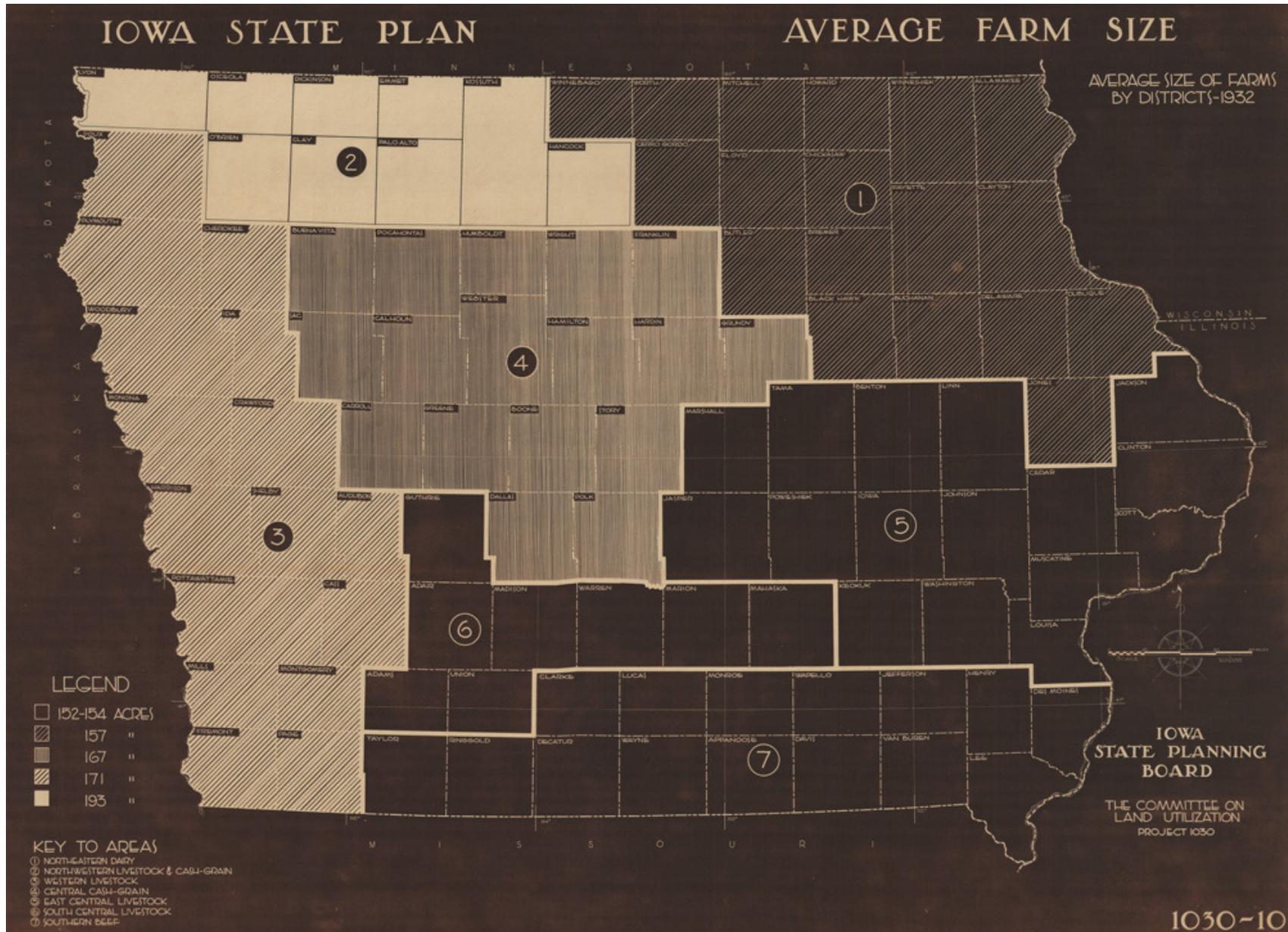
