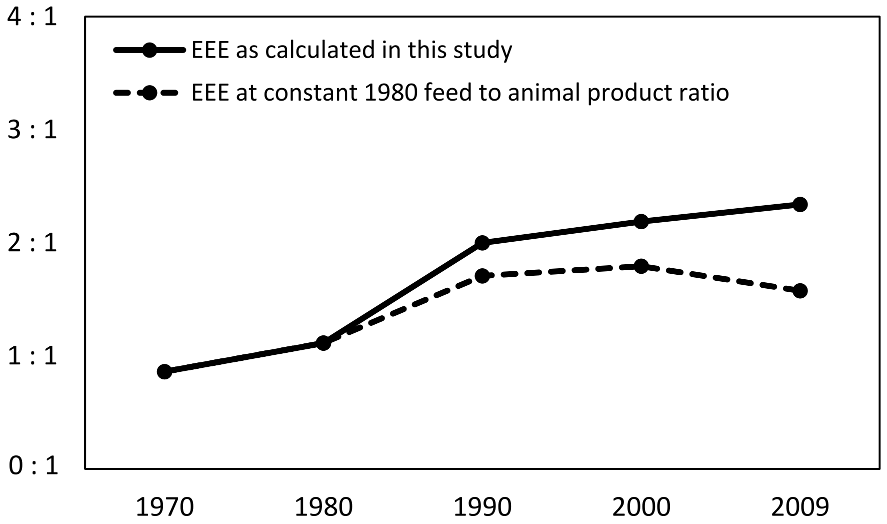
(**b**)

3.2. Sensitivity Analysis of the Significance of Animal Production

The amount of grain required to feed livestock is a significant factor in determining a nation's EEE, that is, the food energy returned per energy invested, or (edible) EROI. Environmental scientists and other environmental advocates have suggested that reducing the consumption of animal products (meat and dairy) and instead consuming grain directly as part of a vegetarian diet would increase greatly the energy efficiency of US or Canadian agriculture and result in decreased energy consumption and carbon emissions [57,58]. To test this assumption, we calculate the EEE for the US and Canada, assuming that all output is consumed in its grain or vegetable form, and not fed to animals. Doing so suggests that the EEE for US agriculture would increase from 0.8:1 to 1.7:1 in 1970 and from 2.3:1 to 3.5:1 in 2010. For Canada the improvements in EEE are less substantial—an increase of about 40% in both 1981 and in 2009. The difference between animal-inclusive and exclusive efficiencies is a result of the large amounts of grain needed to produce an energetically smaller amount of product.

The US has reduced the amount of grain fed directly to livestock since 1980, while increasing output. This has been a force contributing to a higher EEE for the US. It appears that this is mainly because farmers have been able to substitute byproducts from the food industry and ethanol production for grain. We performed a sensitivity analysis to determine the additional grain needed to feed livestock if the feed to meat product ratio from 1980 were held constant through 2010. Doing so reduces EEE over the past three decades, especially after 2000 (Figure 8). Thus one can say that apparently much of the improvement in the efficiency of US agriculture appears due to recycling byproducts (or conceivably using more pasture).

Figure 8. Results of projected scenario examining the effects of holding the grain to meat product ratio constant on US EEE.



3.3. Discussion of Data Constraints and Other Limitations in Our Research

Converting input expenditure data (in dollars) to energy content (in joules) allowed us to estimate the energy costs for those variables which we do not have data in physical units. We used the energy intensity of the entire economy for the year of interest to estimate the energy investment per US or Canadian dollar spent on various agricultural inputs. However, doing so introduces uncertainty. The actual energy required to produce $1,000 of seed or for $1,000 worth of R&D may differ.

3.4. Comparison with Previous Studies

There were two earlier studies of agricultural energetic efficiency in the US, one conducted by Carol and John Steinhart in 1974 [2] and one conducted by Cutler Cleveland in 1995 [12]. Although the methodologies differ slightly among these studies and our own, we are able to compare the energy efficiency calculations and analyze the differences between their studies and ours. Inputs included in the Steinharts' [2] study were: direct fuel and electricity use, energy used to create fertilizer, agricultural steel and farm machinery and to run irrigation systems. Steinhart and Steinhart's analysis covered the energy use in the entire US food system, using physical data from governmental sources, from field to plate (but including farm gate), from 1940 to 1970. Outputs in the Steinhart and Steinhart study were based on the caloric requirements of the US population rather than using actual crop production data and also excluded US food production exports. Steinhart and Steinhart calculated agricultural efficiency in terms of caloric output versus caloric input and concluded that US agricultural energy efficiency declined from 1940 through 1970 to the point where it was getting less than a return of one energy unit of food for one energy unit of fuel, even at the farm gate (and less than one unit of food for three units of fuel at the plate).

