

Agricultural Technology



There were many implications in agricultural commerce following the aftermath of WWI during the 1920s

Impacts of WWI

During World War 1 farmers had to produce a surplus of food for the soldiers overseas. This led to the farmers creating new ways to bring in more food in a shorter amount of time and also led to the price of food and animals like hogs and chicken to increase. Once the war was over the farmers were still producing the same amount of food making prices go from an all time high to an all time low.



Agricultural Adjustment Administration:

Created to help reduce the amount of farmer debt since 52% of farmers were in debt. They started ideas like false scarcity by telling farmers to farm less they would get paid more. The idea was that if they started to produce less food then the prices would have to go up decreasing farmer debt.



Tractors

Although initiation made in the 1890s tractors didn't become popular until the 1920s when companies like Ford and Son created lighter weight tractors. This tractor had less parts and uses many of the scraps of metal not used in the war. This made it more affordable and since the horses didn't need to plow and pull things around anymore, farmers could use the fields for more crops. This meant more food could be produced in less time which also contributed to the low prices of the food and farmers low salaries.



Farming Problems



Much of the 1920s was a cycle of debt as farmland values dropped and expensive machinery was in demand to keep up. When the stock market crashed, farmers thought it near impossible to keep up when they were already living by scraps. There was great effort to raise the value of farmed goods including the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. If farmers produced less, their products would be more valuable because of artificial scarcity. This process virtually eliminated subsidized farming by the 1930s. Women played a major role in sacrificing time to work in the fields and sustain their families



Too many

From the 1920s to 1934, 49% of the population lived in the countryside and struggled to keep a roof over their heads. Agricultural exports to Europe exponentially increased to keep up with demand during the war. Postwar prices were significantly lower. The high demand for products led to a massive overload in people shifting to farming which meant after the war there was less room to maintain economic stability. Personal accounts recall that farmers felt connected to their land. It was their living, their life, their sweat, and their work. It meant everything so to struggle so greatly took a toll on the population. The New Deal advocated to turn that around.



x49%



Citations

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