Appendix, Part IV

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TIMELINE:
NATIONAL POLICY AND AGRARIAN LEGISLATION

This timeline includes national policy and legislation affected by agrarianism, that is, legislation that favored farmers. The timeline also includes events that affected policy, or that reacted to legislation. You can add state legislation as appropriate. You can add events relevant to your site to make this long list most useful for planning agricultural interpretation.

Do not be overwhelmed by its length because the length conveys the reality that a large amount of national policy responded to agricultural interests. Master the content by thinking about the following three issues as your skim the list:

1) the farmers took direct action when government policy did not favor their interests as the cases of organized protests or outright violence during the 1670s, 1780s, 1870s, 1930s, 1970s indicate;
2) most policy favored farmers or at least responded to farmer interests;
3) not all farmers received support in the form of proactive legislation. Poor and minority farmers did not fare well. This affirms that agriculture is an industry that is too big to fail. That was the case when the majority of the population had a direct connection to farmers, and it is just as true now as the majority of people depend upon a shrinking number of farmers for food and fiber.

You will not find a lot of farmers in this policy. I did not create this timeline to emphasize farmer or farm business action. Your research can identify the people at the heart of your story. Your research will document the ways these policies affected your story. Your research will fill in the blanks between the national scope that this list provides, and the local context that will engage your constituents in your story.

Take the initiative to extend the context you develop for your agricultural story to the present even if your mission stops decades or centuries earlier. No place is divorced from the present, and visitors will come with the baggage of the agricultural present, even if they do not realize it. You can meet them in the present with the agricultural context for your site, and that will increase their understanding of what they see in their present. They will also enter exhibits or buildings and grounds on the historic site with a deeper understanding of where they are, and more prepared to put themselves back in the past of the place you share with them.

1580s-1770s	Mercantilism: An economic philosophy that took the form of trade regulation. The English (and after 1703, the British) required goods from North American colonies to be transported on English ships and through English ports. The restrictive legislation began during the 1580s, became more formalized with the Navigation Act of 1651 and subsequent acts. The colonies resisted the restrictive economic policies, but British mercantile policy continued after the American Revolution. Legislation included the Corn Laws, in force between 1815 and 1846 to protect the British food supply.
1676	Bacon's Rebellion: Arguably the first populist revolt in the English colonies. Nathaniel Bacon led a group of farmers and laborers from the Virginia hinterland in protest to the crown's policies, as implemented by Governor Berkeley.
1751	*Laissez-faire* or Free Market Economics: An economic theory promoted by French Physiocrats and by political economists such as Adam Smith. Smith theorized about the free market system in *Wealth of Nations* (1776).
1733-1763	Molasses Act: An example of regulatory trade policy implemented by the British Parliament to profit from colonial trade.
1764	Sugar Act: The Sugar Act replaced the Molasses Act and increased colonial opposition to taxation to regulate colonial trade in commodities.
1750s-1760s	Land Riots: Disputes over land claims led to class conflict in colonies from New York to New Hampshire and Maine. Settlers and tenant farmers who had improved land challenged the claims of their proprietary landlords, and violent uprisings often resulted.
1760s-1771	Regulator Movement: A populist revolt in the Carolinas, led by frontier settlers who challenged colonial officials and refused to pay tax assessments.
1785	Land Ordinance: The Continental Congress established the grid-system of township and range lines as the basis for surveying public land. Townships consisted of thirty-six square miles; each section contained 640 acres. Investors had to purchase complete sections, at a minimum payment of $1 per acre, but could then divide the section for resale.
1786	Shays' Rebellion: Daniel Shays' led approximately 4,000 farmers from Western Massachusetts in an armed revolt against the state government. The farmers had little income due to a decline in market demand and drop in commodity prices. They could not pay their debts, and resisted forces sales of their property. Historians believe this event increased interest in revising the Articles of Confederation, undertaken at the Convention in Philadelphia in 1787. This resulted in the new Constitution of the United States, ratified in 1788.
1787	Northwest Ordinance: The Continental Congress created the Northwest Territory and vested the national government with oversight over lands in the public domain, and authority over the process of admitting states into the United States of America. Owners held the land in fee

	simple, i.e. in perpetuity without limitation. The Ordinance prohibited slavery in the Northwest Territory, and gave the national government final authority over Indian relations in the west.
1796	Land Act: Established the minimum purchase price for public lands at $2 per acre.
1799	Fries' Rebellion: Farmers of German descent in Bucks and Northampton counties of Pennsylvania challenged the national government's authority to impose a graduated tax on land, slaves, and horses with a goal of financing the U.S. Navy during the Quasi War against France. President John Adams deployed the state militia and U.S. troops to stop rioting. They arrested the leader, John Fries but President Adams pardoned him.
After 1799	Agrarian/populist unrest, protest and rebellion declined and national legislation became more supportive of farmer interests, particularly land policy.
1801	Preemption Act: This was the first of several acts passed by the U.S. Congress that gave squatters the opportunity to purchase the land on which they had settled but not purchased because of contested land claims, inadequate financial resources, or limited access to land offices, among other reasons.
1802	U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: George Washington issued the first patent in 1790. After 1802 the office managed paperwork to document innovation and protect the rights of inventors. Numerous patents related to agricultural implements and agricultural processing.
1804	Land Act: Passed to attract migrants to Indiana Territory, it lowered the minimum purchase from 640 acres to 320 acres. It also introduced a credit feature. Only one-fourth of the purchase price was required at the time of purchase, the balance being payable in annual installments over a four year period.
1813	Illinois Preemption Act: Squatters who had "inhabited and cultivated a tract of land. . . in the Illinois territory" before the passage of the act, received a blanket pre-emption for 160 acres. They could purchase the tract at the minimum price within the time limit specified.
1820	Sale Act: This law reduced the minimum amount of public land that settlers had to buy to 80 acres at $1.25 per acre.
	Missouri Compromise: Maine entered the United States as a free state, and Missouri entered the United States as a slave state.
1830	Indian Removal Act: U.S. policy that justified removal of Indians from the southeastern United States to Indian Territory on the grounds of protecting the Indians from extinction. Some Indians voluntarily relocated; others resisted and were forced out of the area in 1838 during the infamous Trail of Tears; and others avoided relocation by hiding out. Indians faced the total destruction of their culture as President Andrew Jackson made good his promise to further the interests of white yeomen farm families.
1841	Preemption Act: This act allowed squatters to purchase as much as 160 acres of land on which they had lived, for $1.25 per acre.
1847-1855	Bounty Warranty Act: The U.S. Congress passed four land warrant acts between 1847 and 1855 that granted 60 million acres of land to veterans and their heirs. The Pension Bureau determined

the eligibility of these individuals and issued military bounty land grants for up to 160 acres each. Approximately one in nine U.S. families received a land warrant in exchange for earlier military service. The 1847 act provided warrants to veterans of the Mexican War. The 1850, 1852, and 1857 acts granted land to veterans of Indian wars after 1790. Families usually sold their warrants for cash to third parties who then surrendered the warrants to the General Land Office as payments for parcels of public land. Most distribution occurred before 1860, but the government continued to make grants through the remainder of the nineteenth century.