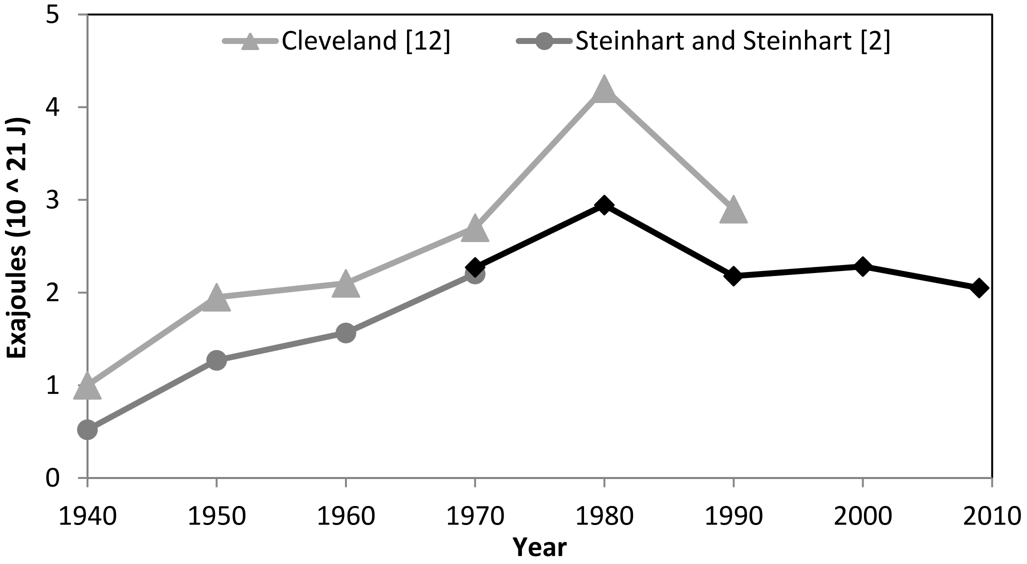
We compared Steinhart and Steinhart's input data with ours using only their farm gate input subtotals instead of their grand total of farm inputs (Table 3, Figure 9). EEE was harder to compare: Their study calculated energy efficiency after factoring in the energy to produce, transport, process, and prepare foods and considered food waste. Their estimates for food production were also based upon dietary needs instead of production data [2]. Thus in order to compare our energy efficiency data to theirs we had to account for a processing and spoilage factor of 27% from our outputs [59]. The exclusion of food production exports in [2] artificially reduced EEE estimates as well.

Table 3. Comparison of calculated US edible energy efficiency (EEE) at the farm gate. This study's estimates use a mean of the literature values for fertilizer and pesticide energy intensities.

Year	**1940**	**1950**	**1960**	**1970**	**1980**	**1990**
This study	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.9	1.1	2.0
EEE of this study after accounting for 27% waste and processing losses	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.6	0.8	1.5
Steinhart EEE	4.36	1.19	0.89	0.45	n/a	n/a

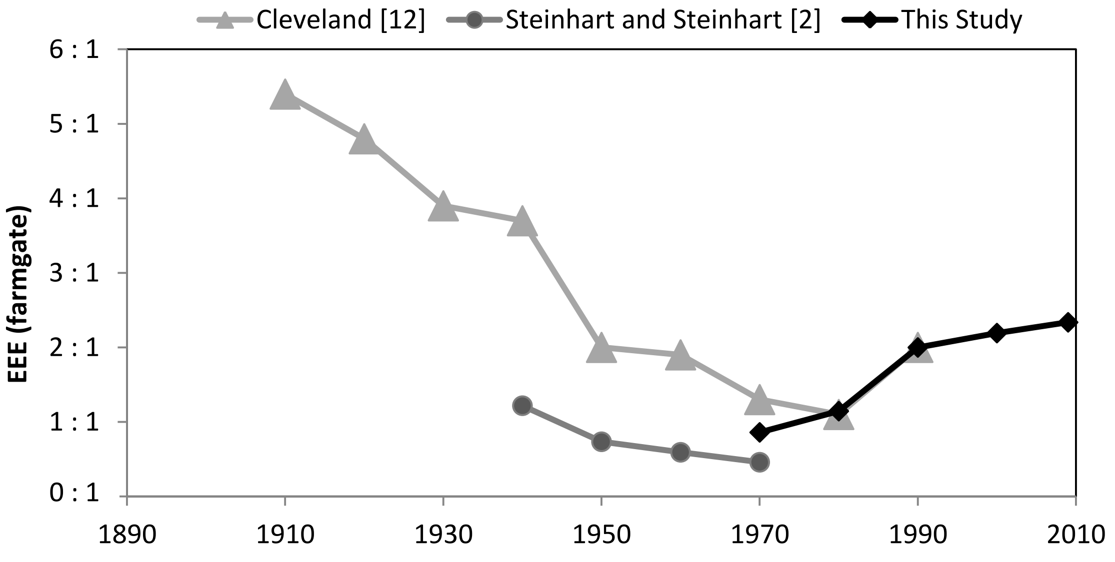
Cleveland's [12] methodology differs from our study and that of Steinhart and Steinhart [2] because Cleveland derived energy inputs and outputs solely from economic data and thus was able to make calculations as far back as 1910. The author derived the energy content of agricultural inputs by converting the dollar value of fossil fuel and electricity consumption, and other farm input expenditures (including pesticides, fertilizers, machinery, energy used to generate electricity, and agricultural services) to physical units at extant prices, and then to energy using a dollar to energy conversion factor for the embodied energy in fuels, or for indirect energy, using energy intensities derived by the energy research group at the University of Illinois [60,61]. Cleveland calculated agricultural output using two data sources: first, the USDA index of total agricultural output, which includes dollar estimates of production of crops, fruits and vegetables, and animal products; and secondly the Gross Farm Product, which is the value added in the farm sector in dollars. Cleveland's outlying 1980 point in Figure 9 may have to do with high inflation. Cleveland calculated the energy input and energy efficiency of US agriculture at the farm gate from 1900 to 1990 and concluded that energy inputs were shrinking due to improvements in fuel efficiency, conservative irrigation and chemical applications, and other technical improvements.

