



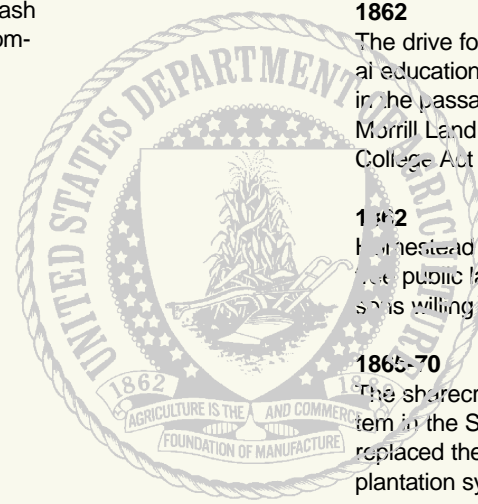





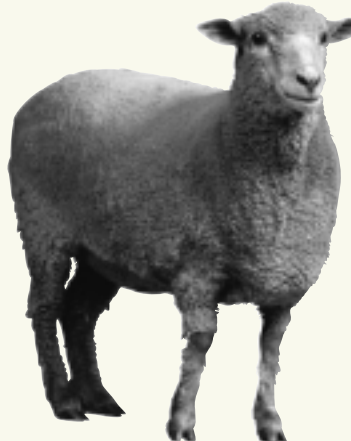



A Condensed History of American Agriculture 1776–1999



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