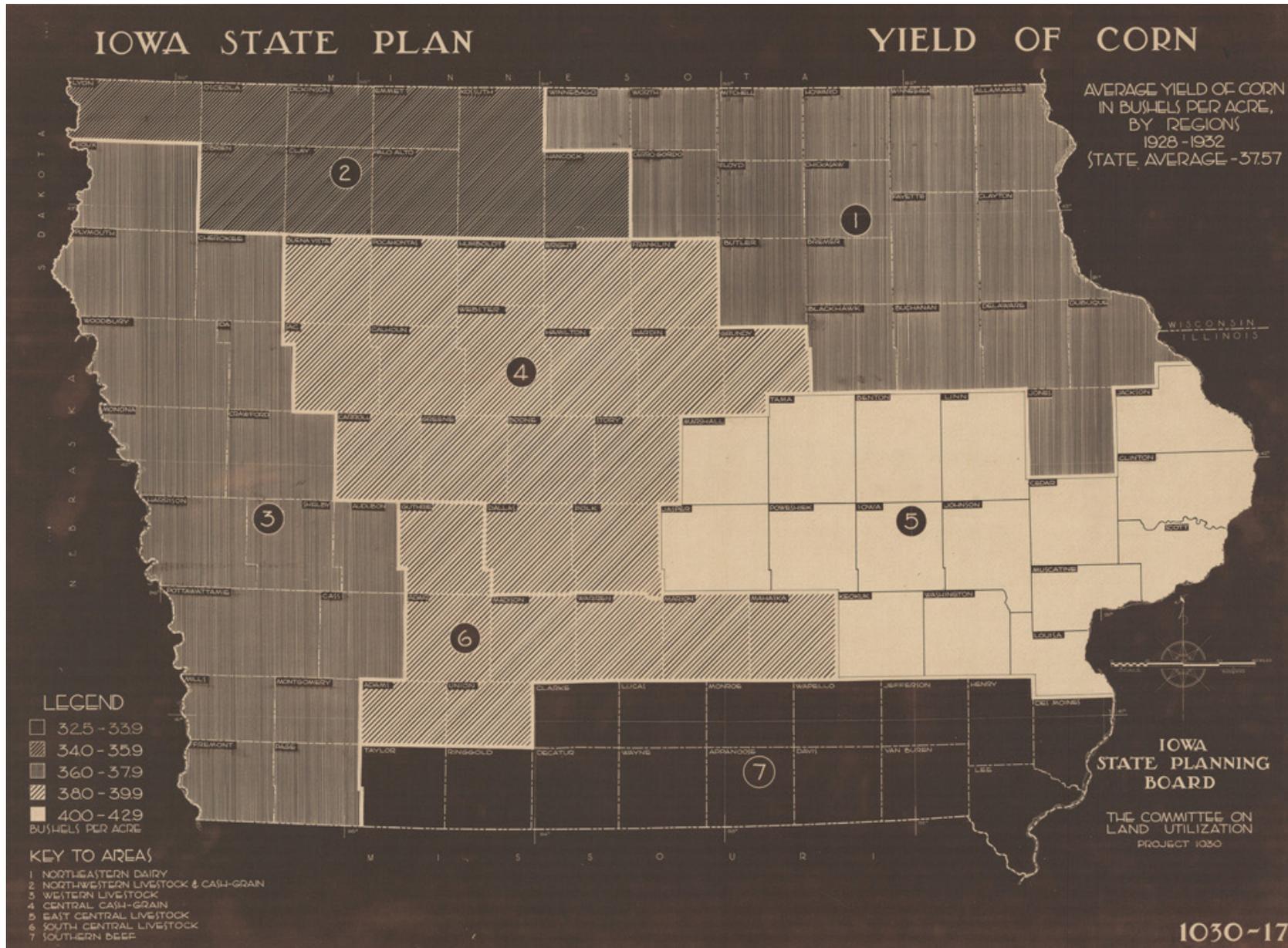