Figure 9. Comparison of total energy input to US agriculture at the farm gate as calculated by this study, Steinhart & Steinhart [2], and Cleveland [12].



The only year in which all three datasets overlapped was 1970. Our energy input value is more consistent with Steinhart and Steinhart's estimates; and less than Cleveland's, however our estimates of EEE are closer to Cleveland's estimates, which may reflect the greater importance of including food exports, or at least real production data, in the calculation of total agricultural production **(**Figures 9 and 10).

Figure 10. Comparison of edible energy efficiency (output/input) at the farm gate between this study, Steinhart & Steinhart [2], and Cleveland [12].



The difference between our calculated EEE values and those by the other authors may be due to differences in the inputs considered for the analysis, and the fact that we used a mix of physical and monetary energy inputs. Steinhart and Steinhart used purely energetic inputs while Cleveland used purely monetary inputs multiplied by a dollar to energy conversion factor described above.

Overall, all of these results seem similar (Figure 10) given the different methodologies utilized and the difference in the value of variables accounted for in each study. The clear long term trend for US EEE is a general decline until 1970 which almost certainly reflects the general increase in use of industrial inputs to US agriculture, for example the use of tractors instead of mules and commercial fertilizer *vs.* manure, and then a smaller increase in energy efficiency from 1970 through the present day. One conclusion is that since 1950 it has taken roughly one unit of fossil energy to generate two average units of food energy at the farm gate in both the US and Canada **(**Figures 2 and 10).

4. Conclusions

Despite millions of dollars spent on research and development and improving yields from the use of fertilizers, pesticides, and genetically modified crops, there does not appear to be a clear trend towards increasing edible energy efficiency of agricultural production in Canada or the United States in the past two decades other than that which can be attributable to growing intrinsically more efficient crops or using plant wastes more effectively. The US EEE increased from 1970 to 1990 but the magnitude of more recent increases has been much smaller. Canadian EEE has varied about a mean, and demonstrates no clear trend. Crop production is continuing to increase in both countries, while the inputs required for this level of crop production—machinery and fuel, pesticides, fertilizers, seeds—have decreased slowly in the US, but increased in Canada. The EEE in the US appears to be sensitive to the decrease in the amount of grains dedicated to feeding livestock. In the US, the EEE and efficiency of converting grain to animal products appear to be especially sensitive to the increasing amount of grain used to produce ethanol and the ability of animal product producers to incorporate the by-products of ethanol in animal feeds. There is little efficiency gain if these two factors are subtracted out.

Although the efficiency of US (and less clearly Canadian) agriculture appears to be increasing, agricultural production in both countries remains very energy intensive (especially in terms of oil and gas), using roughly two to four percent of all US energy, and three to six percent of petroleum. It then takes roughly three to four times this amount, again mostly oil and gas, to deliver the food to the consumer's plate [62]. But the rate of production of petroleum no longer increases as it once did and is likely to decrease in future decades [22]. Given that the human population is very high and still growing, and that growing the food for these people is very energy-intensive, the future for food production globally is something to be concerned about. Since the energy-intensive processes of the US and Canada have been spreading throughout the world this is especially of concern in many poorer countries where the cost of food is a much greater portion of total income. Fortunately both the United States and Canada appear to have considerable ability to alter the amount of edible food they produce, because only a relatively small portion of food production is eaten directly. This may not continue to be the case if we are called upon increasingly to feed the rest of the world if and as global petroleum production decreases, as it inevitably will. From our perspective this is one of many important reasons to talk more about global population growth and its relation to resource availability, something that seems to have nearly disappeared from our scientific and political discussions.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Appendices

Appendix A: Conversion Process from Original Data to Energetic Data for All Input Factors (US)

Energy Intensity [63]

To calculate the energy consumed per dollar of US spending, we derive the energy intensity of the economy using nominal dollars. We divide the primary energy consumption in BTU (British thermal unit) by nominal dollars of GDP, and then convert to megajoules (MJ, $\times 10^6$ joules).

Table A1. Dollar to energy conversion factors for years of interest in US.

Year	Energy Consumption (Billion Btu)	Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (Billion Nominal Dollars)	Nominal Intensity (BTU/nominal$)	MJ/nominal$
1970	67,838,325	1,038.30	65,336	68.9
1980	78,066,681	2,788.10	28,000	29.5
1990	84,485,125	5,800.50	14,565	15.4
2000	98,814,459	9,951.50	9,930	10.5
2009	94,559,407	13,939.00	6,784	7.2

Source: [63].

Implements and Machinery [40–44]

Sample calculation used to estimate the energy (PJ) in US farm implements and machinery for year 1970 (given in monetary units):

<u>Implements and Machinery:</u>

Original data: $2.39 billion (1970 USD)
Energy intensity per 1970 nominal dollar: 68.9 MJ/$
$2.39 billion $\times$ 68.9 (MJ/1970 USD) = 1.65 $\times 10^{11}$ MJ $\times$ 1 PJ/1,000,000,000 MJ = 165 PJ

<u>Auto/Truck/Tractor:</u>

$287 million (1970 USD) $\times$ 68.9 MJ/$ = 1.98 $\times 10^{10}$ MJ $\times$ 1 PJ/1,000,000,000 MJ = 20 PJ
165 PJ + 20 PJ = 185 PJ

Table A2. Embodied energy in farm machinery for US.

