



# Agriculture in the U.S.

- In the farming industry, the U.S. ranks #2 in the world.
- Over 2 million farms covering a total of 36,400,000 square kilometers.
- Farming is highly mechanized. Only 1 farmer needed per 1 square kilometer.
- The average family spends less than 10% of its income on food. The lowest in the world.
- Most Americans are two to four generations removed from the farm.

### Basin and Range

- Largest share of nonfamily farms, smallest share of U.S. cropland.
- 4% of farms, 4% of value of production, 4% of cropland.
- Cattle, wheat, and sorghum farms.

### Fruitful Rim

- Largest share of large and very large family farms and nonfamily farms.
- 10% of farms, 22% of production value, 8% of cropland.
- Fruit, vegetable, nursery, and cotton farms.

### Northern Great Plains

- Largest farms and smallest population.
- 5% of farms, 6% of production value, 17% of cropland.
- Wheat, cattle, sheep farms.

### Heartland

- Most farms (22%), highest value of production (23%), and most cropland (27%).
- Cash grain and cattle farms.

### Northern Crescent

- Most populous region.
- 15% of farms, 15% of value of production, 9% of cropland.
- Dairy, general crop, and cash grain farms.

### Eastern Uplands

- Most small farms of any region.
- 15% of farms, 5% of production value, and 6% of cropland.
- Part-time cattle, tobacco, and poultry farms.

### Southern Seaboard

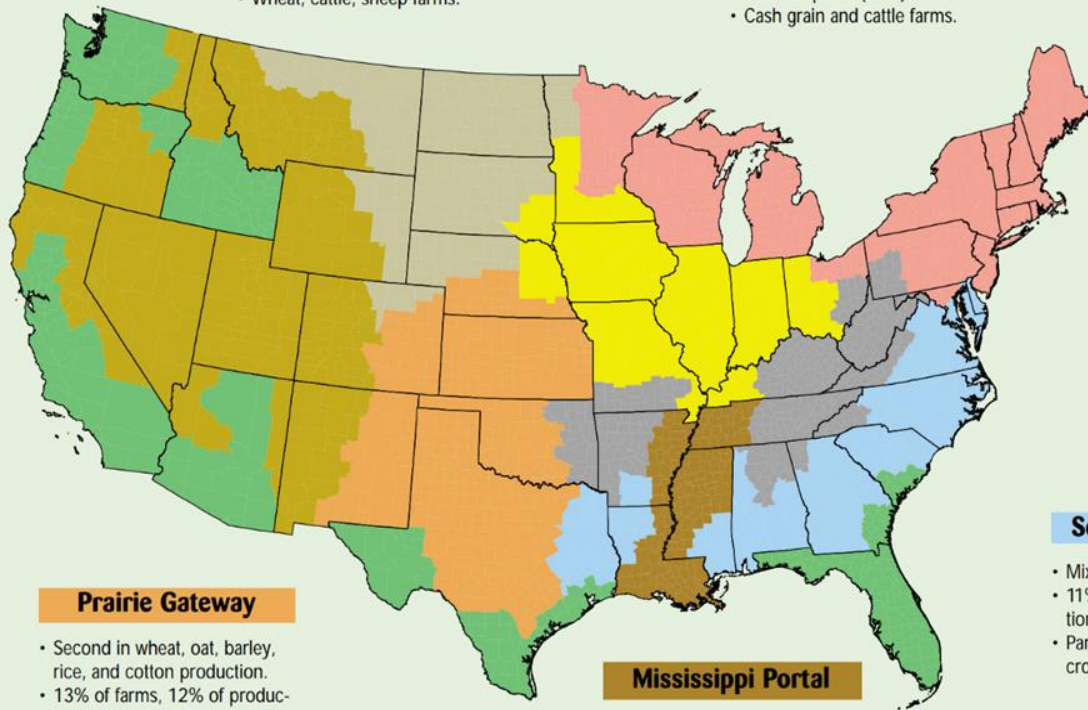
- Mix of small and larger farms.
- 11% of farms, 9% of production value, 6% of cropland.
- Part-time cattle, general field crop, and poultry farms.

### Prairie Gateway

- Second in wheat, oat, barley, rice, and cotton production.
- 13% of farms, 12% of production value, 17% of cropland.
- Cattle, wheat, sorghum, cotton, and rice farms.

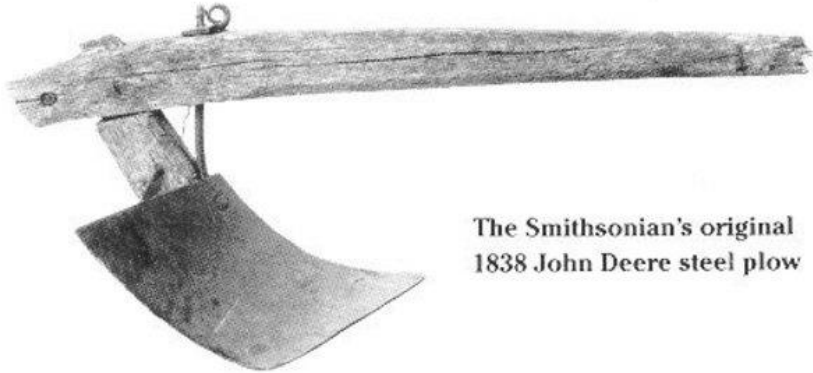
### Mississippi Portal

- Higher proportions of both small and larger farms than elsewhere.
- 5% of farms, 4% of value, 5% of cropland.
- Cotton, rice, poultry, and hog farms.