1848 Chicago Board of Trade (BOT): More than eighty merchants and business men in Chicago organized the commodity exchange. The Illinois General Assembly chartered it in 1859, granting it the authority to self-regulate. Relationships between BOT members and political offices and chambers of commerce assured mutual dependency between Chicago mayors, community boosters, and agricultural processors. The BOT created standards and grades for grains crops and inspection procedures to reduce buyer risk.

1850 Illinois Central Railroad Land-Grant Act: The U.S. government granted public land to the stockholders of the Illinois Central Railroad to facilitate its construction. This was the first time the government issued public lands to help construct a major private railroad line. It set a precedent that facilitated almost all railroad construction in the West for the next generation. In 1856, when the 700-mile charter line was finished, the Illinois Central was the longest railroad in the world.

By 1860 There were 941 agricultural societies in the United States. These societies indicated the power of the agricultural sector in the country. The United States Agricultural Society, founded in 1852, held its annual meeting in Washington D.C. and lobbied Congress to pass agrarian legislation.

1860-1861 Abraham Lincoln: Elected the 16th President of the United States on 6 November 1860; inaugurated 4 March 1861.

1861 Confederate States of America: Six of the seven states that had declared secession from the United States set up a new government, arguing that the United States Constitution was a compact that each state could abandon without consultation. The United States rejected secession as illegal. Representatives from the first seven seceded states—South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas—formed a "permanent federal government" in Montgomery, Alabama, convened on 8 February 1861.

1861-1865 Civil War: During the Civil War, farm boys continued to serve; families continued to farm; demand for agricultural commodities grew; the development of technology advanced and production of agricultural machinery increased.

1862 Confederate Conscription Act: The Confederate government instituted the draft one year into the Civil War when voluntary enlistments could not meet troops required. The Act initially applied to men between 18 and 35, expanded to 45, and allowed exemptions, including for those employed in industry and agriculture. The Union faced challenges recruiting volunteers and also instituted the draft, but allowed fewer exemptions.

1862 Homestead Act: The act extended the system of public land sales authorized by the Preemption Act of 1841 to the West (Nebraska being the state where a "homesteader" first filed a claim on public land under the 1862 act). The law (and those following it) required a three step procedure: file an application, improve the land, and file for deed of title. Any head of household, 21 years of age and older could file an application to claim a federal land grant (except those who had taken up arms against the U.S. government). The occupant had to reside on the land for five years and show evidence of improvement.

1862 Morrill Land Grant Act: The legislation granted each eligible state 30,000 acres of public land for each state representative and senator. States used the proceeds to establish a land-grant college to train the agricultural and industrial classes.

1862 Pacific Railroad Act: The first trans-continental railroad was guaranteed a northern route because of this war-time legislation.

1862 U.S. Department of Agriculture: Established by U.S. Congressional legislation, the department gained cabinet status in 1889.

1864 Futures Trading: The Chicago Board of Trade issued the first futures contracts, with buyers purchasing a quantity of grain yet to be planted. This was designed to stabilize Midwestern grain markets, assuring farmers a market for their products, and processors a supply for their business.

1864 Charleston Illinois Riot: Tensions led to an altercation between northern or peace Democrats (aka Copperheads) and Union troops in Charleston, Illinois, on March 28, 1864. Rural life and farming experience informed both the soldiers and the civilians involved in the riot, but agriculture and rural life did not give them a common political philosophy. When the firing ceased, nine lay dead. Historians have described the event as one of the most intriguing of the Civil War home front, and it indicates the depth of conflict in the rural central Illinois.

1860-1875 Railroads: The North and Midwest benefitted more than the South from expansion of railways and rail transportation networks.

1865 The Union Stockyards of Chicago opened.

1867 The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry (The Grange): The Grange is the oldest American agricultural advocacy group with a national scope. Grange members in Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota, lobbied their state legislators to pass a series of so-called Granger laws during the late 1860s and early 1870s. All laws shared the goals of making railroad rates more favorable to farmers. In Illinois, an article in the Constitution of 1870 regulated the rates long haul and short haul rates that railroads could charge, and regulated the maximum price that grain storage facilities could charge.

1873 Slaughter-house Cases (Louisiana): The first interpretation of the Fourteenth Amendment by the Supreme Court of the United States. The issues involved whether the City of New Orleans regulations of slaughter-houses violated the butchers’ rights to practice their trade. SCOTUS ruled that the Amendment did not restrict the power of cities or states to regulate in the interests of local citizens, and that it was written with the intent of protecting the interests of freedmen.

1875 Chicago Meat Packer Swift and Company Establishes the Swift Refrigerator Line: Butchering an animal as large as a beef critter generated more meat than most families could consume quickly. Butchers corned beef to preserve and tenderize less popular cuts. The demand for fresh beef in places far removed from the prairie pastures of the Midwest or the ranges of the southwest resulted in creation of refrigerated rail cars. Meat butchered in Chicago could reach eastern markets unspoiled, even if less palatable than fresh meat.

Farmers' Alliance: American farmers engaged in political activism during the 1870s and 1880s. This involved several parallel but independent organizations that became more politicized as time passed: the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union, aka Southern Farmers' Alliance which limited membership to white farmers of the South; the National Farmers' Alliance among the white and black farmers of the Midwest and High Plains, areas where the Granger movement had been strong; and the Colored Farmers' National Alliance and Cooperative Union, consisting of the African American farmers of the South. Alliance activism culminated in the formation of the largest third-party movement in the history of the United States, the Peoples' Party in 1890.

1877 *Munn* v *Illinois*: The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) ruled that "private property becomes subject to regulation by the government through its 'police powers' when the property is devoted to the public interest." Thus, the state of Illinois had the authority to regulate railroads and warehouses to ensure that farmers could transport and store grain without being charged exorbitant rates during harvest. Industrialists contested this decision on the grounds that corporations were people, too, and thus entitled to inalienable rights of life, liberty, and property. The 1886 SCOTUS decision, *Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific Railway Co.* v. *Illinois*, limited state regulation but prompted the national government to formalize regulation of interstate commerce.

1879 School of Veterinary Medicine: Iowa Agricultural College, now Iowa State University, established the first School of Veterinary Medicine.

1882 Agricultural Wheel: An independent farmers' union headquartered in Arkansas that sought solutions to problems assailing small farmers, namely economic inequality resulting from unfair pricing by cotton merchants and railroad freight companies. Members also sought access to short-term credit at low rates of interest, and the ability to participate in cooperative purchasing and marketing. In 1886, the Wheel merged with the Brothers of Freedom. In 1888 it joined the Knights of Labor to form the Union Labor Party in Arkansas, and in 1889 the Wheel ceased to exist when it merged with the National Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union of America (aka the Southern Farmers' Alliance).

1883 Veterinary Division, USDA: The U.S. Department of Agriculture created the Veterinary Division in the Bureau of Animal Industry to research and propose policy to eradicate contagious animal diseases.