Year	**Implements and Machinery Value ($Millions)**	**Energy intensity of economy (MJ/$)**	**MJ**	**PJ**	**Automobile/ truck/tractor expenditures ($ Millions)**	**Energy intensity of economy (MJ/$)**	**MJ**	**PJ**	**Total**
1970	2,390	68.9	1.65×10^{11}	165	2870	68.9	1.98×10^{10}	198	363
1980	11,000	29.5	3.25×10^{11}	325	6,622	29.5	1.96×10^{11}	196	521
1990	10,426	15.4	1.60×10^{11}	160	4,704	15.4	7.23×10^{10}	72	233
2000	3,600	10.5	3.77×10^{10}	38	9,400	10.5	9.85×10^{10}	98	136
2010	5,000	7.2	3.58×10^{10}	36	14,700	7.2	1.05×10^{11}	105	141

Sources: [40–44].

Fuels [29,30]

Sample calculation to determine the energy (PJ) in US agriculturally-used fuels for 1970:

Original data: 1230 trillion BTU of gasoline, diesel, LP gas, natural gas and electricity consumed
Conversion factor: 1 trillion BTU/1.055 PJ
1230 (trillion BTU) × 1.055 (PJ/trillion BTU) = 1297 PJ

Table A3. Energy in on-farm fuel use for US.

Year	**Combined fuel use (Trillion Btu) for gasoline diesel LP gas Natural gas and electricity**	**PJ**
1970	1230	1297
1980	1310	1382
1990	957	1009
2000	1092	1152
2010	1111	1172

Source: [29,30].

Pesticides [31–34]

High and low estimates of the embodied energy per unit mass of pesticide:

Table A4. Energy in active ingredients (a.i.) of pesticides.

Pesticide Type	**High [33]**		**Low [34]**
	Mcal/kg a.i.	MJ/kg a.i.	MJ/kg a.i.
Insecticides	51.0	213	185
Herbicides	62.1	260	255
Fungicides	37.4	157	97
Others	50.2	210	179

Insecticides:

Table A5. Energy (range) in insecticides used in the US.

Year	Million pounds of Insecticides [32]	In kilograms	MJ (high)	MJ (low)	Insecticides high (PJ)	Insecticides low(PJ)
1980	163.0	7.4×10^7	1.6×10^{10}	1.4×10^{10}	16	14
1990	82.0	3.7×10^7	7.9×10^9	6.9×10^9	8	7
2000	90.0	4.1×10^7	8.7×10^9	7.6×10^9	9	8
2010	65.0	2.9×10^7	6.3×10^9	5.5×10^9	6	5

Herbicides:

Table A6. Energy (range) in herbicides used in the US.

Year	Million pounds of herbicides [32]	In kilograms	MJ (high)	MJ (low)	Herbicides high (PJ)	Herbicides low (PJ)
1980	504.0	2.3×10^8	5.9×10^{10}	5.8×10^{10}	59	58
1990	455.0	2.1×10^8	5.4×10^{10}	5.3×10^{10}	54	53
2000	432.0	2.0×10^8	5.1×10^{10}	5.0×10^{10}	51	50
2010	442.0	2.0×10^8	5.2×10^{10}	5.1×10^{10}	52	51

Fungicides:

Table A7. Energy (range) in fungicides used in the US.

Year	Million pounds of fungicides [32]	In kilograms	MJ (high)	MJ (low)	Fungicides high (PJ)	Fungicides low (PJ)
1980	59.0	2.7×10^7	4.2×10^9	2.6×10^9	4	3
1990	50.0	2.3×10^7	3.6×10^9	2.2×10^9	4	2
2000	44.0	2.0×10^7	3.1×10^9	1.9×10^9	3	2
2010	44.0	2.0×10^7	3.1×10^9	1.9×10^9	3	2

Other pesticides:

Table A8. Energy (range) in other pesticides used in the US.

Year	Million pounds of Other pesticides [32]:	In kilograms	MJ (high)	MJ (low)	Other Pesticides high (PJ)	Other pesticides low (PJ)
1980	327.0	1.5×10^8	3.1×10^{10}	2.7×10^{10}	31	27
1990	297.0	1.3×10^8	2.8×10^{10}	2.4×10^{10}	28	24
2000	382.0	1.7×10^8	3.6×10^{10}	3.1×10^{10}	36	31
2010	326.0	1.5×10^8	3.1×10^{10}	2.6×10^{10}	31	26

Total (PJ)

In 1970, 781 million pounds of pesticides were used in US agriculture. No disaggregation was available. To estimate energy use in US pesticides in 1970, we assumed an average energy content of 179 MJ/kg (low) to 210 MJ/kg (high). Our estimate for pesticide energy use for 1970 is 127 to 149 PJ [31].

Table A8. Total energy (range) in pesticides used in the US.