Average Farm Size in Iowa Map, 1933



“Average farm size: average size of farms by district, 1932,” Iowa State Planning Board, 1933. Courtesy of University of Iowa Library and Archives

Corn Yield Map of Iowa, 1933



“Yield of corn: average yield of corn in bushels per acre, by region 1928-1932: state average 37.57,” Iowa State Planning Board, 1933. Courtesy of University of Iowa Library and Archives

Farmer Working a Corn Field with a John Deere Tractor, ca. 1945



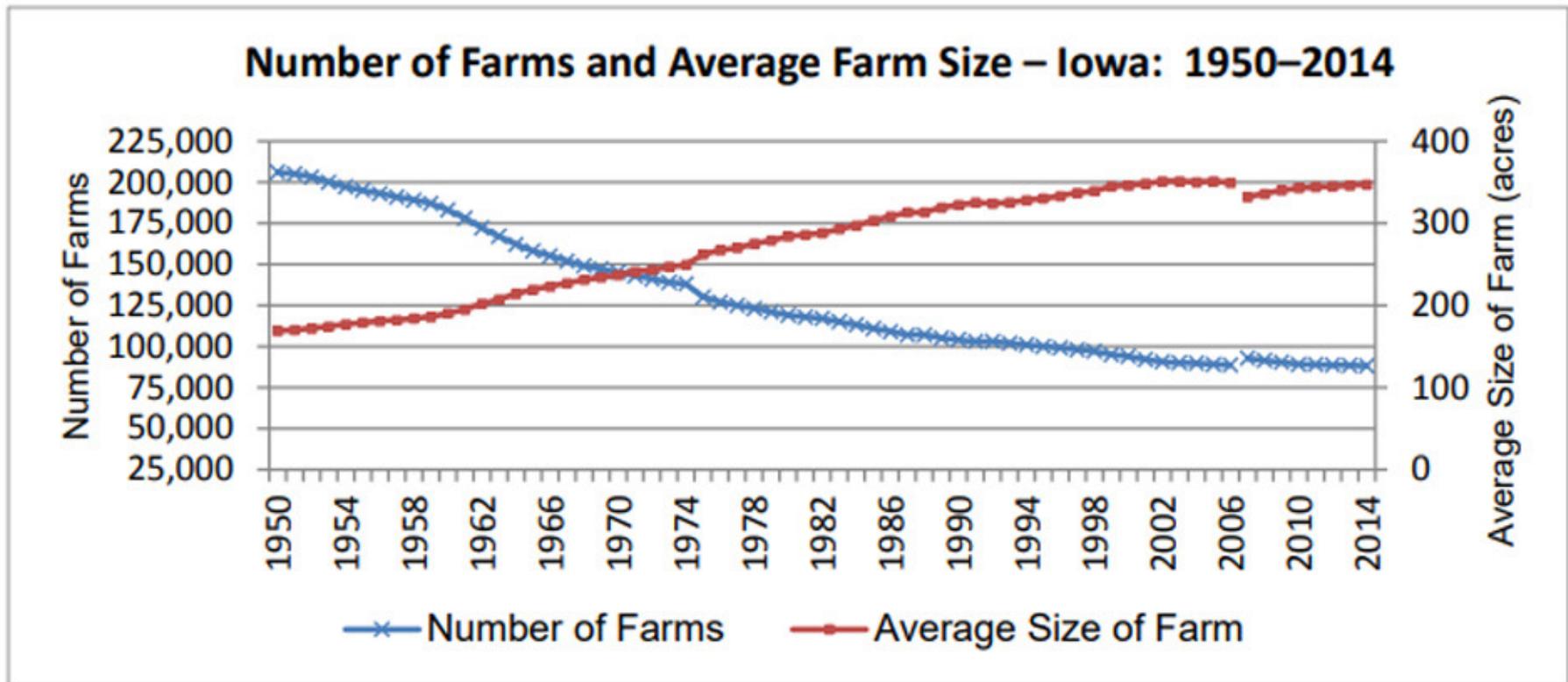
Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, ca. 1945

Field Workers Harvesting Sweet Corn in Grimes, Iowa, August 1946



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines Register & Tribune, August 1946