1887 Dawes Severalty Act: The act was designed to hasten assimilation of Indians on reservations by allotting land to individual families with the expectation that they would adopt Euro-American farming practices. This plan did not take into account cultural identity, social resistance, or the local environment and climate that made family farming on 160 acres of allotment nearly impossible. Indian nations lost reservation lands as a provision of the bill authorized sale of any reservation lands not claimed through allotments as public lands.

1887 Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC): The Interstate Commerce Act created the ICC to regulate trade across state lines, an authority vested in the national government by the U.S. Constitution, but not exercised before the ICC.

1890 National People's Party (aka Populists): On July 15, 1890 the Populist Party met in Columbus, Nebraska to nominate candidates. They adopted a platform that incorporated much of the Farmers' Alliance agenda. The platform called for government ownership of railroads and the telegraph, a cap on freight rates, land reform, coinage of sliver and opposition to the gold standard as a means to counter high deflation in agricultural prices.

1890 Morrill Land Grant Act: A second Morrill Act allowed former Confederate states to designate a separate land-grant institution for persons of color. These colleges became known as 1890 institutions.

1893-1939 Good Roads Movement: National interest in road improvement began in 1893 when the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture created the Office of Road Inquiry (Office of Public Roads Inquiries) as specified in the Agricultural Appropriation Act of 1893. It was renamed the Office of Public Roads (1905) then the Bureau of Public Roads (1918). In 1939 the Bureau became the Public Roads Administration in the Federal Works Agency (FWA), then in 1949, it was renamed the Bureau of Public Roads and placed as a division of the U.S. Department of Commerce. In 1966, the U.S. Congress established the U.S. Department of Transportation, and in 1967, responsibility for public roads fell to the Federal Highway Administration.

1895 *United States* v. *E.C. Knight Co.*: Known as the Sugar Trust Case, this was the first major test of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act of 1890. The case addressed whether E.C. Knight Company's monopoly of the manufacture of refined sugar violated the Anti-Trust Act. The SCOTUS ruled that manufacturing was a local activity, not an interstate activity, and not commerce, in a narrow interpretation of the word, so the E.C. Knight Company could continue to monopolize the manufacture of refined sugar.

1896 *Plessy* v. *Ferguson*: a SCOTUS decision that allowed racial discrimination in public accommodation. This resulted in racially self-conscious record keeping that documents activities of black and white rural people, the formation of different offices to deliver public services to black and white rural people, and the expansion of separate public schools to serve rural youth.

1897 Interstate Association of Livestock Sanitary Board: Members of the board focused on eradicating one disease that affected cattle – Texas fever.

1897 U.S. Animal Health Association: Concerned officials at the state and national level, along with industrialists formed the USAHA to regulate eradicate animal disease, ensure shipment of healthy animals across state lines, and to plan disease prevention.

1896 Rural Free Delivery (RFD): Introduced by the US Post Office to reduce rural isolation and hasten conveyance of news and information through timely postal deliveries.

1898 Chicago Butter and Egg Board: Organized from the Chicago Produce Exchange to facilitate trading of two commodities, The Board was reorganized into the Commodities Mercantile Exchange in 1919.

1900-1920 (or 1909-1914): Golden Age: Many farmers prospered during the early twentieth century as the market price for commodities (crop and stock that farmers produced) increased faster than the cost of production. The prices of this era became the basis for agricultural parity, the concept that market regulation should prevent market prices from dipping below Golden Age prices.

1906 Federal Meat Inspection Act: The Act gave the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture the authority to deploy meat inspectors to visit slaughter houses, inspect live animals, monitor processing, and inspect finished meat products to determine what was fit for human consumption, and what was not. It reflected national interest in retaining European markets for American meat and responded to the pressure from Progressive reformers who called for regulation of food production. The demand for meat inspectors kept veterinary diagnostic laboratories on Illinois campuses busy.

1906 Federal Food and Drugs Act: The Act was written to protect consumers from tainted foods by increasing regulation on the "manufacture, sale, or transportation of adulterated or misbranded or poisonous or deleterious foods, drugs, medicines, and liquors, and for regulating traffic" of same.

1908 Country Life Commission: President Theodore Roosevelt appointed members to this commission to research rural conditions and propose solutions to improve rural life.

1910 Federal Insecticide Act: The first legislation regulating pesticides. The law did not regular applications, but the production and marketing of pesticides to protect consumers from fraudulent products.

1911 4-H origins: By 1911 the 4-leaf clover represented head, heart, hands, & health. The funding from the Smith-Lever Act supported creation of 4-H club agents employed through the Agricultural Extension Service at land-grant colleges, to work with farm youth.

1914 Smith-Lever Act: President Woodrow Wilson signed this act which formalized the relationship between state land-grant colleges and the Federal Extension Service. It reduced the influence of private funding of African American extension agents in former Confederate states, and led to the formation of Negro Divisions at 1890 institutions, administered by the administrators who directed Agricultural Extension Service offerings at 1862 land-grant colleges.

1916 Keating-Owen Child Labor Act: Cities and states regulated ages that children could enter the workforce. While such localized legislation tried to prevent exploitation, rural and farm families and farm families that needed either the labor or the income that children could provide, resented the regulation. The Keating-Owen Act prohibited the sale of goods produced using child labor across states lines. SCOTUS ruled the Act unconstitutional in the *Hammer* v *Dagenhart* decision of 1918.

1916 National Milk Producers Federation: Members of the NMPF established an office in Washington D.C. to lobby on behalf of dairy farmers and dairy cooperatives.

Federal Farm Loan Act: This Act created Cooperative Farm Credit System banks to offer stable credit to farmers and ranchers who could mortgage their land and finance land and machinery purchases. The law created a Federal Farm Loan Board, twelve regional Farm loan banks, and dozens of Farm Loan associations. Under the act, farmers could borrow up to 50 percent of the value of their land and 20 percent of the value of their improvements.

1916 Federal Aid Road Act (also called the Bankhead-Shackleford Act): This legislation authorized each state to form a highway agency and employ engineering professionals to implement federal-aid projects. The Act emphasized improvement of farm-to-market roads and rural post roads.

1917 U.S. entered the Great War

U.S. National War Garden Commission: This agency administered the war garden program. The youth movement took the form of the U.S. School Garden Army, administered through the U.S. Bureau of Education. While people in the cities contributed to the War Garden movement, women from the city went to the country as volunteers in the Women's Land Army to help meet labor needs on the farm.

1917 National Vocational Education Act, aka Smith-Hughes Act: This legislation provided national funds, on a matching basis, to high schools that organized and conducted classes in agriculture over a twelve-month period and hired a qualified teacher to conduct these classes on a "learn-by-doing" basis.

1917 Tuberculosis Eradication Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry: Testing conducted between 1917 and 1940 resulted in the destruction of 3.8 million cattle.

1920 Eighteenth Amendment (Prohibition): This constitutional amendment prohibited the production, transport, and sale of alcohol illegal, though individuals could still possess and consume it. Moral reformers realized their goal, but rural and urban bootleggers took the risks and either reaped the benefits or suffered the consequences of illegal manufacture and trade. Breweries transformed their products into mixers and 3.2 percent beer to try to stay in business. The Twenty-First Amendment, effective December 5, 1933, repealed prohibition and make the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages legal once again.

