



AGRICULTURE

Glossary

agriculture	to go on	to look up
to leave	to be comforted with	to buy, bought, bought
to fear	to influence	to mean
to win back	to blame	to renegotiate
to reproach	to harm	to be concerned
to turn to	to accelerate	the farm crisis
farmers	farming	financial difficulties
modern machinery	a return on their investment	the vagaries of the weather
the harvests	bumper crops	hard times
saturated markets	confidence	food health scare
bird flu	mad cow disease	the C.A.P
modern farming practices	consumers	the heavy use
fertilizers	pesticides	organic food
prices	the rise	a topsy-turvy world
not to mention	rightly or wrongly	on top of that
in spite of		

And now a dialogue between Wentworth and Sarah...

- Wentworth: Well, hello everybody. Today I'd like to talk about the farm crisis which has been going on for more than ten years now. And things are not looking up. Did you know why?
- Sarah: Every year, some farmers decide to leave farming because they are confronted with financial difficulties. Some of them bought modern machinery and cannot get a return on their investment.
- Wentworth: You're right, Sarah. I also think that what farmers fear most are the vagaries of the weather, which can totally influence the harvests.
- Sarah: Actually, I learned that bumper crops sometime mean hard times for farmers because of saturated markets. It's really a topsy-turvy world.
- Wentworth: For sure. Not to mention that they need time to win back consumer confidence after a food health scare, like bird flu or mad cow disease. Brussels Common Agricultural Policy is often blamed rightly or wrongly for the farm crisis, and Britain wants the C.A.P to be renegotiated.
- Sarah: On top of that, ecologists often reproach modern farming practices for harming the environment. Consumers are more and more concerned about the heavy use of fertilizers and pesticides.



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Wentworth: I know more and more people who are turning to organic food in spite of higher prices, and the rise of organic farming could accelerate in the next few years