Year	High (PJ)	Low (PJ)
1980	110	101
1990	93	86
2000	99	90
2010	93	85

Fertilizers [35,36]

Sample calculation to estimate the energy content (PJ) in nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K) fertilizers for year 1970 in US agriculture:

Original data in million short tons: 7.5 N; 4.6 P; 4.0 K
High and low estimates of the embodied energy per unit mass of fertilizer:

Table A9. Energy per ton (range) of major fertilizers.

Fertilizer	High [36] (GJ/ton)	Low [36] (GJ/ton)
Nitrogen (N)	60.1	42.8
Phosphorus (P)	13.1	2.11
Potassium (K)	12.4	4.6

N low: 7.5 million short tons × 0.907185 metric tons/short ton × 42.8 GJ/ton = 2.91 $\times 10^8$ GJ = 291 PJ
P low: 4.6 million short tons × 0.907185 metric tons/short ton × 2.11 GJ/ton = 8.81 $\times 10^6$ GJ = 9 PJ
K low: 4.0 million short tons × 0.907185 metric tons/short ton × 4.6 GJ/ton = 1.7 $\times 10^7$ GJ = 17 PJ
Total NPK = 317 PJ

N high: 7.5 million short tons × 0.907185 metric tons/short ton × 60.1 GJ/ton = 4.09 $\times 10^8$ GJ = 409 PJ
P low: 4.6 million short tons × 0.907185 metric tons/short ton × 13.1 GJ/ton = 5.5 $\times 10^7$ GJ = 55 PJ
K low: 4.0 million short tons × 0.907185 metric tons/short ton × 4.6 GJ/ton = 4.5 $\times 10^7$ GJ = 45 PJ
Total NPK = 508 PJ

Table A10. Energy (range) in N, P, and K fertilizers used in the US.

Year	N used (10^6 short tons)	N low (PJ)	N high (PJ)	P used (10^6 short tons)	P low (PJ)	P high (PJ)	K used (10^6 short tons)	K low (PJ)	K high (PJ)	Total NPK (low)	Total NPK (high)
1970	7.5	291	409	4.6	9	55	4.0	17	45	317	508
1980	11.4	442	622	5.4	10	64	6.2	26	69	479	755
1990	11.1	431	605	4.3	8	51	5.2	22	58	461	715
2000	12.3	477	671	4.3	8	51	5.0	21	56	506	778
2010	12.4	481	676	4.6	9	55	3.9	16	44	506	775

Seeds [37,38]

Because seed expenditures are published in monetary units, we use the average energy intensity of the economy to estimate the energy consumed in R&D investments in agriculture.

Sample calculation to estimate energy (PJ) in seeds for year 1970 in US agriculture:
Original data: \$928 million × 69 MJ/\$ (1970 USD) = 6.40×10^{10} MJ = 64 PJ

Table A11. Energy in agricultural seeds in the US.

Year	Total seed spending (nominal \$)	Energy intensity (MJ/ nominal \$)	in MJ	in PJ
1970	928,000,000	68.9	6.40×10^{10}	64
1980	3,220,000,000	29.5	9.51×10^{10}	95
1990	4,517,000,000	15.4	6.94×10^{10}	69
2000	7,519,000,000	10.5	7.88×10^{10}	79
2010	16,319,000,000	7.2	1.17×10^{11}	117

Research and Development [39]

Because research and development investments are published in monetary units, we use the average energy intensity of the economy to estimate the energy consumed in R&D investments in agriculture.

Sample calculation to estimate energy (PJ) used during R&D for year 1970 in US agriculture:

Original data: \$514.4 million (Public) + \$489.9 million (Private) = \$1.004 billion (1970 USD)
\$1.004 billion (1970 USD) × 69 MJ/\$ (1970 USD) = 6.92×10^{10} MJ = 69 PJ

Energy consumption estimates in US agricultural research and development:

Table A12. Energy in agricultural R&D in the US.

Year	Public R&D funding (nominal dollars)	Private R&D funding (nominal dollars)	Total (nominal dollars)	Energy intensity (MJ/ nominal \$)	MJ	PJ
1970	514,437,000	489,939,724	1,004,376,724	69	6.92×10^{10}	69
1980	1,350,158,000	1,471,267,106	2,821,425,106	30	8.33×10^{10}	83
1990	2,575,529,000	2,873,574,785	5,449,103,785	15	8.37×10^{10}	84
2000	3,796,192,000	4,042,058,924	7,838,250,924	10	8.21×10^{10}	82
2009	5,285,128,000	5,996,687,785	11,281,815,785	7	8.07×10^{10}	81

Feed [28]

Sample calculation to determine the energy content (PJ) of feed used for US livestock for year 1980:

Original data: in million bushels: 4563 corn; 202 barley; 495 oats; 495 sorghum.
Conversion factors:
Bushels to metric ton: Corn = 0.0254 tons/bushel, Oats = 0.0145 tons/bushel
Sorghum = 0.0254 tons/bushel, Barley = 0.02177 tons/bushel

Mass to energy content conversions for corn, barley, oats and sorghum as found in Appendix B.

e.g., Corn: 4,563 million bushels × 0.0254 metric tons/bushel = 115.9 million metric tons × 15,328 MJ/ton = 1.777×10^{12} MJ = 1777 PJ of corn fed to livestock in 1980.

Estimated energy in crops fed to animals 1970 to 2009:

Table A13. Energy in crops fed to animals in the US.

