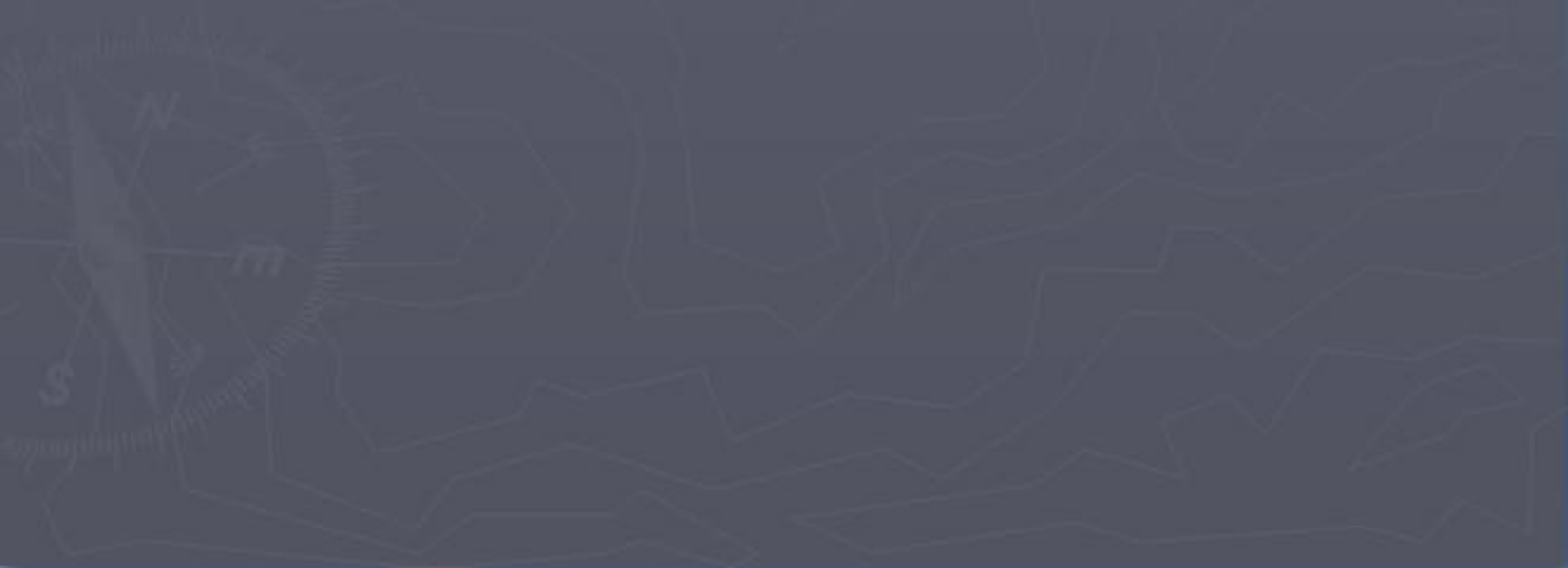


Von Thunen's Model of Land Use



Background

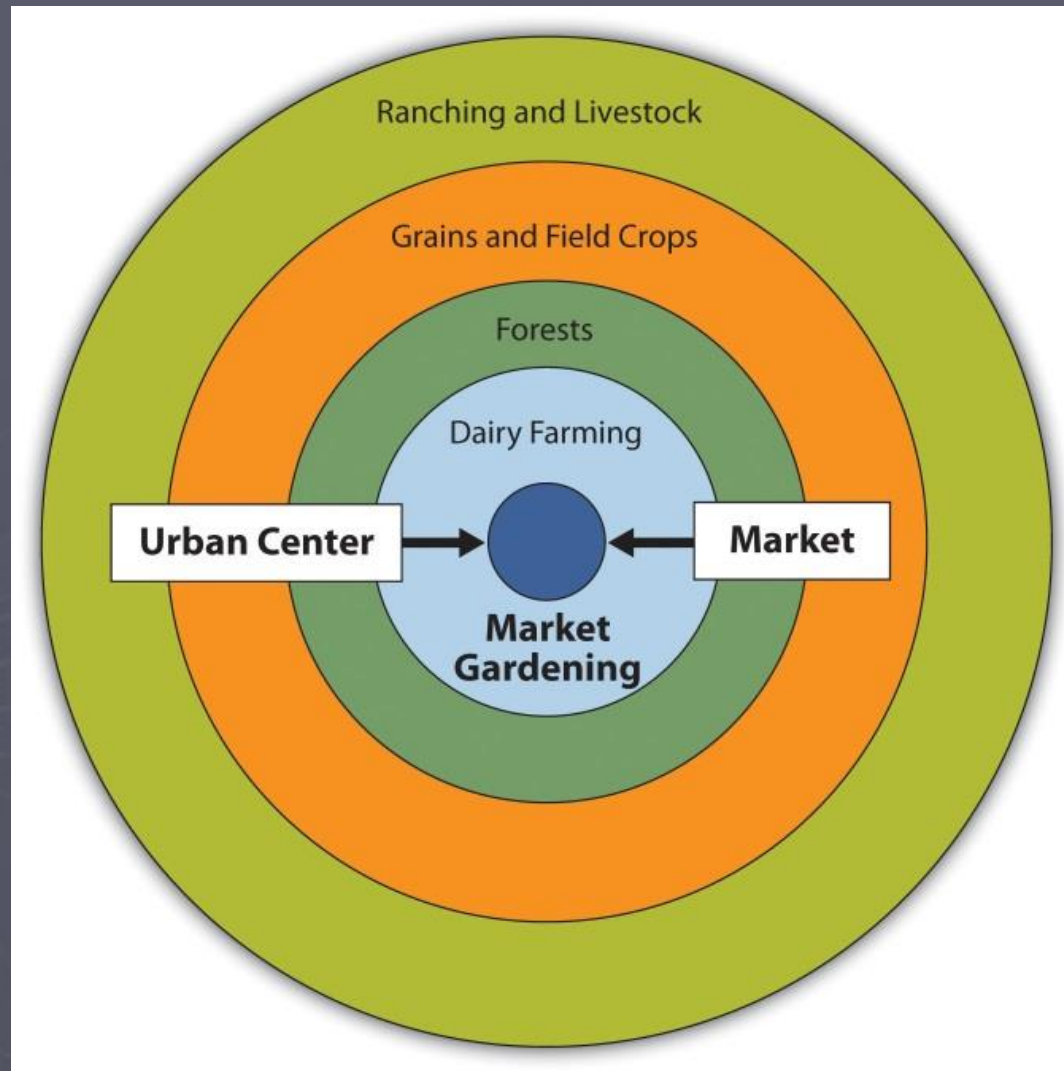
- Model made based off observations in 1826 by J.H Von Thunen
- Von Thunen based observations off patterns in where agriculture is grown and where people live.
- This model explains the development of agricultural towns and cities.



Assumptions of Von Thunen

- The city is located centrally within an "Isolated State" which is self sufficient and has no external influences.
- The Isolated State is surrounded by an unoccupied wilderness.
- The land of the State is completely flat and has no rivers or mountains to interrupt the terrain.
- The soil quality and climate are consistent throughout the State.
- Farmers in the Isolated State transport their own goods to market via oxcart, across land, directly to the central city. Therefore, there are no roads.
- Farmers act to maximize profits.

The Model



Layer 1: Urban Center/Market



- At the heart of the model is the city, where the people live and work.
- Primarily where agricultural products are brought to be sold

Layer 2: Horticulture and Dairy Farming



- Horticulture is primarily the growing of fruits, vegetables, and flowers.
- Dairy farming is done close enough to transport milk to market without spoiling.

