

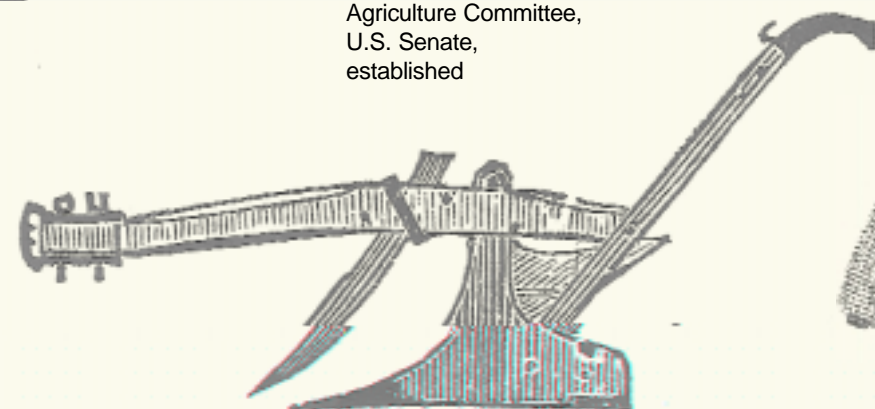

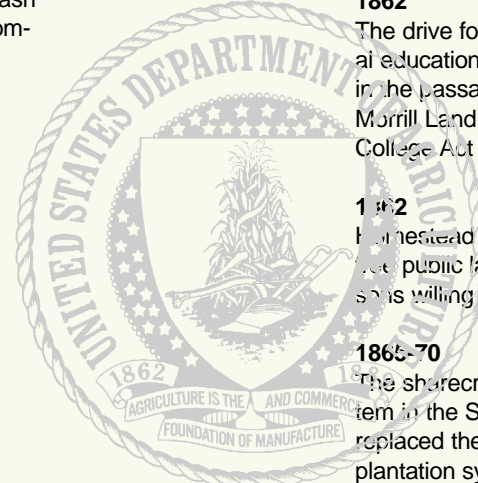









# A Condensed History of American Agriculture 1776–1999



1776–99	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890
<p><b>1785</b> The Philadelphia Society for the Promotion of Agriculture and other agricultural groups organized</p> <p><b>1793</b> Invention of cotton gin</p> 	<p><b>1802</b> George Washington Parke Custis instituted agricultural fair in Arlington, VA</p> 	<p><b>1810</b> First American agricultural periodical, the Agricultural Museum, began publication</p>	<p><b>1820</b> Agriculture Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, established</p> <p><b>1825</b> Agriculture Committee, U.S. Senate, established</p> 	<p><b>1834</b> McCormick reaper patented</p>	<p><b>1840's</b> The growing use of factory-made agricultural machinery increased farmer's need for cash and encouraged commercial farming</p> 	<p><b>1850's</b> Commercial corn and wheat belts began to develop</p> 	<p><b>1862</b> U.S. Department of Agriculture established</p> <p><b>1862</b> The drive for agricultural education culminated in the passage of the Morrill Land Grant College Act</p> <p><b>1862</b> Homestead Act gave free public land to persons willing to farm it</p> <p><b>1865-70</b> The sharecropping system in the South replaced the old slave plantation system</p>	<p><b>1874</b> Availability of barbed wire allowed fencing of rangeland, ending era of unrestricted, open-range grazing</p> 	<p><b>1887</b> Hatch Experiment Station Act set up Federal-State cooperation in agricultural research</p> 	<p><b>1890</b> Second Morrill Act broadened land-grant program and set up funding for black land-grant schools</p> <p><b>1890</b> Census showed that the frontier settlement era was over</p> <p><b>1890</b> First Federal Meat Inspection Act</p> <p><b>1896</b> Rural Free Delivery (RFD) started</p>
1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990–99	
<p><b>1900-1910</b> George Washington Carver, director of agricultural research at Tuskegee Institute, pioneered in finding new uses for peanuts, sweet potatoes, and soybeans, thus helping to diversify southern agriculture.</p> <p><b>1902</b> Reclamation Act facilitated irrigation</p> <p><b>1906</b> Food and Drug Act, a landmark in food safety</p> <p><b>1908</b> President Roosevelt's Country Life Commission was established and focused attention on rural problems</p> 	<p><b>1914</b> Smith-Lever Extension Act passed setting up a national extension service</p>	<p><b>1922</b> Capper-Volstead Act gave cooperatives legal standing</p> 	<p><b>1932-36</b> Drought and dust-bowl conditions developed</p> <p><b>1933</b> Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) initiated crop and marketing controls</p> <p><b>1936</b> Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act linked farm programs with conservation</p> <p><b>1936</b> Rural Electrification Act (REA) greatly improved quality of rural life</p>	<p><b>1945-70</b> Revolution in agricultural technology brought greatly increased yields and more specialized, capital-intensive farms</p> <p><b>1946</b> National School Lunch Act</p> <p><b>1947</b> General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) established working procedures that substantially reduced tariffs between member nations</p>	<p><b>1954</b> Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act (P.L. 480) facilitated agricultural exports and foreign aid</p> <p><b>1954-55</b> Rural development program begins</p> <p><b>1956</b> Soil Bank Program authorized</p> 	<p><b>1964</b> Food Stamp Act and War on Poverty</p> 	<p><b>1970</b> Environmental Quality Improvement Act</p> 	<p><b>1980's</b> Biotechnology became a viable technique for improving crop and livestock products</p> <p><b>1985</b> Food Security Act lowered government farm supports, promoted exports, and set up the Conservation Reserve Program</p>	<p><b>1990</b> Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act and Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act increased farmers' flexibility in planting under government programs</p> <p><b>1993</b> Revised General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and new North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) lowered trade barriers</p> <p><b>1996</b> Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act revised farm programs to increase reliance on market signals</p> 