American Farm Bureau Federation: "The purpose of Farm Bureau is to make the business of farming more profitable, and the community a better place to live. . . . so members may secure the benefits of unified efforts in a way which could never be accomplished through individual effort." – Statement originally approved by Farm Bureau members in 1920.

1920 First USDA Radio Broadcast of Market Prices: The U.S. Department of Agriculture began an extensive effort to use radio broadcasting to expand its traditional mission of providing information to the nation's farmers. The first broadcast of market reports was initiated through the Bureau of Standards station, WWV, in Washington DC. "Marketgrams" were issued at 5pm on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of each week, and covered the markets for the preceding seven days.

1920 American Soybean Association: Purdue University agricultural staff, county agents and the USDA organized the first Corn Belt Soybean Field Day in Camden, Indiana. Growers agreed to form the National Soybean Growers' Association, renamed the American Soybean Association in 1925.

1921 Farm Bloc: U.S. congressmen representing southern, mid-western, and plains states continued to support agrarian legislation. During the 1920s, five powerful organizations, The National Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation, the National Council of Farmers Cooperatives, the Grange, the American Farm Bureau Federation, and the National Farmers Union, established strong lobbies in Washington DC, and worked with these Congressmen to create the bipartisan Farm Bloc.

Packers and Stockyards Act: National legislation protected farmers and ranchers from unscrupulous meatpacking companies by ensuring a fair price for livestock and poultry, and regulating sanitary conditions to protect consumers. It did not address the hazards workers experienced on the job.

1921 An AM radio station in Madison, Wisconsin, issued the call sign WHA in January 1922, began broadcasting weather forecasts.

1922 Capper-Volstead Act: This legislation exempted farmer cooperatives from regulation by anti-trust legislation. The Act allowed cooperatives to purchase collectively to reduce costs and pursue "orderly marketing" of their crops at the local and regional scale. By 1928, almost 12,000 marketing and purchasing cooperatives served over three million farmers. In 1929, independent cooperatives formed the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives to represent their interests.

Grain Futures Act: Replaced the Futures Trading Act of 1921 in an effort to increase oversight of self-regulated commodity markets, specifically futures trading. The Supreme Court of the United States upheld its constitutionality in *Board of Trade of City of Chicago* v. *Olsen* 262 US 1 (1923). It was revised by the Commodity Exchange Act of 1936, and by the creation of Futures Trading Commissions in 1974 and 1982.

1923 Agricultural Credit Act: The legislation created district Federal credit banks to channel funds to commercial banks and other agricultural lenders to meet farmer demand for short-term and low-interest loans to finance production costs (i.e. payments for seeds, equipment, and labor costs).

1923 Radio Market News: A broadcast of the Division of Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics (formed from consolidation of the U.S. Bureau of Markets and Bureau of Crop Estimates into the Bureau of Markets and Crop Estimates in 1921, which combined with the Office of Farm Management and Farm Economics in 1922 to form the Bureau of Agricultural Economics).

1923 KFEQ, first AM Radio Broadcasting from Rural Location: KFEQ was founded by John L. Scroggn and Scroggin & Co. Bank and first broadcast in 1923 from Oak, Nebraska. By 1924, a USDA survey of farm families showed that 370,000 had radios, double the number in 1923.

1924 National Corn Husking Contests: As farmers purchased silage choppers and corn pickers, nostalgia and community activism combined to create local cornhusking events. Contestants picked for eighty minutes and judges evaluated bushels picked, cleanness of the ears, and amount of corn left in the field. Local winners competed at the state level, and winners advanced to the national competition. The events drew thousands during the 1930s, ceased in 1941, but began again in 1970 with nine states participating.

1926 Hi-Bred Corn Company: Henry A. Wallace founded the seed corn company. The company was renamed Pioneer Hi-Bred Corn Company in 1935, and it grew into the largest hybrid seed company in the United States. Wallace's name recognition likely elevated the company's visibility, if not credibility. He held major posts with the national government including serving as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture (1933-1940), as Vice President (1941-1945) during Franklin Delano Roosevelt's fourth term, and as U.S. Secretary of Commerce (1945-1946).

1926 Radio Division of the USDA: William M. Jardine, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, created a radio division to facilitate communication and information sharing between the USDA and commercial and university broadcasting stations.

1927 NBC and CBS Radio Networks Formed: The Radio Corporation of America formed NBC, and CBS began with the creation of the "United Independent Broadcasters" network in Chicago by New York talent-agent Arthur Judson.

1928-1958 The National Farm and Home Hour was a variety show which was broadcast in various formats from 1928 to 1958. Aimed at listeners in rural America, it was known as "the farmer's bulletin board" and was produced by the United States Department of Agriculture with contributions from, and the cooperation of, various farm organizations (among them the American Farm Bureau, 4-H Club, Farmers Union, Future Farmers of America and the National Grange).

1929 Stock Market Crash and the Great Depression: The New York Stock Exchange crashed, ending the speculative boom of the 1920s. This event marked the start of the Great Depression, an economic collapse that affected all western industrial nations and that lasted until military mobilization invigorated the economy after 1939. Farmers struggled to pay bills due to plummeting commodity prices, and many lost farms because they could not meet mortgage payments.

1930 Over half of all farms in the United States had automobiles, about a third had telephones, but only about 10 percent of farm homes had electricity, so a much smaller percentages had electricity and radio.

1931 Cow War: Violent disputes erupted in Iowa over testing cattle for tuberculosis. Farmers failed to repeal the testing program so they resisted by blocking tests. Some confrontations turned violent.

Dan Turner, the Republican Iowa governor, declared martial law and called out the Iowa National Guard to restore peace and to assist in capturing perpetrators.

1932 Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC): Congress passed and President Hoover signed legislation that created this independent agency of the U.S. government. It appropriated funds to state and local governments and loaned money to banks, railroads and other businesses. The RFC loaned over $2 billion between 1932 and 1957 when the U.S. government disbanded it. The RFC provided a model that many New Deal agencies followed after Roosevelt's inauguration in early March 1933.

Emergency Relief Reconstruction Act: This legislation amended the Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act, and authorized the RFC to loan funds to public relief projects. State governments could loan appropriated funds to businesses or to communities to complete public works projects. Thus, towns could apply for a loan from the state program that administered the funds to maintain roads or build processing plants for canning vegetables. Such projects had to benefit the community and have the potential to stimulate the local economy.

1932-1934 Farmers' Holiday Association: Iowan Milo Reno organized the Farmers' Holiday Association to help organize "strikes" during which farmers withheld products from market, particularly perishable products such as milk, to leverage for price increases. The Association also organized resistance to foreclosure sales or forced sales of farms. The organization was most active and violent in Iowa, but branches existed in Illinois as well as Wisconsin, Minnesota and other Midwestern states.

1934 Southern Tenant Farmers' Union: Formed in Arkansas, a combination of factors including drought, flood, the New Deal cotton buy-out program, charismatic leaders, and the appeal of Socialism and Communism, mobilized share croppers and tenant farmers in the Mississippi Delta. The Union weakened after 1938 but H.L. Mitchell provided leadership thereafter, first as executive secretary (1941) and then as president (1944 to 1960).