Layer 3: Forestry



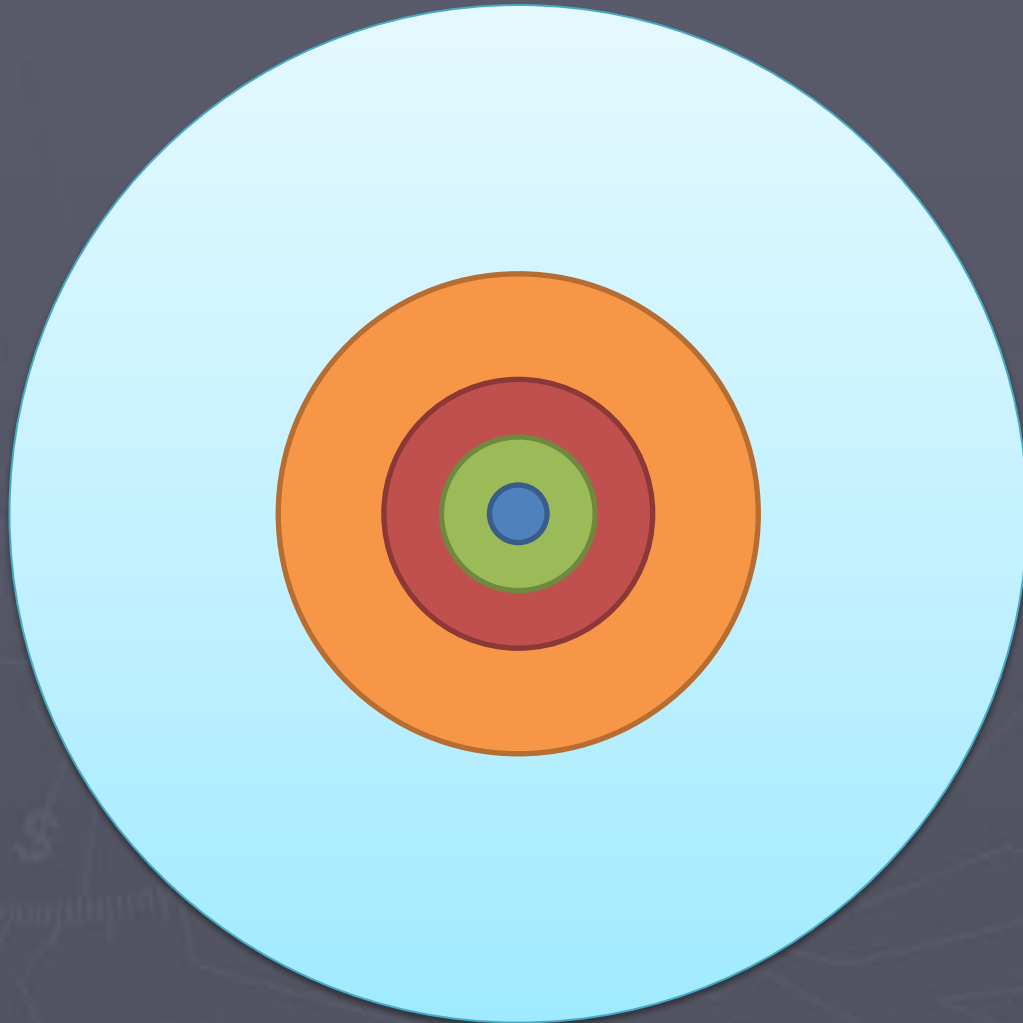
- Ring of trees to provide building materials and firewood
 - Model produced before widespread use of coal
- Located close for easy transportation