Number of Farms and Average Farm Size in Iowa from 1950 to 2014, 2015

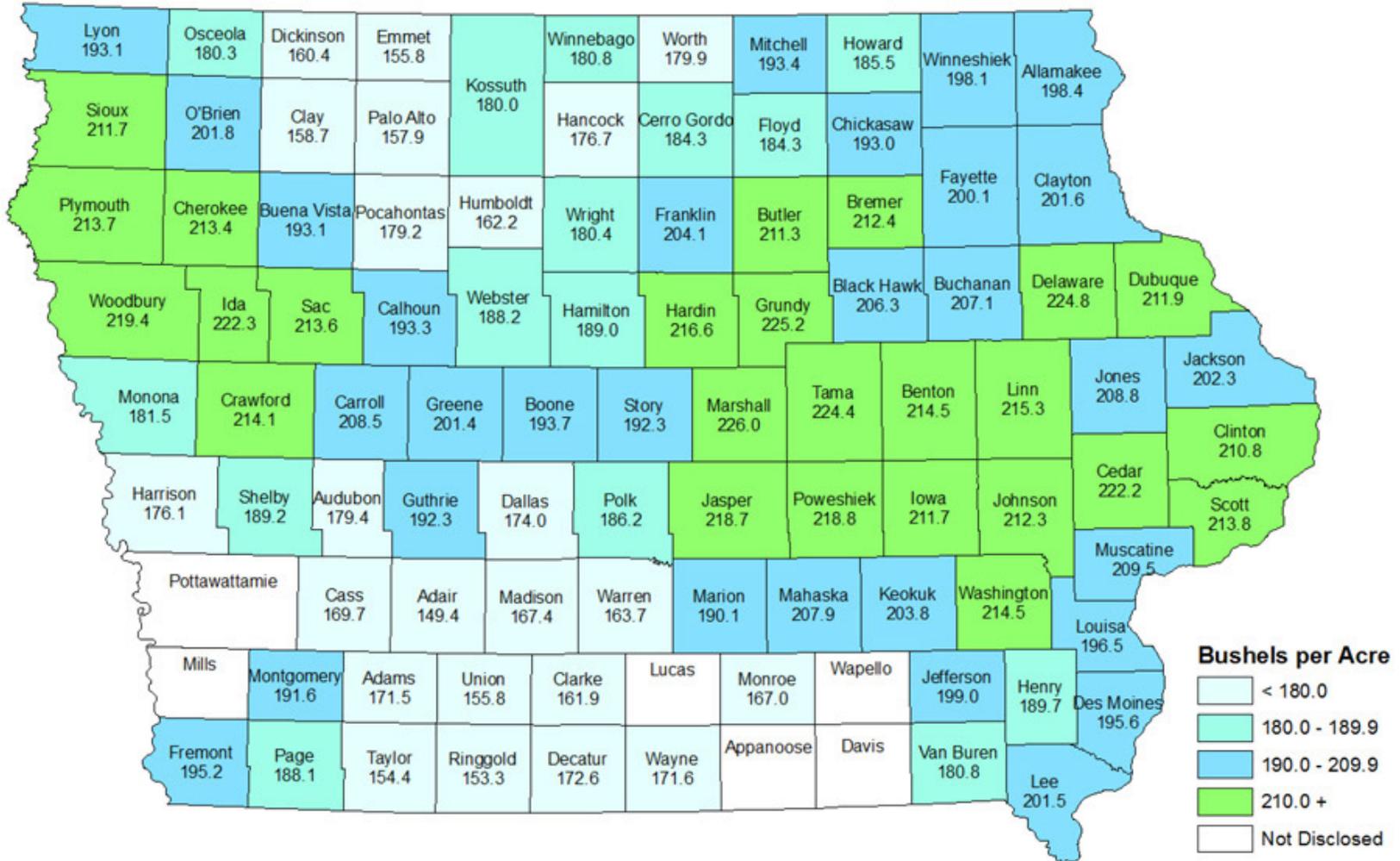


“Number of Farms and Average Farm Size - Iowa: 1950-2014,” pp. 10, *Iowa Agricultural Statistics Bulletin*, National Agricultural Statistics Service, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 2015. Courtesy of USDA

Corn for Grain Yield Map of Iowa, 2018

Corn for Grain Yield – Iowa: 2018

State Average: 196.0 Bushels per Acre



“Corn for Grain Yield – Iowa: 2018,” National Agricultural Statistics Service, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 2018. Courtesy of USDA

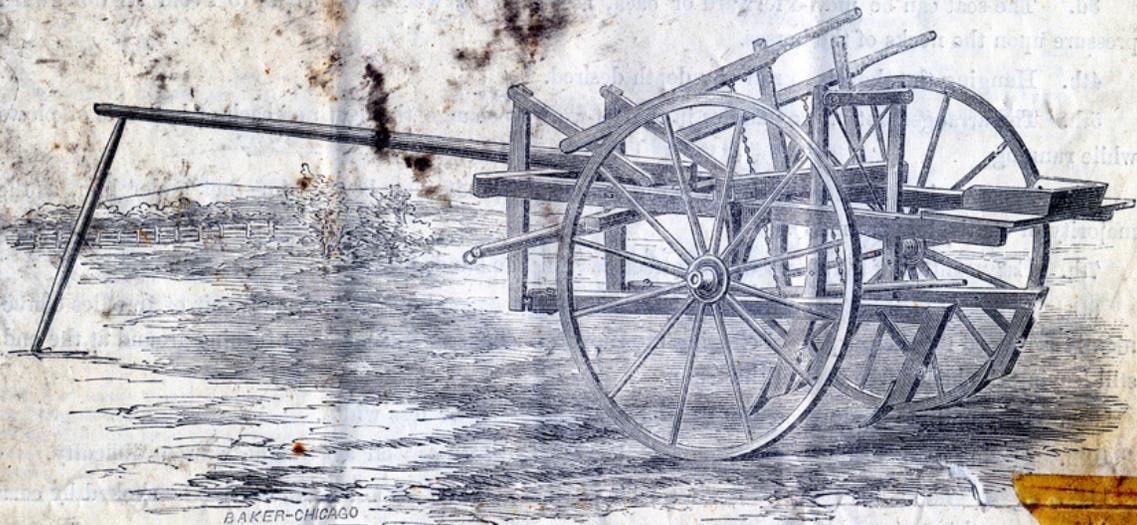
Gulls Following a Farmer on his Tractor, Date Unknown



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Date Unknown

"The Hawkeye Cultivator," 1863

CHARLES H. DEERE,
MOLINE, ILL., MANUFACTURER OF THE
HAWKEYE CULTIVATOR,



(W. FURNAS' IMPROVED PATENT,)

AWARDED THE FIRST PREMIUM AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR FOR 1863.