Year	Corn (million bushels)	Barley (million bushels)	Oats (million bushels)	Sorghum (million bushels)	Corn (PJ)	Barley (PJ)	Oats (PJ)	Sorghum (PJ)	Total (PJ)
1970									2078
1980	4563	202	495	495	1777	76	205	178	2236
1990	4382	190	283	508	1706	71	117	183	2078
2000	5643	140	179	285	2197	53	74	103	2426
2009	5125	48	115	141	2018	25	45	84	2172

The amount feed fed to livestock in 1970 was unavailable. We used the 1980 ratio of joule of feed per joule of meat product to estimate the total energy in feed required for livestock in 1970:

Meat products from livestock in 1970 = 344 PJ × 6.04 J feed/J meat products = 2077 PJ of feed.

Ethanol [25,26]

Sample calculation to determine the energy (PJ) in corn used for ethanol production for year 1980:
Original data: 35 million bushels
Conversion factors:

Bushels to metric ton: Corn = 0.0254 tons/bushel

Mass to energy content conversions for corn, barley, oats and sorghum as found in Appendix B.

e.g., Corn: 35 million bushels × 0.0254 metric tons/bushel = 0.889 million metric tons × 15,328 MJ/ton = 13.6×10^9 MJ = 14 PJ of corn used in ethanol production in 1980.

Energy (PJ) in corn used for ethanol production:

Table A14. Energy in corn used for ethanol production in the US.

Year	Corn (10^6 bushels)	Million metric tons	MJ	PJ
1970	-	-	-	-
1980	35	0.889	13.6×10^9	14
1990	349	8.9	136×10^9	136
2000	630	16.0	245×10^9	245
2010	4591	116.6	1.788×10^{12}	1788

Energy to grow corn for ethanol production: [26,64]

We used the average energy inputs (MJ/L of ethanol generated for corn production) to estimate and then subtract the energy needed to grow the corn for ethanol production [26]:

Table A15. Efficiency of corn ethanol production.

Source	Kim and Dale (2005) [65]	Pimentel and Patzek (2008) [55]	Average
Total energy for Corn Production (farm gate)	3.51 MJ/L	10.03 MJ/L	6.77 MJ/L

To calculate the energy cost of corn for ethanol production, we first estimate the potential volume of ethanol able to be produced from the feedstock [64] and then use the conversion factor from above calculate the energy cost:

Table A15. Energy cost to grow corn for ethanol production in the US.

Year	Bushels of corn for Ethanol Production	Potential gallons	Potential liters [a]	Average energy cost per liter [b]	MJ of inputs	Energy cost to grow corn for ethanol (PJ)
1970	-	-	-	6.77 MJ/L	-	-
1980	3.50×10^{7}	9.80×10^{7}	3.71×10^{8}	6.77 MJ/L	2.51×10^{8}	3
1990	3.49×10^{8}	9.77×10^{8}	3.70×10^{9}	6.77 MJ/L	2.50×10^{9}	25
2000	6.30×10^{8}	1.76×10^{9}	6.68×10^{9}	6.77 MJ/L	4.52×10^{9}	45
2009	4.57×10^{9}	1.28×10^{9}	4.84×10^{10}	6.77 MJ/L	3.28×10^{11}	328

Notes: [a] [64]; [b] [26].

Appendix B. Conversions from Original Data to Energetic Quantities for All Outputs (US)

US Crops Total Production [1,27]

Original data: Annual KT (thousand metric tons) of harvested crop
Conversion factors: conversions from harvest weight to energy content [27] listed in MJ/ton in Table A16 below.

Example calculation (Barley in 1970): 9,060,000 tons × 14,810 MJ/ton × 1 PJ/10^9 MJ = 134 PJ

Harvest weight and energy content of top 15 US agricultural products:

Table A16. Energy in top 15 harvested crops in the US.

Crop	MJ/ton	1970		1980		1990		2000		2009	
		1000 Tons	PJ	1000 Tons	PJ	1000 Tons	PJ	1000 Tons	PJ	1000 Tons	PJ
Barley	14,810	9,060	134	7,863	116	9,192	136	-	-	-	-
Cow milk	2,680	53,073	142	58,244	156	67,005	180	76,023	204	85,859	230
Grapes	2,800	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,974	20	6,412	18
Hen eggs	2,800	4,053	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Beef	9,737	10,021	98	9,926	97	10,166	99	11,990	117	11,450	111
Chicken	9,001	3,846	35	5,386	48	8,681	78	13,947	126	16,338	147
Pork	11,382	6,092	69	7,519	86	6,897	79	8,387	95	9,933	113
Maize	15,283	105,471	1,612	168,647	2,577	201,532	3,080	251,852	3,849	333,011	5,089
Oats	16,280	13,285	216	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oranges	1,970	7,278	14	10,734	21	7,026	14	11,791	23	8,281	16
Potatoes	11,382	14,774	168	13,785	157	18,239	208	23,294	265	19,569	223
Rice	14,989	-	-	6,629	99	7,080	106	8,658	130	9,972	149
Sorghum	14,180	-	-	14,716	209	14,562	206	11,952	169	9,728	138
Soybeans	6,140	30,675	188	48,922	300	52,416	322	75,054	461	91,417	561
Sugar beet	16,180	22,969	372	21,321	345	24,959	404	32,541	527	26,779	433
Sugar cane	16,180	21,769	352	24,460	396	25,524	413	36,114	584	27,456	444

