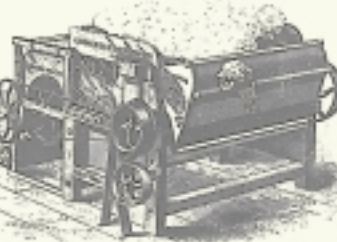
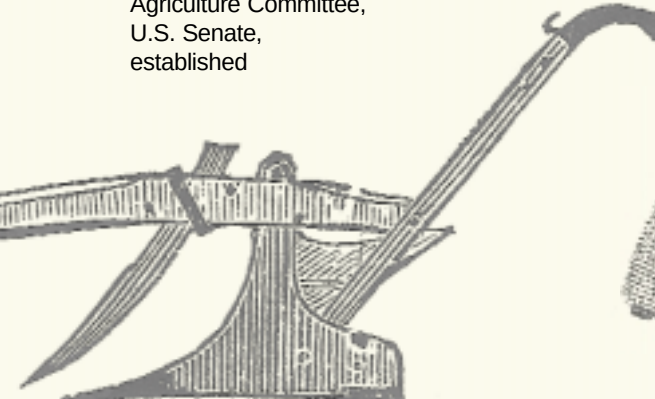
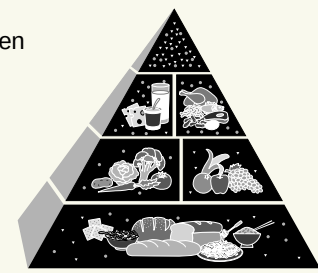


A Condensed History of American Agriculture 1776–1999



1776–99	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890
1785 The Philadelphia Society for the Promotion of Agriculture and other agricultural groups organized 1793 Invention of cotton gin 	1802 George Washington Parke Custis instituted agricultural fair in Arlington, VA 	1810 First American agricultural periodical, the Agricultural Museum, began publication 	1820 Agriculture Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, established 1825 Agriculture Committee, U.S. Senate, established 	1834 McCormick reaper patented 	1840's The growing use of factory-made agricultural machinery increased farmer's need for cash and encouraged commercial farming 	1850's Commercial corn and wheat belts began to develop 	1862 U.S. Department of Agriculture established 1862 The drive for agricultural education culminated in the passage of the Morrill Land Grant College Act 1862 Homestead Act gave free public land to persons willing to farm it 1865-70 The sharecropping system in the South replaced the old slave plantation system	1874 Availability of barbed wire allowed fencing of rangeland, ending era of unrestricted, open-range grazing 	1887 Hatch Experiment Station Act set up Federal-State cooperation in agricultural research 	1890 Second Morrill Act broadened land -grant program and set up funding for black land-grant schools 1890 Census showed that the frontier settlement era was over 1890 First Federal Meat Inspection Act 1896 Rural Free Delivery (RFD) started
1900	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990–99	
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. 1902 Reclamation Act facilitated irrigation 1906 Food and Drug Act, a landmark in food safety 1908 President Roosevelt's Country Life Commission was established and focused attention on rural problems 	1914 Smith-Lever Extension Act passed setting up a national extension service 	1922 Capper-Volstead Act gave cooperatives legal standing 	1932-36 Drought and dust-bowl conditions developed 1933 Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) initiated crop and marketing controls 1936 Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act linked farm programs with conservation 1936 Rural Electrification Act (REA) greatly improved quality of rural life	1945-70 Revolution in agricultural technology brought greatly increased yields and more specialized, capital-intensive farms 1946 National School Lunch Act 1947 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) established working procedures that substantially reduced tariffs between member nations	1954 Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act (P.L. 480) facilitated agricultural exports and foreign aid 1954-55 Rural development program begins 1956 Soil Bank Program authorized 	1964 Food Stamp Act and War on Poverty 	1970 Environmental Quality Improvement Act 	1980's Biotechnology became a viable technique for improving crop and livestock products 1985 Food Security Act lowered government farm supports, promoted exports, and set up the Conservation Reserve Program	1990 Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act and Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act increased farmers' flexibility in planting under government programs 1993 Revised General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and new North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) lowered trade barriers 1996 Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act revised farm programs to increase reliance on market signals 1997 USDA issues Civil Rights Action Team report, offering 92 recommendations for overcoming past injustices 1998 HACCP is implemented to target and reduce the presence of pathogens in meat and poultry 1999 Drop in many commodities prices, combined with disastrous weather in many parts of the country, aused increased demand for USDA farm programs 1999 The "Roadless Initiative" is implemented to preserve roadless tracts in National Forests, securing fish and wildlife habitat and protecting natural resources	