1933-1938 New Deal: The New Deal began with Franklin Delano Roosevelt's inauguration on 4 March 1933. Through executive action and legislation passed by a majority Democrat congress, the national government began regulating the banking system, reducing unemployment through public work projects, and stabilizing processing and production industries, including agriculture. Historians tend to divide the New Deal into a first (1933-1934) and second phase (1935-1937). The following bills responded to crises in the agricultural economy:

1933 Reforestation Relief Act: This Act established the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a relief program for unemployed men that provided vocational training through jobs in environmental conservation and public building projects. Initially created for young men aged 18-24, the CCC boys received $5 per month and the remaining $25 of their salary went home to their parents.

Federal Emergency Relief Act: Over one quarter of the nation's work force (14 million people) were out of work. The Act authorized immediate grants to states for relief projects that took the form of projects for writers, artists, actors and musicians; construction projects on roads and pools and other public services; and production of consumer goods. It also operated workers' education projects, projects for women, and food relief projects.

1933 Agricultural Adjustment Administration (Farm Relief Bill): The AAA was created "to relieve the existing national economic emergency by increasing agricultural purchasing power, to raise revenue for extraordinary expenses incurred by reason of such emergency, to provide emergency relief with respect to agricultural indebtedness, to provide for the orderly liquidation of joint-stock land banks, and for other purposes." The most controversial strategy involved stabilizing the farm economy by reducing production and recompensing farmers for their lost earnings through subsidies. Different basic commodities became the focus of production reduction in different regions of the country: cotton in the South, field corn and hog reduction in the Midwest, wheat reduction in the Great Plains, and tobacco reduction in the Chesapeake Bay-Carolina Piedmont. SCOTUS ruled the AAA unconstitutional in the *United States* v *Butler* decision in early 1936. Other legislation replaced it in 1936 and 1938, though they established the precedent for United States government policy focused on commercial agricultural production.

1933 Tennessee Valley Authority: Congress created this federally owned corporation to develop the Tennessee River Valley, a region devastated by unemployment and rural poverty. The TVA built flood control projects, recreation areas, and electric generating plants.

1933 Farm Credit Act: The Act established the Farm Credit System as a group of cooperative lending institutions to provide short-, intermediate-, and long-term loans for agricultural purposes. Specifically, it authorized the Farm Credit Administration to create 12 Production Credit Associations and 12 Banks for Cooperatives alongside the 12 established Federal Land Banks, as well as a Central Bank for Cooperatives.

1933 Federal Surplus Relief Corporation: The government responded to public criticism of the Hog Reduction program by creating this agency to purchase, process, and distribute basic commodities such as pork, beef, and dairy products, for use in public relief during the Great Depression. The name changed in 1935 to the Federal Surplus Commodities Corporation. By March 1937 it was distributing commodities to school lunch programs.

1933 National Labor Relations Act (Wagner Act): This Act protected the rights of employees to organize and collectively bargain. In exchange employers secured a dependable and committed work force. Agricultural laborers, however, did not receive the same benefits as other employees. Neither did domestic servants. Most claim that racism caused this exemption. Most agricultural laborers and domestic servants in the South were African American. Class likely affected the decisions, too, because of the underclass status of many migrant laborers. Agricultural laborers today have no protection to organize, unionize, or collectively bargain.

1933 Soil Erosion Service: The U.S. Congress responded to interest in using New Deal funding for soil conservation projects by creating the Soil Erosion Service in the U.S. Department of the Interior. The first director, Hugh Hammond Bennett, gained his expertise in soil erosion by working on soil surveys as an employee of the USDA's Bureau of Soils. President F.D. Roosevelt moved the Service to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Congress reauthorized it as a permanent agency, the Soil Conservation Service, in 1935.

1934–1940 Dust Bowl: Severe heat and drought during 1934, 1936 and 1939-1940 dried up the Great Plains. The extreme weather, combined with large-scale arable agriculture, not dryland farming, left the soil prone to wind erosion. The environmental crisis forced farm families to abandon their lands and relocate further west.

1934 Farm Mortgage Refinancing Act: This legislation created the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation, appropriated $2 billion, and empowered it and the Farm Credit Administration to help farmers refinance using long-term loans and low interest rates.

Crop Loan Act: This law funded $40 million to continue the Farm Credit Administration so it could extend credit to farmers for planting and harvesting. Farmers used about 95 percent of the money to produce the 1934 crop.

1934 Jones-Connally Farm Relief Act: The list of basic commodities over which the 1933 Agricultural Adjustment Act had authority included wheat, cotton, field corn, hogs, rice, tobacco, and milk. The Jones-Connally Act added beef cattle to that list; the Jones-Costigan Act (aka the Sugar Act of 1934) added sugar crops to the list (cane sugar and sugar beets); and the list grew more to include rye, flax, barley, grain sorghum, peanuts, and potatoes. Various factors prompted the expansion of basic commodities. Farmers and ranchers lobbied for the inclusion of beef cattle, a designation they had previously resisted, because they could no longer afford to feed cattle to keep them alive during the Dust Bowl. Sugar producers sought government intervention in the form of tariffs and subsidies to shore up a failing sugar industry. Acreage allotments applied only to wheat, cotton, field corn, peanuts, rice, sugar, and most kinds of tobacco.

1934 Kerr-Smith Tobacco Act: Many farmers did not sign-up to participate in production reduction programs despite the promotional campaigns launched by agricultural extension service staff and news media. This Act added incentives. Those farmers who did not reduce their tobacco production would pay a tax of 25-percent on all tobacco sold; those farmers who participated were exempt from the tax. The Act also set mandatory quotas limiting production.

1934 Frazier-Lemke Farm Bankruptcy Act: This Act placed a moratorium on farm mortgage foreclosures, and restricted the ability of banks to repossess farms.

1935 The second New Deal: Policies addressed the needs of laborers, the aged, and the environment.

1935 Social Security Act: This legislation provided old-age insurance to working-class Americans, but less attention has been paid to who did not receive the benefits. Civil servants and public school teachers were excluded from the benefit. Theoretically, they received pensions from their state pension system. Agricultural laborers and domestic servants were also excluded, and thus did not qualify for social security benefits.

1935 Emergency Relief Appropriation Act: The act authorizes almost $5 billion for immediate relief and increased employment on "useful projects," one of which is the Works Progress

Administration (WPA). This put people to work constructing tourist destinations across the rural United States, including lodges and other features in state parks and recreation areas. Other projects included infrastructure such as bridges and roads.

1935 Resettlement Administration: The goals of the RA were to help farm families relocate and start farming anew with low-interest loans and modern housing facilities and farm buildings.

1935 Rural Electrification Administration (REA): By 1935, cities and towns had installed power plants, but farm families depended on Delco plants and other independent means of generating electricity. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt established the REA through Executive Order 7037. It provided federal loans to rural electric cooperatives. Farm families in the area served paid dues to the cooperative and received the benefit of power provided at a reasonable rate through the cooperative's electric power company. Once formed, the cooperatives received the loans to install poles, lines, and transformers in the rural area served. Electrification created a frenzy of purchasing to secure electric motors, water pumps, washing machines, stoves, and refrigerators to fully modernize the farm home. Investing in the cooperative generated additional economic stimulation to the economy, and the low-interest short-term loans available through other New Deal agencies facilitated these purchases.