Table A16. *Cont.*

Crop	MJ/ton	1970		1980		1990		2000		2009	
		1000 Tons	PJ	1000 Tons	PJ	1000 Tons	PJ	1000 Tons	PJ	1000 Tons	PJ
Tomatoes	950	5,417	5	6,786	6	10,927	10	12,622	12	14,142	13
Wheat	14,180	36,784	522	64,800	919	74,294	1,053	60,639	860	60,314	855
Total		344,567	3,939	477,900	5,533	547,367	6,388	656,210	7,447	847,279	8,542
Percent Grain (by weight)		48%		56%		57%		52%		57%	
Percent Grain (by energy content)			63%		71%		72%		67%		73%

Appendix C. Conversion Process from Raw Data to Energetic Data for All Input Factors (Canada)

Much of the Canadian agriculture data were reported in monetary values (CAD). We convert to energy units using the energy intensity of the Canadian economy equal to the primary energy consumed per Canadian dollar of GDP. For example:

In 1981, primary energy consumption of all fuels totaled 9.58952 quadrillion BTU (Quads) [51], equivalent to 10.12 exajoules, or 10.1 × 10^{12} MJ. Canadian GDP in 1981 was $358 billion [52]. Dividing primary energy consumption by GDP results in an energy intensity of 28.26 MJ/Can$.

Energy intensity for the Canadian economy 1981–2010:

Table A17. Dollar to energy conversion factors for years of interest in Canada.

Year	Primary energy (MJ)	Can$ (nominal)	Energy Intensity (MJ/Can$)
1981	1.01×10^{13}	3.58×10^{11}	28.26
1985	1.07×10^{13}	4.88×10^{11}	21.96
1990	1.16×10^{13}	6.86×10^{11}	16.88
1995	1.29×10^{13}	8.23×10^{11}	15.66
2000	1.38×10^{13}	1.10×10^{12}	12.51
2005	1.49×10^{13}	1.41×10^{12}	10.59
2010	1.38×10^{13}	1.66×10^{12}	8.29

Machinery, Repairs, and Direct and Indirect Energy Consumed in Agriculture [49,50].

Table A18. Embodied energy in farm machinery in Canada.

Year	Machinery repairs and other [49]				Direct and indirect energy in PJ [51]	Total (PJ)
	Spending (Canadian nominal dollars)	Energy intensity (MJ/Can$)	MJ	PJ		
1981	$1,061,081,000	28.26	3.00×10^{10}	30	188	218
1985	$1,222,355,000	21.96	2.68×10^{10}	27	170	197
1990	$1,519,108,000	16.88	2.56×10^{10}	26	195	221
1995	$1,788,338,000	15.66	2.80×10^{10}	28	209	237

Table A18. *Cont.*

Year	Machinery repairs and other [49]				Direct and indirect energy in PJ [51]	Total (PJ)
	Spending (Canadian nominal dollars)	Energy intensity (MJ/Can$)	MJ	PJ		
2000	$1,919,062,000	12.51	2.40×10^{10}	24	232	256
2005	$2,138,714,000	10.59	2.26×10^{10}	23	226	249
2009	$2,432,937,000	8.29	2.02×10^{10}	20	210	230

Seeds [49]

Table A19. Energy in agricultural seeds in Canada.

Year	Spending (Canadian nominal dollars)	Energy intensity (MJ/Can$)	MJ	PJ
1981	306,986,000	28.26	8.675×10^9	9
1985	396,476,000	21.96	8.708×10^9	9
1990	532,463,000	16.88	8.988×10^9	9
1995	651,606,000	15.66	1.021×10^{10}	10
2000	897,711,000	12.51	1.123×10^{10}	11
2005	1,130,501,000	10.59	1.197×10^{10}	12
2009	1,516,223,000	8.29	1.257×10^{10}	13

Research and Development [53]

Sample calculation to estimate energy (PJ) used during R&D for year 2000 in Canadian agriculture: Original data: \$363 million $\times$ 12.51 MJ/Can\$ = 1.123×10^{10} MJ = 11 PJ

Table A20. Energy in agricultural R&D in Canada 2000–2009.

Year	Ag. R&D spending (million nominal dollars)	Energy intensity (MJ/ nominal $)	MJ	PJ
2000	514,437,000	12.51	1.123×10^{10}	11
2005	1,350,158,000	10.59	1.197×10^{10}	12
2009	2,575,529,000	8.29	1.257×10^{10}	13

To estimate energy consumption in research and development prior to 2000, we extrapolated research and development spending using a linear regression.

Table A20. Estimated energy in agricultural R&D in Canada 1981–1995.

Year	1981	1985	1990	1995
PJ	8	9	10	10

Fertilizers [26,46,47]

Canadian fertilizer use was reported into tons of N, P, and K consumed [46,47]. For these years we used the methods in Appendix A to calculate Canadian energy consumption in fertilizers:

Table A21. Energy (range) in N, P, and K fertilizers used in Canada.

