Production and Distribution of Food Concept Questions

1. Identify some advances that have been made in agricultural and describe the environmental cost of each.
2. a. Some argue the solution to worldwide hunger is for all humans to become vegetarians so no plant crops are "wasted" being used as animal feed. Support or refute this argument.
   b. Describe some other environmental problems that would be at least partly solved if the livestock industry were much smaller.
3. Describe the effects of animal farming on the environment.
4. Thousands of family farmers in Canada have been forced off the land due to a variety of economic problems. It has been suggested that the shift of farm ownership from families who farm the same land for generations to large absentee corporate owners is not in the best interest of soil conservation. What possible basis could there be for that concern?
5. Describe a couple of ways farmers might be able to increase their production without increasing land use.
6. Soil erosion and runoff of pesticides and fertilizers are a major cause of water pollution. What is your response to someone who is not a farmer and says, "It should be illegal for farmers to farm in such a way that it pollutes water miles away from their farm, preventing its use by others."
7. Describe measures we could take to avoid soil erosion.
8. Because farming depends on soil, preserving soil should be a farmer's top priority. Provide a reason it might not be.
9. There are rice paddies in southeast Asia that have been cultivated for thousands of years without losing productivity. Outline an argument for or against adopting the practices used in that area for our own farming.
10. Describe our best hopes for increasing food production in the future.
11. Outline the pros and cons of relying on biotechnology to increase food production.
12. Describe the environmental and health benefits of eating lower on the food chain
13. Early in the semester, we learned about the four principles of ecosystem sustainability. Describe how these principals apply to agriculture.