1936 Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act: The U.S. Congress responded to the *United States* v *Butler* decision by revising agricultural policy to address an interstate issue: soil conservation. This Act made the Soil Conservation Service central to agricultural policy, appropriating funds to pay farmers to reduce the potential of soil erosion by removing marginal land from production and rehabilitating depleted soils.

1937 Bankhead-Jones Farm Security Act: This act established a credit system that helped tenant farmers purchase land, and helped owners to rehabilitate their property. Farmers could also use the low-interest rate loans to purchase livestock, feed, seed, and machinery. The funds also helped the government purchase abandoned lands and rehabilitate them into forests or grasslands.

1938 Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA): The second AAA conceptualized soil as a national resource. Instead of compensating farmers for reducing production by reducing acreage in cultivation, it compensated farmers for soil conservation practices which, theoretically, reduced production. Farmers cooperated by planting alternative crops on marginal land, terracing to reduce erosion, and rejuvenating soils. Ironically, farmers also planted new varieties that increased yields on fewer acres, so realizing the goals of reduction proved challenging. The policy also sought to ensure a steady supply of and steady market prices for basic agricultural commodities, an "ever-normal granary" as Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, labeled it. The second AAA also provided crop loans through the Commodity Credit Corporation and crop insurance through the Federal Crop Insurance Cooperation.

Fair Labor Standards Act (Wages and Hours Bill): This act established maximum hours in per day (8) and per work week (40); a national minimum wage (25 cents per hour in 1938), and overtime at one-and-one-half times regular pay. Agricultural laborers and domestic servants were exempt from minimum wage and maximum hour protection. Today they remain exempt from minimum wage, maximum hours, and workman's compensation laws.

1938 Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, as a result of this Act bears responsibility for ensuring the safety of food, drugs and cosmetics. The Delaney Clause, added in 1958, prohibited the use of known carcinogens in food additives.

1941 War Food Administration and Victory Gardens: Agricultural policies during World War II balanced the need to grow food and ration consumption, which volunteers embraced, with the need to manage basic commodity supplies needed by allies and American troops.

1942 Emergency Price Control Act: This war-time legislation responded to consumer concerns about increasing prices on basic commodities (corn, wheat, rice, cotton, and tobacco) due to war-time demand. It set the limit on commodity price increases at 110 percent of parity (the Golden Age prices). Congress then passed the Steagall Amendment to protect farmers from the anticipated post-war commodity price decline. The Amendment required the U.S. Congress to sustain commodity prices at 90 percent of parity and to continue the support for two years after the war ended. Protected commodities included "hogs, eggs, chickens (with certain exceptions), turkeys, milk, butterfat, certain dry peas, certain dry edible beans, soybeans, flaxseed and peanuts for oil, American-Egyptian (ELS) cotton, potatoes, and sweet potatoes."

1942 Bracero Program: The United States signed the Mexican Farm Labor Agreement to provide needed manual labor to producers of fruits, vegetables, sugar beets, and other commodities during World War II. The agreement was extended through the Migrant Labor Agreement of 1951. It continued to 1964. Laborers were issued temporary work permits, provided room and board, and earned 30 cents per hour. Criticism of the program included exploitation of laborers, slow payments, and no procedure for extending permanent residence or citizenship to laborers intent on migrating to the United States.

1945 Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO): An American's idea to collect international data on agriculture took form in Italy in 1905 with creation of the International Institute of Agriculture (IIA). The FAO, an agency of the United Nations, assumed the IIA's mandate to collect and distribute agricultural statistics, to study plant diseases, and to collect and disseminate information about rural communities in global context. The FAO addressed fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, and natural resource management, in addition to crops and livestock in global context. It facilitated international cooperation in scientific research as well as national policy review and reform.

1945 International Monetary Fund (IMF): Formed during the 1944 United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference (aka Bretton Woods Conference), it became official in December 1945, with 29 member countries. As of 2016, the IFT includes 189 countries dedicated to global cooperation to ensure financial stability, facilitate international trade, and reduce poverty, among other things. Critics charge it with undermining indigenous economies including those based on exchange of agricultural goods and services, and destroying the ability of rural people to compete in capitalistic markets.

1945 Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE): Founded by twenty-two U.S. organizations dedicated to humanitarian relief. Donors paid $10 to offset costs of sending a package of foodstuffs to Europeans in danger of starving.

1945 Thresher Reunions: The National Threshers Association formed in 1945 and has drawn a crowd to its Annual Reunion in Wauseon, Ohio, every June since its founding. Other regular thresher events include the Midwest Old Settlers and Threshers Association which offered its first event in September 1950. The annual reunion in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, continues as the largest event of its kind.

1946 Farmers Home Administration (FHA): This agency replaced the Farm Security Administration (FSA, 1937) which had replaced the Resettlement Administration (1935). The goals initially focused on resettling poor farm families on their own land. Critics labeled the service socialist and communist in its efforts to collectivize agriculture. The FSA employed photographers to tour the United States and document rural poverty. Some became iconic images of human suffering during the Great Depression. After World War II, the FHA replaced the FSA, and the goal shifted to financial intervention such as loans to farm families to purchase and rehabilitate farms. In 1994, a major reorganization of the USDA consolidated several agencies into the Consolidated Farm Service Agency, renamed the Farm Service Agency in 1995.

1947 Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act: The USDA bore responsibility for synthetic chemical applications in the post-war United States. It recognized the potential risks of chemical applications to the environment, to the farmer using the chemicals, and to the consumers needing protection from residue on foodstuffs.

1947 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT): A multilateral international trade agreement negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations. It was signed in 1947 by 23 “contracting parties,” including the United States, and took effect 1 January 1948. The GATT applied to trade in agricultural commodities but countries responded with tariffs and quotas to leverage for more favorable trade with selected countries.

1948 Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC): The OEEC began to implement the U.S.-funded Marshall Plan which distributed agricultural surpluses and equipment to rebuild Europe. In 1960, the United States and Canada joined the OEEC and members approved the reorganized Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). In 2016, 39 countries participate to document international trends, review policy, and propose revisions on topics related to but not solely focused on agriculture. For instance, the OECD collects data on national government support for agriculture and reports findings.

1949 Point Four Program: President Harry S. Truman’s fourth point of his inaugural address, emphasized the role that agriculture technical experts would play in international cold-war diplomacy.

1953-1961 Ezra Taft Benson: Served as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture during the Eisenhower administration. Benson opposed production controls during the post-World-War-II production revolution when farmers used synthetic herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers and hybrid seeds to increase yields exponentially. He urged farmers to “get better or get out.”

1954 Agriculture Act: The Act established a flexible price support system for basic commodities. In his statement, Eisenhower wrote, "At last our farmers are enabled gradually to redirect our agriculture toward better balanced production--and, at last, our farmers are assured of greater freedom instead of the rapidly increasing regimentation and Federal domination they were sure to suffer under a continuation of the present system of rigid price supports. Those who share my deep feeling about the great importance to our country of preserving the proud independence and initiative of our farming people will share my pleasure in this new law, and will also share my hope that in time nearly all production adjustments can be accomplished through flexible supports instead of direct government controls."