Layer 4: Grains/Field Crops



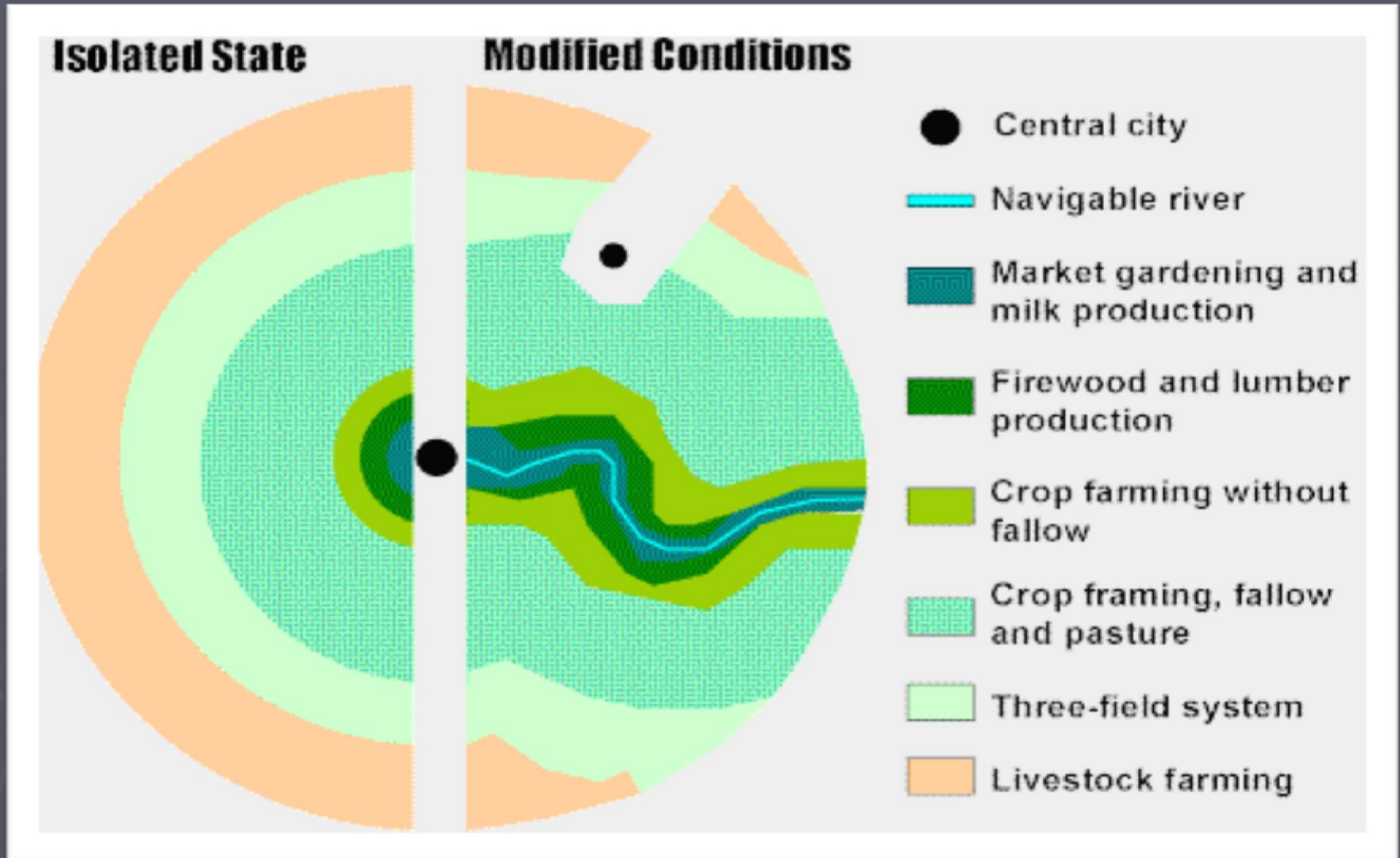
- Large scale farms that allow for Grain production and large herds of animals
 - Grains much lighter and easier to transport

Layer 5: Extensive Ranching and Grazing



- Large open areas where animals can freely roam
- Transportation a non-factor since animals are self-transporting and can walk to market or easily be moved

Von Thunen's Modified Model



Uses of Von Thunen's Model

- Von Thunen model useful generalizing agriculture patterns
 - Opens up discussion to merits and changes in agriculture
 - Displays connection of city and agricultural patterns
- Displays balance between land costs and transportation costs

Von Thunen Theory (A) vs. Reality (B)