Patented Dec. 3, 1861.

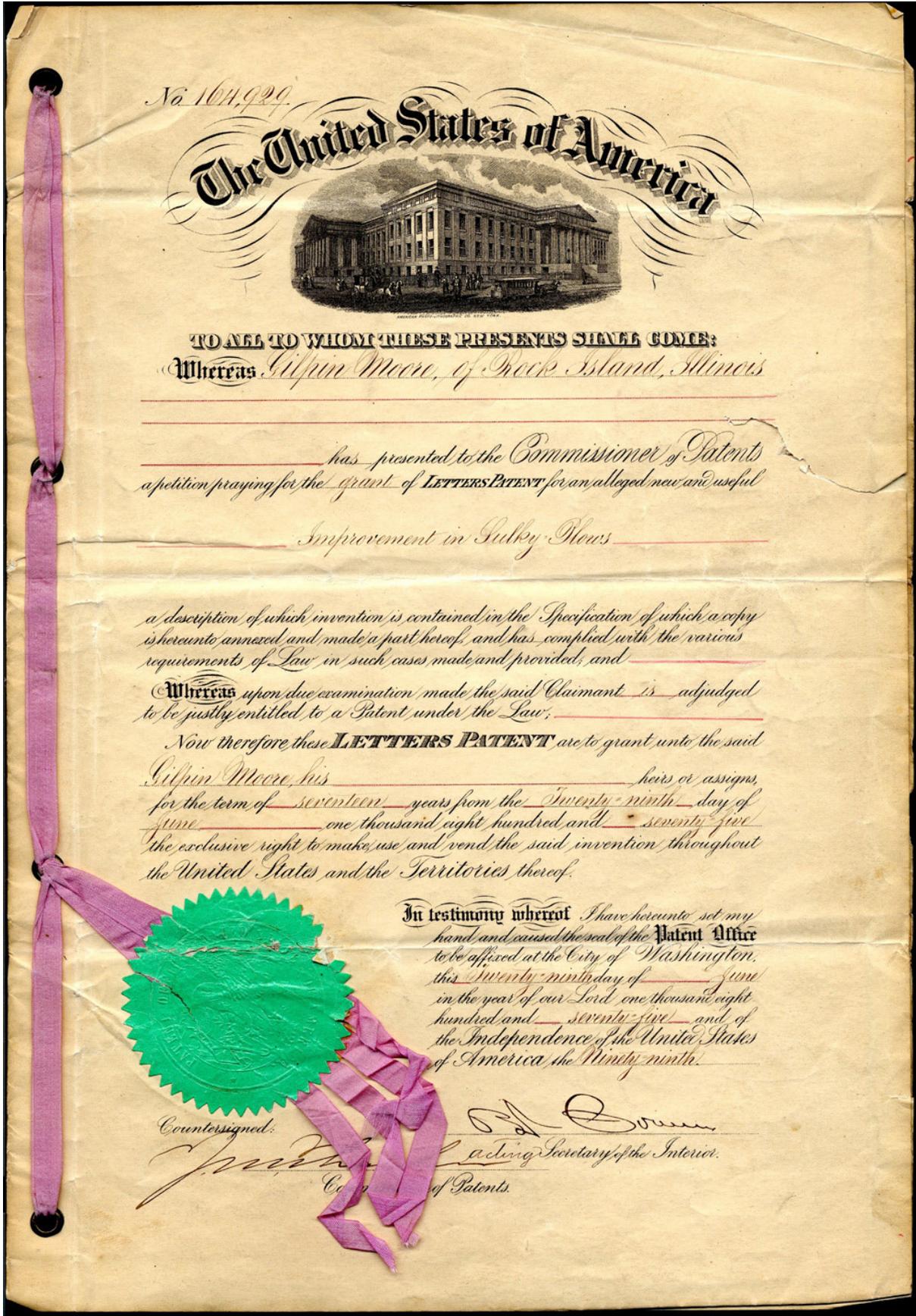
T O T H E P U B L I C .



The undersigned having acquired the right to manufacture and sell the above named Cultivator for the State of Illinois, and portions of Iowa and Missouri, is now getting out a large number of them for the coming season's work.

