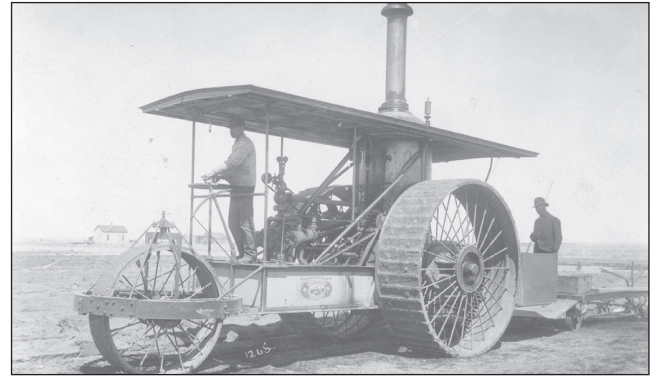


Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use and wear on a daily basis, and is increasingly contributing to fuel and other bioproducts.



State Facts	
State Song: "Home on the Range"	State Animal: American Bison
State Tree: Cottonwood	State Amphibian: Barred Tiger Salamander
State Insect: Honeybee	State Reptile: Ornate Box Turtle
State Bird: Western Meadowlark	State Flower: Native Sunflower

History of Kansas Farming



Kansas is known as the "Wheat State" and "Breadbasket of the World." Farming has been a way of life in Kansas, impacting its politics, laws, innovations, culture, social customs, and traditions. The economy relies on many agricultural businesses including those related to storing, transporting, and processing farm products.

Some of the earliest people to live in this area were gardeners. In addition to hunting for game, early people gathered and ate wild plants. The best seeds were saved and planted in soil near their homes, beginning the tradition of farming. Usually the role of women, these people used buffalo bones as tools to plant and harvest crops. Corn, beans, squash, pumpkins, and sunflowers, were grown and harvest was stored underground in pits.

Mennonite settlers arriving from Russia were accustomed to growing wheat in a prairie climate. They found success with wheat in Kansas and encouraged other farmers to plant it here thereby helping to create the wheat-state tradition. As wheat grew in popularity, technology advanced, making it possible to work larger areas in shorter periods of time.

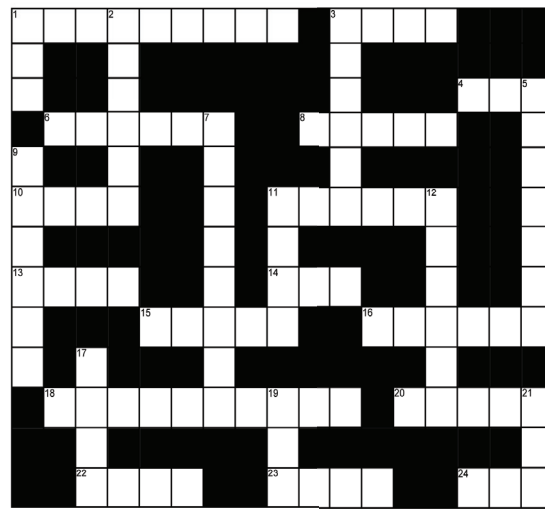
Most farmers wanted to grow crops that they could sell. The standard farm size was 160 acres—too large for farms that provided all their needs, but not quite large enough for commercial ventures. With technological advancements from 1850 to 1930, farming began to be big business in Kansas.

As early as 1888 people were proclaiming Kansas the wheat state. "All parts of Kansas grow good corn but in wheat Kansas can beat the world," the Topeka Daily Capital wrote in 1888. During the 20th century Kansas confirmed the predictions and became a leader in the production of wheat. Increased demand during World War I and World War II, hardy wheat varieties, large combines and other implements, large open fields, and rich soil helped secure the state's place in the agriculture industry.

Today Kansas is a leader in wheat, grain sorghum, and beef production, feeding people around the world.

Source: Kansas Historical Society website

AGRICULTURAL CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- Oleo _____ comes from corn and soybeans.
- A baby cow or bull.
- Where milk comes from.
- Red fruit that grows on trees.
- A freshwater fish in the salmon family.
- A small grain popular for its use in cereal.
- Cows and bulls on a farm or ranch.
- 43,560 square feet.
- _____ bread.
- A single small hard seed.
- A cow that has not had a calf yet.
- A product used with pancakes, waffles, etc. (2 words)
- Baked _____
- A male cattle.
- A female horse.
- A spout that is inserted into a maple tree.

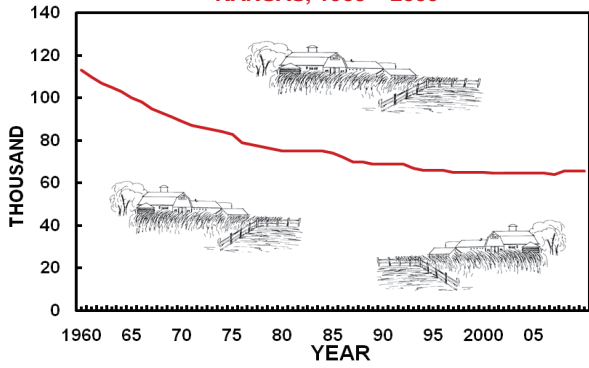
DOWN

- The sound a cow makes.
- A purple or green fruit that grows on a vine in clusters.
- Bugs Bunny's favorite food.
- Rain, snow, sunshine, sleet, etc.
- A legume whose seeds are used to make oil, flour and meal.
- A spud.
- _____ on the cob.
- Horse
- Mary had a little _____
- Ewe's mate.
- Maple syrup is made from _____

Puzzle answer is found on page 9 of today's paper.

HISTORIC STATISTICS

NUMBER OF FARMS
KANSAS, 1960 - 2009



AVERAGE SIZE OF FARM

KANSAS, 1960 - 2009

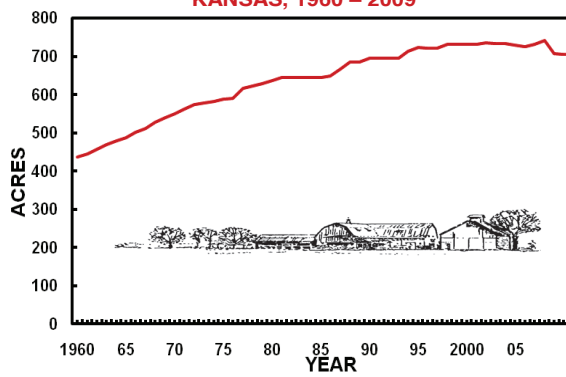


Chart courtesy of U.S. Department of Agriculture
-National Agricultural Statistics Service

Kansas Agriculture: Did You Know?

- In 2009, approximately 9.3 million acres of wheat, and 4.1 million acres of corn, were planted in Kansas.
- The average Kansas farmer is 57 years old.
- Approximately 88% of the state's land is under agricultural production, which is approximately 46 million acres!
- There are approximately 65,500 farms in Kansas.
- Kansas' largest crop is wheat. It accounts for about 12% of the state's total agricultural production. In fact, Kansas is the #1 wheat-producing state, generating about 15% of the nation's total crop.
- Kansas is an important agricultural state, ranking 7th among the states for total agricultural production.
- One Kansas farmer produces enough food to feed 145 people.

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