

# Chenango County Farm Bureau

## Events in Ag History

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*The following agricultural history is presented thanks to AFBF's Farm Facts.*

## Significant Events in Agricultural History



- 8000 (B.C.): --- Animals and grain domesticated in the Middle East: the birth of agriculture.
- 1493: --- Christopher Columbus brings calves, goats, sheep, pigs, hens, citrus, melons and many kinds of vegetables to America.
- 1585: --- The potato was introduced in Spain from South America.
- 1607: --- English colonists in Jamestown, Va., planted grain, potatoes, pumpkins, melon, cotton, oranges and pineapples.
- 1609: --- Indians taught the Jamestown settlers how to grow corn.
- 1731: --- Jethro Tull introduced the horse-drawn cultivator and seed drill into English farming.
- 1783: --- Improved cattle, probably shorthorns, were introduced.
- 1784: --- James Small invented the iron plow in England.
- 1793: --- Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin.  
Thomas Jefferson invented a moldboard for the plow.
- 1798: --- John (Johnny Appleseed) Chapman planted his first appleseed nursery in western Pennsylvania.
- 1831: --- Cyrus McCormick invented the grain reaper.
- 1836: --- The grain combine was patented.

- 1837: --- John Deere began manufacturing plows.
- 1843: --- Sir John Lawes founded the commercial fertilizer industry by developing a process for making superphosphate.
- 1850: --- S. S. Rembert and J. Prescott developed a mechanical cotton picking machine.  
A farm family in the Western prairies needed about \$1,000 to establish a 160-acre farm.
- 1855: --- Michigan and Pennsylvania established the first state agricultural colleges.
- 1856: --- A patent for condensing milk was issued to Gail Borden.
- 1858: --- Mason jars, used for home canning, were invented.
- 1862: --- President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation creating the first Department of Agriculture. Lincoln also signed the Morrill Land Grant College Act.
- 1867: --- Barbed wire invented.
- 1869: --- Transcontinental railroad completed.  
Spring-toothed harrow invented.
- 1874: --- Georgia established the first state department of agriculture.
- 1875: --- First silos built.
- 1881: --- Hybridized corn produced.
- 1887: --- The Hatch Experiment Station Act was passed, providing federal grants to states for agricultural experimentation.
- 1888: --- The first long haul shipment of a refrigerated freight car was made from California to New York.
- 1892: --- The first gasoline tractor was built by John Froelich.
- 1900: --- Special work projects for farm youth were organized in Illinois; the name "4-H" was adopted in 1913.
- 1902: --- The Reclamation Act was passed, leading to water projects for irrigation.
- 1906: --- The first rural electric line was constructed at Hood River, Oregon.  
The Pure Food and Drug Law was enacted.
- 1911: --- The Farm Bureau was formed in Broome County, New York.

- 1914: --- Establishment of the federal-state extension service was a major step in direct education for farmers.
- 1919: --- American Farm Bureau Federation formally organized.
- 1921: --- The first farm market news radio report was broadcast over KDKA, Pittsburgh.  
The Packers and Stockyards Act was enacted.  
The Grain Futures Trading Act was enacted.
- 1922: --- Capper-Volstead Act exempts farm cooperatives from federal anti-trust statutes.
- 1933: --- The Farm Credit Administration was established, creating specialized credit for agriculture.
- 1938: --- The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 was enacted, authorizing farm price supports and adjustment programs.
- 1940: --- School milk program initiated.
- 1947: --- General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was negotiated.  
Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act passed.
- 1949: --- Agricultural Act of 1949 passed, incorporating the principle of flexible price support and giving surplus food to the needy.
- 1959: --- Food for Peace Program inaugurated.  
Mechanical tomato harvester developed.
- 1964: --- National Food Stamp Act passed.
- 1970: --- Development of Plant Variety Protection Act.
- 1972: --- President Carter initiated grain embargo against the Soviet Union following its invasion of Afghanistan.
- 1981: --- President Reagan lifted the Soviet grain embargo.
- 1985: --- Passage of 1985 Food Security Act shifts U.S. farm policy toward market orientation.
- 1986: --- A September meeting in Punta Del Este, Uruguay kicks-off the Uruguay Round of talks on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).
- 1988: --- U.S.-Canada free trade accord ratified.

- 1989: --- The number of U.S. farm acres retired through the Conservation Reserve Program reaches 30 million.
- 1991: --- More farmers use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques, working with nature to lessen the need for crop protectants and other inputs.
- 1993: --- Passage of North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).  
Advances in biotechnology reach the agricultural producer and consumer level.
- 1994: --- Farmers begin using satellite technology to track and plan their farming practices.  
The use of conservation tillage methods, which leave crop residues in the field to combat erosion, continues to rise.  
Farm Bureau celebrates its 75th anniversary.  
U.S. Congress approves General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) helping liberalize world trade.
- 1996: --- Chenango County Farm Bureau Launches into the 21st Century by being the first County Farm Bureau in New York State to have a Home Page on the Internet.  
Broome County Farm Bureau celebrates its 85th anniversary.

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