It is now more than two years since this Cultivator was invented; during which time it has come into great favor in neighborhoods where it has been used. We have many testimonials from the best farmers in South-eastern Iowa, where it has been known since its invention, bearing us out in the statement that it is the most perfect working and easiest managed machine for cultivating corn that has ever been invented.

Gilpin Sulky Plow Patent, 1875



"Gilpin Sulky Plow Patent," United States Commissioner of Patents, 1875. Courtesy of John Deere

“The Original Steel Plow” and John Deere, 1882 (pg. 1)

The Original Steel Plow



In 1837 our founder, John Deere, was a typical blacksmith turning out hayforks, horseshoes, and other essentials for life on the prairie.

Then one day, a broken steel sawmill blade gave him an opportunity. He knew well the back-breaking difficulty of farmers near his home in Grand Detour, Illinois. While plowing, they often interrupted their work to scrape the sticky prairie soil from their cast-iron plows. He envisioned that soil sliding easily off of a highly polished steel moldboard. With steel scarce in the area, Deere acquired a broken steel saw blade, and from it crafted a new type of moldboard plow.

Now, nearly two centuries later, the company that grew out of the success of this innovative plow continues to manufacture advanced equipment for those whose commitment to the land runs deep.

While the original plow could only do a fraction of the work farmers can tackle with modern tillage equipment, it was high-tech at the time. Testing by curator Edward Kendall of the Smithsonian Institution of an 1838 John Deere plow revealed the innovative material, and design, of Deere's early plows. Historian

“The Original Steel Plow” and John Deere, 1882 (pg.2)

Wayne Broehl, Jr. reiterated, writing that "Deere must have given a great deal of thought to the shape, to the special curve of his moldboard, for its exact contours would determine just how well the soil would be turned over after the share had made the cut."

Over the next two decades, Deere built strong supply and distribution channels, and continually improved his product based on suggestions from customers. His research paid off and by 1849 his business was booming – he produced 2,000 plows that year.

Deere continued to expand his operation and he was soon producing several different plows – an 1857 advertisement mentions nine models. Most were similar in design, but different in size or material. After a visit in 1868, a Chicago newspaper wrote that "John Deere may be called a pioneer, if not the pioneer, plow manufacturer of Illinois..." The paper concluded that "all plow makers respect and honor him for his skill and success, and conceded the service he has rendered Western agriculture by his efforts."

John Deere spent part of his retirement serving as Mayor of Moline, and running his Alderney Hill Farm in Moline. During his lifetime, the walking plow remained the company's core product, supplemented by riding plows, corn planters, wagons and more.

Today, more than 175 years after John Deere created his steel plow, the company provides advanced products and services for those whose work is linked to the land, including a few very modern variations on John Deere's original plow.

"A Short Interview" with John Deere, ca. 1886

THE SIOUX CITY DAILY

A SHORT INTERVIEW.

Points of Interest Given a Journal Reporter By W. L. Wilkins—His Experience With John Deere—California the Place to Live.

In conversation with a JOURNAL reporter yesterday W. L. Wilkins remarked that he made his recent trip to California in company with the late John Deere, of Moline, Ill., getting acquainted with the great plow manufacturer on the train en route. Mr. Deere was on a pleasure trip, accompanied by his daughter and grandchild. Mr. Wilkins says that although a very old man, Mr. Deere was the most interesting and entertaining companion he ever met, in all his conversation saying nothing but from which some information could be derived. As an illustration of the wonderful and fascinating powers of the man, Mr. Wilkins says it is a fact that while engaged in conversation with him the most wonderful scenery would be passed by unnoticed, so wrapt up would the listener become in the speaker's words. Mr. Deere told the whole story of his life. How he came to Illinois from Vermont with only a few dollars in cash in his pocket, and how, prior to leaving his old home, he had signed a note with a friend amounting to several hundred dollars, which amount he earned with his hammer after his arrival in the west, the friend failing to meet the obligation. In fact, while he had about \$37 when he came west he was several hundred dollars in debt through the dishonesty or inability of his friend to pay the note. Mr. Deere said that during all his long life it had been a great source of consolation to him to know that he had never willfully wronged any man and never put on the market a poorly made article.

In speaking of the weather of yesterday Mr. Wilkins said that the temperature at 8 o'clock in the morning, when there was a cool, refreshing breeze blowing, was a fair sample of what he enjoyed in southern California during the months of January and February last. Residents of this section will remember those two months, not by the balmy breezes, but by the regular old-fashioned stem-winding blizzards that chased each other in quick succession down from the north.