Year	N (tons)	N low (PJ)	N high (PJ)	P (tons)	P low (PJ)	P high (PJ)	K (tons)	K low (PJ)	K high (PJ)	Total (low)	Total (high)
1981	965,900	41	58	636,300	1	8	343,600	2	4	44	71
1985	1,225,000	52	74	703,400	1	9	396,300	2	5	56	88
1990	1,157,764	50	70	578,198	1	8	337,890	2	4	52	81
1995	1,576,205	67	95	658,400	1	9	333,200	2	4	70	107
2000	1,564,348	67	94	570,532	1	7	310,509	1	4	70	105
2005	1,776,685	76	107	693,121	1	9	328,596	2	4	79	120
2009	1,914,550	82	115	561,811	1	7	250,000	1	3	84	126

Pesticides [33,34,48,49]

The Canadian government reported pesticide use from 1981–2009. 1990 and 1995 were the only years that both physical and financial data was available. We used those data to create a conversion factor to use for the remaining years of interest.

Conversion factors: 0.000035 tons per CAD for low estimate; 0.00058 tons per CAD for high estimate. Based on the pesticide mix, we calculated that each ton of pesticide required 59 GJ.

Table A22. Energy (range) in pesticides used in Canada.

Year	Canadian dollars	2007 Can$	Est. Pesticides in Tons (LOW)	Est. Pesticides in Tons (HIGH)	Total LOW (PJ)	Total HIGH
1981	483,508,000	$1,039,802,151	21,189	29,199	1	2
1985	694,503,000	$1,214,166,084	24,742	34,095	1	2
1990	729,980,000	$1,045,816,619	21,311	29,368	1	2
1995	1,095,898,000	$1,428,810,952	29,116	40,123	2	2
2000	1,549,106,000	$1,857,441,247	37,851	52,160	2	3
2005	1,757,562,000	$1,861,824,153	37,940	52,283	2	3
2009	2,344,794,000	$2,235,265,968	45,550	62,769	3	4

Feed [1,27]

We estimated Canadian demand for feed for livestock by multiplying the energy (PJ) of Canadian animal product production by US ratio of Joules of feed to Joules of meat product for that year:

Table A22. Energy in feed for animals in Canada.

Year	Beef (KT)	Pork (KT)	Chicken (KT)	Milk (KT)	Beef (PJ)	Pork (PJ)	Chicken (PJ)	Milk (PJ)	Total (PJ)	Feed grain (ratio)[a]	Feed grain (PJ)
1981	1031	1026	-	7545	10	12	-	20	42	5.9:1	247
1985	1110	1175	494	7522	11	13	4	20	49	5.5:1	268
1990	1145	1192	-	7790	11	14	-	21	46	4.7:1	217
1995	1270	1417	705	7890	12	16	6	21	56	4.8:1	269
2000	1460	2002	900	8106	14	23	8	22	67	4.5:1	301
2005	1678	2625	998	8041	16	30	9	21	76	4.0:1	305
2009	1247	2785	1009	8243	12	32	9	22	75	3.6:1	270

Note: [a] from U.S. calculations.

Appendix D: Conversions from Original Data to Energetic Quantities for All Crop Outputs (Canada)

Crop Production [1,27]

Crops were converted from harvest weight to energy content and then multiplied by a crop-specific energy to weight conversion factor. See Appendix B for detailed methods.

Table A23. Energy in the top 15 crops produced in Canada.

Crop	Tons to MJ Conversion	1981		1985		1990		1995		2000		2005		2009	
		1000 tons	PJ	1000 tons	PJ	1000 tons	PJ	1000 tons	PJ	1000 tons	PJ	1000 tons	PJ	1000 tons	PJ
Barley	14,810	13,724	203	12,387	183	13,441	199	13,033	193	13,229	196	11,678	173	9,517	141
Cow Milk	2,680	7,545	20	7,479	20	7,975	21	7,920	21	8,161	22	7,806	21	8,213	22
Beef	9,737	1,032	10	1,110	11	1,146	11	1,271	12	1,461	14	1,679	16	1,247	12
Chicken	9,001	-	-	495	4	-	-	705	6	900	8	998	9	1,009	9
Pork	11,382	1,026	12	1,175	13	1,192	14	1,417	16	2,002	23	2,626	30	2,785	32
Lentils	14,770	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	914	14	1,164	17	1,510	22
Linseed	22,340	467	10	897	20	889	20	1,105	25	-	-	991	22	930	21
Maize	15,283	6,683	102	6,970	107	7,066	108	7,271	111	6,954	106	9,332	143	9,561	146
Mixed Grain	14,180	1,459	21	1,265	18	704	10	653	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oats	16,280	3,188	52	2,736	45	2,692	44	2,873	47	3,403	55	3,283	53	2,798	46
Peas, Dry	3,410	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,455	5	2,864	10	2,994	10	3,379	12
Potatoes	3,280	2,647	9	2,994	10	3,004	10	3,834	13	4,567	15	4,434	15	4,581	15
Rapeseed	14,974	1,849	28	3,498	52	3,266	49	6,436	96	7,205	108	9,483	142	11,825	177
Rye	14,140	923	13	569	8	599	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans	6,140	607	4	1,012	6	1,262	8	2,293	14	2,703	17	3,156	19	3,504	22
Sugar Beets	16,180	1,216	20	-	-	942	15	1,027	17	821	13	-	-	658	11
Tomatoes	950	531	1	558	1	674	1	-	-	701	1	839	1	-	-
Wheat	14,180	24,802	352	24,252	344	32,098	455	24,989	354	26,536	376	25,748	365	26,848	381
TOTAL			855		842		973		940		978		1,037		1,067

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