1956 Soil Bank Program: The Agricultural Act of 1956 created the Soil Bank Program, among its other provisions. The program encouraged farmers to take land out of production for short- and long-term intervals. In exchange for the acreage they banked, farmers received annual rent payments from the Soil Bank appropriation.

1957 Poultry Products Inspection Act: This act required inspection of all poultry slaughtered and processed into food for human consumption.

1960 Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA): The Act provided for comprehensive oversight of working conditions to ensure the safety and health of laborers. Farmers received exemptions if employees were family members and if farmers employed fewer than ten laborers over the previous twelve months. OSHA regulations applied to equipment manufacturers who had to provide tractor roll-bars and shields on farm equipment, and to employers of temporary, seasonal, and migrant laborers who had to ensure sanitary conditions in fields and in labor camps.

1960 Harvest of Shame: A television documentary broadcast on Thanksgiving evening, and delivered by CBS investigative journalist Edward R. Murrow. The American public watched the plight of the disadvantaged agricultural laborers who harvested the foodstuffs consumed in the land of plenty.

1964 Food Stamp Act (P.L. 88-525): A temporary Food Stamp Program existed between 1939 and 1943. President Kennedy issued an Executive Order designed to increase consumption of perishable foodstuffs in 1961. President Lyndon B. Johnson believed a Food Stamp Program would be a responsible way to dispose of agricultural surplus. The Act authorized the distribution to poor mothers with young children, but it was part of a larger appropriation that increased subsidies to cotton and wheat producers. This indicated the politicized nature of agricultural policy as the number of consumers increased, and number of farmers declined. Subsequent legislation The Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 (P.L. 95-113, Title XIII; 7 U.S.C.

2011 et seq.) amended the Food Stamp Act of 1964. The program was renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in 2008.

1965-1970 Delano Grape Strike: The five-year strike drew national attention to the plight of migrant farm laborers. It increased visibility of the work that activists such as Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta did among Latino/a populations. Chavez's National Farm Workers Association allied with Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee, an AFL affiliate with mostly Filipino-American members. The Latino/a and Filipino/a organizations merged in 1970 to form the United Farm Workers.

1967 Federation of Southern Cooperatives Land Assistance Fund: (Ralph Paige); Black Farmers Agriculturalist Association (Gary Grant); National Black Farmers Alliance (John Boyd)

1970 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): President Richard Nixon created the EPA by executive order during a period of intense concern about the natural environment in the wake of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* and eight months after the first Earth Day. The EPA consolidated research, planning, and regulatory bodies on major natural resources (air, water, land, endangered species, hazardous waste, and agricultural chemical use).

1971-1976 Earl Butz: U.S. Secretary of Agriculture during the Nixon and Ford administrations. Butz advised farmers to "get bigger, get better, or get out" and to plant "from fence row to fence row." Butz had served as Assistant Secretary for Marketing and Foreign Agriculture (1954-1957) during the Eisenhower administration and as the chairman of the U.S. Delegation to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (1954-1957). Butz advocated for minimal regulations and international trade to market excess agricultural commodities.

1973 Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act: Prior to this farm bill, the U.S. Congress passed separate bills to authorize public land sales, create farm credit policy, protect rural and farm cooperatives from anti-trust legislation, or identify basic commodities eligible for price supports. This act consolidated several bills into one omnibus bill and set a trend for omnibus farm bills every five years that combined policies for consumers and producers.

1975 Agricultural Labor Relations Act: A California state law that protected the rights of agricultural laborers to unionize and collectively bargain for "their mutual aid or protection."

1979 Tractorcade: Organized by the American Agriculture Movement during early 1979, the farmers drove tractors to Washington, D.C., parked them on the National Mall, and protested against policy that did not represent the interests of family farmers.

1979 Farm Crisis: Between 1971 and 1980, land values increased more than 220 percent. Agricultural economists such as Folke Dovring at the University of Illinois encouraged farmers who owned the highest-valued land to use their land equity to purchase more land and new machinery, and to funnel their incomes from higher yields into more land. Lenders profited from high interest rates paid by farmers with high debt loads. This contributed to an economic crisis that began in 1979 and intensified through 1981. Increasing interest rates cooled land speculation; a grain embargo closed trade with the Soviets in retaliation for the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan; and a tax cut created budget deficits and preserved high interest rates. Grain prices fell. Farmers defaulted on mortgages, lost their farms, became morose, and some took their own lives. The consumer perspective became critical to agricultural policy as their interest in low food prices trumped the strong agricultural lobbyists seeking pro-active policy to ensure stable agricultural supply and demand.

1980 Federal Crop Insurance Act: This replaced the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation of 1938. Subsequent ad hoc legislation authorized reimbursement of a percentage of production losses resulting from emergencies (especially floods and droughts).

1981 Farmland Protection Policy Act, subtitle I of Title XV, section 1539-1549 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-98): This Act responded to the loss of arable land acreage due to urban sprawl. It, in conjunction with state-based farmland preservation program, helped reduce the loss of farmland through federal land purchases, and cooperative agreements with farm families to continue farming the land. This expanded in 2004 to include farm and ranch lands.

1983 Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act: This legislation offered some protection to temporary and seasonal agricultural laborers by requiring contractors to register with the Department of Labor. The contractors had to provide accurate information about wages, house, housing, and work conditions to laborers, and had to maintain payroll records.

1985 Food Security Act (aka U.S. Farm Bill of 1985): This Act sought to ensure that consumers would have access to abundant food and fiber at reasonable process. It revised price supports, lowered the commodity prices guaranteed to farmers, and continued food assistance to low-income persons. It also addressed farmers' goals for stable market prices through production reduction. This included the dairy herd buy-out program which obligated farmers to sell entire herds and pledge to remain out of the dairy industry for at least five years. Criticisms of the herd buy-out include concern about regional dairy industries. The Act also implemented the Conservation Reserve Program.

1985 Farm Aid Benefit Concert: Willie Nelson, John Mellencamp, and Neil Young organized the first Farm Aid Concert in Champaign, Illinois. Organizers planned it to help American farmers pay their mortgage debts save their farms. The concert raised over $9 million and led to the passage of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, which provided some financial protection for family farms.

1986 Coordinated Framework for Regulation of Biotechnology: Satisfied the goal of supporting the growing biotechnology industry without restrictive regulation while protecting consumer health. The framework focused on the product of genetic modification (GM) not the process, based regulation on documented risks, and used only existing policy to assess whether or not a GM product was "generally recognized as safe" (GRAS).

1990 Organic Food Production Act: Title 21 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade (FACT) Act, established the National Organic Program to apply standards and lists of organic farming practices and acceptable production inputs. It established a certification process and prohibited the practice of labeling products as organic in the absence of certification. It allowed for flexibility if state standards differed from national standards, pending USDA review.