Mr. Wilkins further said that while he came to Sioux City with but a few dollars in his pocket, that while he had been reasonably successful in building up a business by hard work, as the fruits of his labors would show to every one, if he had the cash for his property in his pocket, he would at once go to southern California, and he believed that he could make more money, and make it easier in one year there than five here. As an illustration he stated that on his arrival at Santiago, along in the winter, he met J. P. Dennis, who had preceded him, and that same evening the two bought 44 lots, paying \$25 each for them. For some time past he has had a standing offer of \$200 each for the same lots, and refuses to take it, firmly believing that they will materially increase in value.

New Deal Gang Plow with Traction Engine Advertisement from John Deere, 1889

DEERE & COMPANY.

45



New Deal Gang with Traction Engine.

Thus far no other manufacturer has produced a make-shift even for steam plowing which is capable of general or extended introduction. We were the first to construct a large gang of plows, and have to-day in the New Deal four, five and six-furrow gangs, the only plows of the kind that can successfully be used with an engine as motive power. By this addition to a steam equipment the latter can be employed in plowing two seasons, and yield with much larger profits and far less work for the operators than during the threshing season.

The necessary conditions are that the ground must be firm enough to stand the weight of the engine and fairly level so that steam may be safely kept in the boiler. The better the shape the ground is in for plowing the more satisfactory of course will be the results.

In operating, two men are necessary—one to run the engine and guide it so as to keep an even width of furrow, and one to manage the plow gang. No outfit of this kind is handy to handle at the ends of rows, or in turning corners, so that long furrows and large fields are desirable.

In hitching to an engine several links of heavy chain are necessary between the engine and the gang, so as to give slack enough to lift the plows out of the ground. An ordinary traction engine, either eight or ten horse, such as is to be found in every farming locality, will run a four, five or six-furrow New Deal Gang Plow with ease.

We guarantee the New Deals to do good work, but will of course give no warranty on the engine or power.

Send for special circular.

ORDER EXTRA SHARES BY NUMBER STAMPED ON BOTTOM OF EACH.

Brochure about John Deere's Gilpin Sulky Plow, 1895 (pg.1)



"John Deere Plows. The Gilpin Sulky," Deere & Company, 1895. Courtesy of John Deere

Brochure about John Deere's Gilpin Sulky Plow, 1895 (pg.2)

JOHN DEERE PLOWS.

The Gilpin Sulky

THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL SULKY PLOW. The Gilpin is the only sulky plow that has stood the test of time and shown itself equal to all requirements put upon this kind of a plow. It was the first and only successful sulky plow made, and all of its former competitors have been consigned to oblivion, while the Gilpin still holds its place in the trade as the foremost riding plow of the age. All changes of depth, throwing in and out of the ground, etc., are made with one lever, and the multiplicity of levers, which other manufacturers have been compelled to use in order to accomplish similar work, have had the effect of weakening their machines so that a few years' wear has unfitted them for service.

POWER-LIFT. One simple fact serves to show the durability of the Gilpin. In 1881 we added what is known as the Power-Lift, by which, with the simple pressure of the hand on a catch, the plow is thrown out of the ground by one revolution of the wheel. We are still altering plows that were in use prior to that time, and which are in such good condition that farmers prefer to pay the cost of adding the Power-Lift rather than throw aside the old plow and buy a new one. A sulky plow that has been run twelve to fourteen years, and is still in good condition, is a novelty, and we venture to say that no sulky, other than the Gilpin, will stand such wear.

STRONG WHEELS. Among the most important parts of a riding plow are the wheels by which the plow is carried. They are subjected to severe strains, and these strains are liable to come from sudden and unexpected directions.

UNBREAKABLE. Therefore, the general construction of the wheel must be such that it is practically unbreakable, whilst the wearing parts must be capable of being simply and cheaply renewed.

MAKE OUR OWN WHEELS. We make our own wheels for Gilpin and Deere Gang Plows, and they are made as shown in the above cut. They embody the essential features named to a degree not possessed by any other wheels in the market.

Sufficient stock is put into spokes and rim to insure strength. The spokes are dodged so as to act as a truss-bracing between rim and hub. Around the outside of the rim is shrunk a heavy wrought tire that binds the parts together with a firmness that makes the completed structure practically indestructible. If this tire should ever wear out a new one can be put on, and the frame work of the wheel will be completely restored to its original condition.

BOXES CAN BE RENEWED. A renewable boxing, shown in the cut, completes the outfit. All wear of wheel hub can, by this means, be provided for indefinitely, so there is no reason why these wheels, with renewals as above, should not last forever.