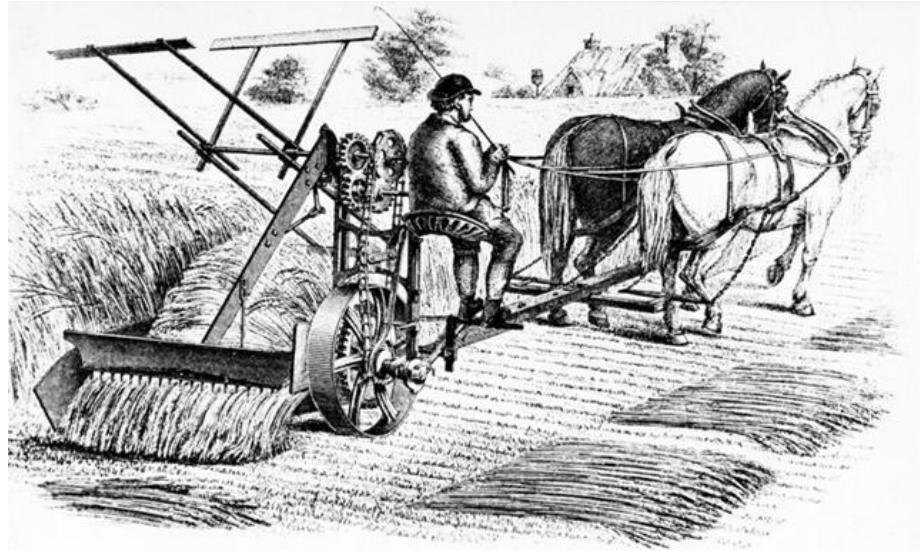


# History of U.S. Agriculture (1830's)

- Cyrus McCormick patents the Reaper (increased harvest & less labor)
- John Deere manufactures steel plows (cultivate larger acreage)



The Smithsonian's original  
1838 John Deere steel plow



# History of U.S. Agriculture (1840's)

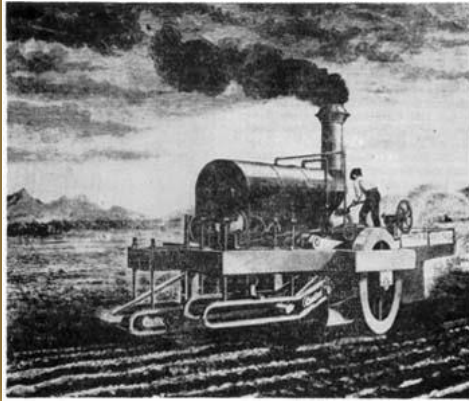
- Sir John Lawes invents commercial fertilizer (greatly increased crop yields)
- Jethro Tull invents the seed drill (greatly increased wheat acreage & supply)
- Holstein & Jersey dairy cow imported (increased milk production)





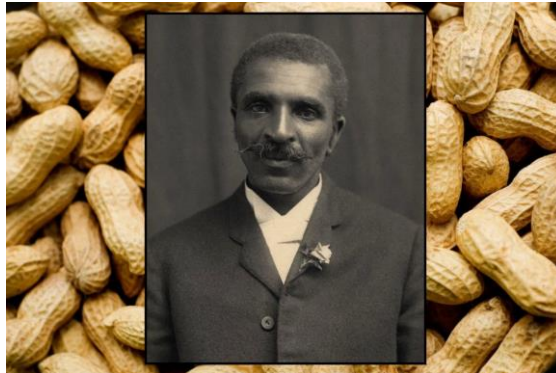
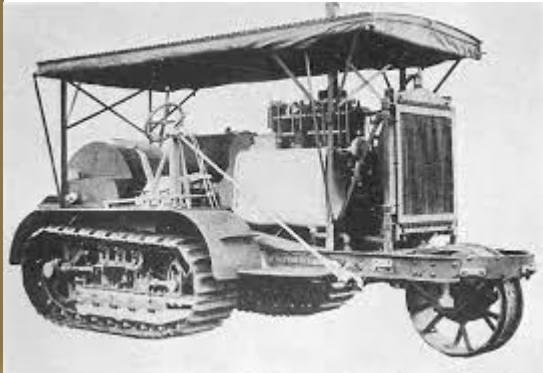
# History of U.S. Agriculture (1850's-80's)

- 1850's: Factory-made agriculture machinery readily available (large scale farming)
- 1860's: U.S. Department of agriculture established; farmers organize
- 1870's: Henry G. Stone invents the first steam powered tractor (beginning of the first agricultural revolution; a shift to mechanized agriculture)
- 1880's: First hybrid crop developed – corn (greatly increased crop yield & quality)
  - First pesticide discovered (Bordeaux mixture ^^^)



# History of U.S. Agriculture (1890's-1900's)

- 1890's: Benjamin Holt builds the first gasoline tractor (one of agriculture's greatest achievements)
- 1900's: George Washington Carver finds new uses for peanuts
  - 4-H clubs established



# History of U.S. Agriculture (1910's-80's)

- 1910's: Mechanical combine developed (harvest more acreage faster)
- 1920's: Small tractors developed (mechanized agriculture on small acreage)
- 1940's & 50's: Advancements in pesticides (greatly increased crop yields)
- 1960's: Farms become modernized (over 90% have telephones, electricity, etc.)
- 1970's: New wheat varieties developed (high yield)





# History of U.S. Agriculture (1980's to present)

- 1980's: Computers begin being used in agriculture (decision-making, equipment control, marketing, communication)
- 1990's: Genetic engineering developed (improved production and decreased pesticide use)
- 2000's: Precision agriculture using advanced GPS technology (more efficient use of pesticides to reduce cost and pollution)
- 2010's+: Biofuel use, E-commerce, food security, water & environment management, etc.