1992 National Soy Diesel Development Board: A trade association that began to educate the public about the use of soy as a renewal fuel. The name changed to the National Biodiesel Board (NBB) to emphasize the range of fats that can be processed into the renewal energy source. According to the NBB, members included “state, national, and international feedstock and processor organizations; biodiesel suppliers; fuel marketers and distributors; and technology providers.”

1994 The North American Free-Trade Agreement (NAFTA): National leaders of Canada (Brian Mulroney), Mexico (Carlos Salinas), and the United States (George H.W. Bush) signed the agreement in December 1992. President Bill Clinton oversaw U.S. ratification, adding the North American Agreement on Labor Cooperation and the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation to the package sent to Congress for ratification. NAFTA became effective on 1 January 1994, and remains controversial. Special circumstances applied to agricultural commodities. Individual countries negotiated separate arrangements. The Canada-U.S. Free-Trade Agreement, enacted in 1987, eliminated tariffs and reduced quotas on agricultural imports and exports, especially for sugar, poultry, and dairy products. NAFTA superseded this agreement. The U.S.-Mexico Free Trade Agreement sought to phase in reduced tariffs on agricultural commodities, especially sorghum, soybeans, and corn; revise border crossing protocols; and improve transportation networks (roads, railways, and ports).

1994 World Trade Organization (WTO): GATT member nations launched the Uruguay Round of negotiations in 1986, including 123 nations. Over more than seven years (1986 to 1994), the Uruguay Round generated the first multilateral agreement dedicated to the agricultural sector. Implementation began in 1995. The World Trade Organization’s website describes the Uruguay Round as “the largest trade negotiation ever, and most probably the largest negotiation of any kind in history.” The WTO replaced GATT as the coordinating organization for world trade, effective 1 January 1995, but the GATT remains the basis for WTO’s trade treaty. Its creation realized the goal of an international trade organization, envisioned by members of the United Nations in 1947. Each year the USDA reports statistics on agricultural production and agricultural spending to the WTO. The WTO’s Committee on Agriculture uses this data to monitor compliance with spending and trade policies.

1994 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): The Soil Conservation Service was renamed the Natural Resources Conservation Service as part of the reorganization of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In addition to name changes, the goals of agencies expanded. The NRCS had authority to coordinate efforts of private landowners, local and state governments, and federal agencies to conserve and maintain healthy and productive agricultural and rural landscapes.

1994 Federal Crop Insurance Reform Act: This Act, issued in 1994 as part the USDA overhaul, and revised in 1996, established current crop insurance policy. It requires farmers who enroll in other

USDA production programs to either purchase crop insurance or waive their eligibility for any disaster benefits during the production year.

1995 Farm Service Agency (FSA): The FSA describes its responsibilities as five-fold: Farm Programs, Farm Loans, Commodity Operations, Management and State Operations. It administers farm commodity programs and the Conservation Reserve Program, launched in 1985 to provide credit and loans to farmers and ranchers, especially minorities and women and beginning farmers and ranchers. The FSA purchases and distributes commodities at home and abroad, including school lunch programs.

1996 Food Quality Protection Act: Increased the Environmental Protection Agency's responsibilities for defining safety standards relative to pesticide use on foodstuffs, reviewing those standards, and determine risk of exposure to pesticides over time. It resulted from amendments to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act.

1997 GMO: The USDA's glossary of biotechnology terms defines "genetic engineering" as the "manipulation of an organism's genes by introducing, eliminating or rearranging specific genes using the methods of modern molecular biology, particularly those techniques referred to as recombinant DNA techniques." The USDA defines "genetic modification" as "the production of heritable improvements in plants or animals for specific uses, via either genetic engineering or other more traditional methods." A GME and GMO are organisms produced using either genetic engineering or genetic modification. Scientists have engineered crops to be herbicide tolerant and bug resistant. USDA statistics indicate increases in acreage of herbicide-tolerant varieties since the 1990s:

	% of 1997 acreage in herbicide-tolerant (HT) varieties	% of 2001 acreage	% of 2014 acreage
HT soybeans	17	68	94
HT cotton	10	56	91
Bt corn (*Bacillus thuringiensis* resistant, approved 1985)	About 8	19	89

1999 Pigford v Glickman, aka *Timothy C. Pigford et al. v. Dan Glickman, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture*, Civil Action No. 97-1978 (PLF) (D.D.C., April 14, 1999). This was the largest class-action lawsuit argued before a U.S. court on the grounds of racial discrimination. The Pigford consent decree was approved in 1999 and affirmed in 2000, though critics argue that the consent degree's implementation has excluded many from the class-action settlement. The case has been subsequently referenced as *Pigford v. Veneman*, *Pigford v. Johanns*, *Pigford v. Schafer*, *Pigford v. Vilsack.* Women and other minority farm groups have also sued the USDA over racist policy implementation. These cases include *Keepseagle* (Native Americans), *Garcia* (Hispanics), *Love* (women), and *Green* (farmers not part of a "protected" racial, ethnic, or gender class). *Green* was dismissed by a U.S. District Court. For more details, see: 1) *George B. Keepseagle et al. v. Dan Glickman, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture*, Civil Action No. 1:99CV03119 (D.D.C., initiated November 1999; fourth amended class action complaint filed October 11, 2000); subsequently *Keepseagle v. Veneman*, *Keepseagle v. Johanns*, *Keepseagle v. Schafer*, *Keepseagle v. Vilsack.* 2) *Guadalupe L. Garcia, Jr. et al. v. Dan Glickman, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture*, No. 1:00CV02445 (D.D.C., filed October 13, 2000; 2nd amended filed February 8, 2001); consolidated with *Love*; subsequently *Garcia v. Veneman*, *Garcia v. Johanns*, *Garcia v. Schafer*, *Garcia v. Vilsack.* 3) *James D. Green et al. v. Ann E. Veneman, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture*, Civil Action No. 3:00CV366LN (S.D.Miss, filed April, 2, 2001); dismissed. 4) *Rosemary Love et al. v. Dan Glickman, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture*, No. 00-2502 (D.D.C., filed October 19, 2000); consolidated with *Garcia*; subsequently *Love v. Veneman*, *Love v. Johanns*, *Love v. Schafer*, *Love v. Vilsack.*

2007 Biofuels: National legislation included biofuels as part of a long-term strategy to reduce consumption of gasoline (a nonrenewal fossil fuel) by 20 percent in ten years, and to increase use of clean renewable fuels, including biofuels. The potential for biofuel production increases marketing opportunities for agricultural commodities, but processing can use scarce water resources. Title II of the Clean Energy Act of 2007, aka the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, required production of a bio-mass diesel fuel, and specified production goals for biofuels started with 4.7 billion U.S. gallons in 2007 to 36 billion gallons in 2022. The Energy Independence and Security Act (2007) required that 21 billion of the 36 billion gallons required for 2022 must be non-cornstarch derived, in other words, not produced from corn, but from sugar beets or woody plants instead.

2008 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP): SNAP is an entitlement program. In other words, the government has a responsibility to provide SNAP benefits to anyone earning $1,245 per month or less; or a family of four with earnings of $2,552 or less who applies for benefits. Recipients can use the benefits to purchase foods including meat, fish, poultry, dairy products, fruits and vegetables, and breads and cereals.

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