SIMPLE, DURABLE AND STRONG. We have been thus particular in explaining our wheel construction, not only to show its merits, but because the entire mechanical construction of the Gilpin Sulky possesses the same simplicity, durability and strength, so that this plow can be handed down from father to son and be a faithful servant as long as it is taken care of.

GILPIN IS SELF-LEVELING. The Gilpin is self leveling, operated by a single lever; is of lighter draft than a hand plow cutting the same furrow, and of as light draft as any riding plow made, and will do better work than any other plow of the same class.

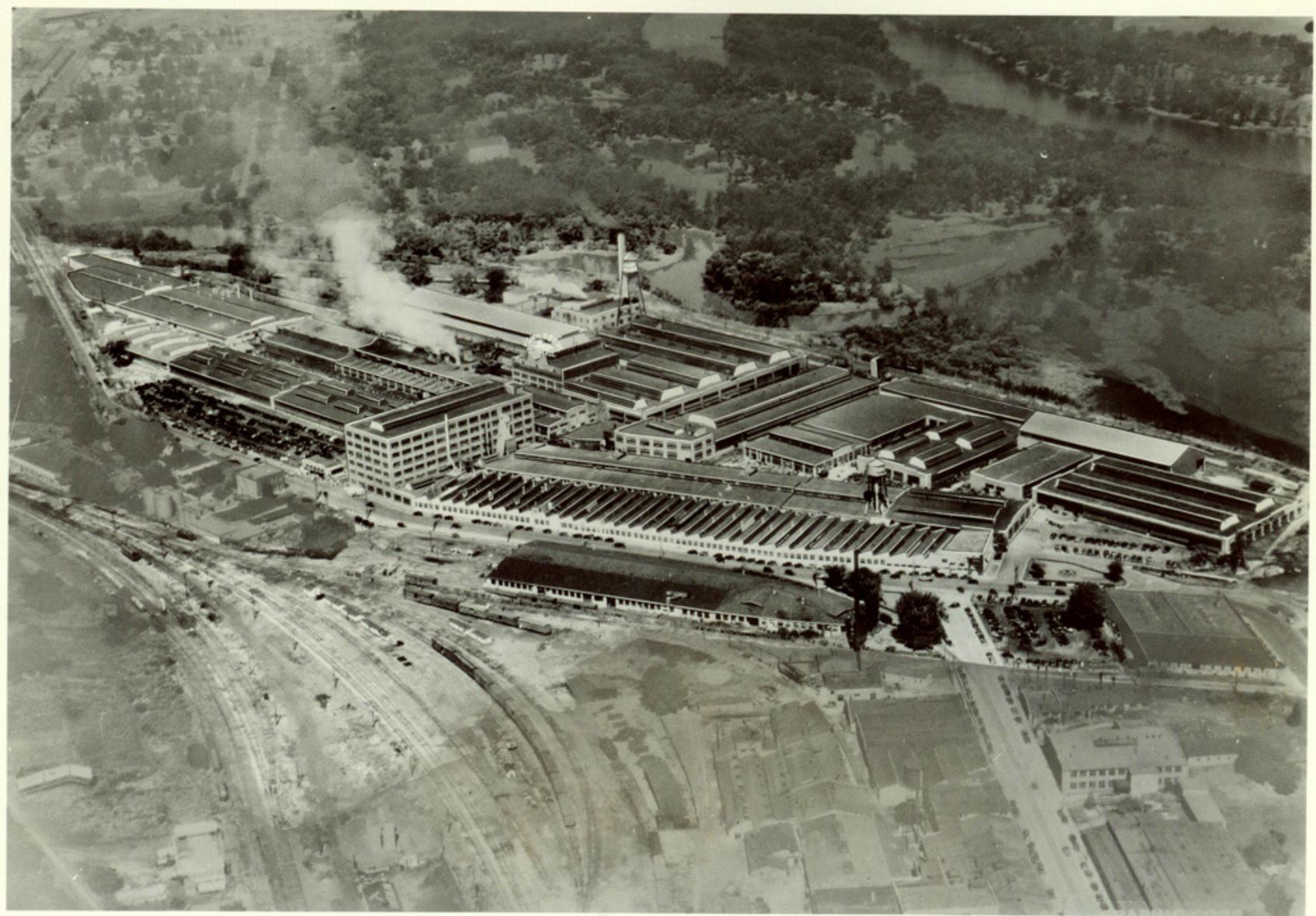


GILPIN WHEEL.

Made only by **DEERE & COMPANY, MOLINE, ILLINOIS.**

SB 26 95A

Aerial View of the John Deere Tractor Company in Waterloo, Iowa, 1944



Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines Register & Tribune, 1944

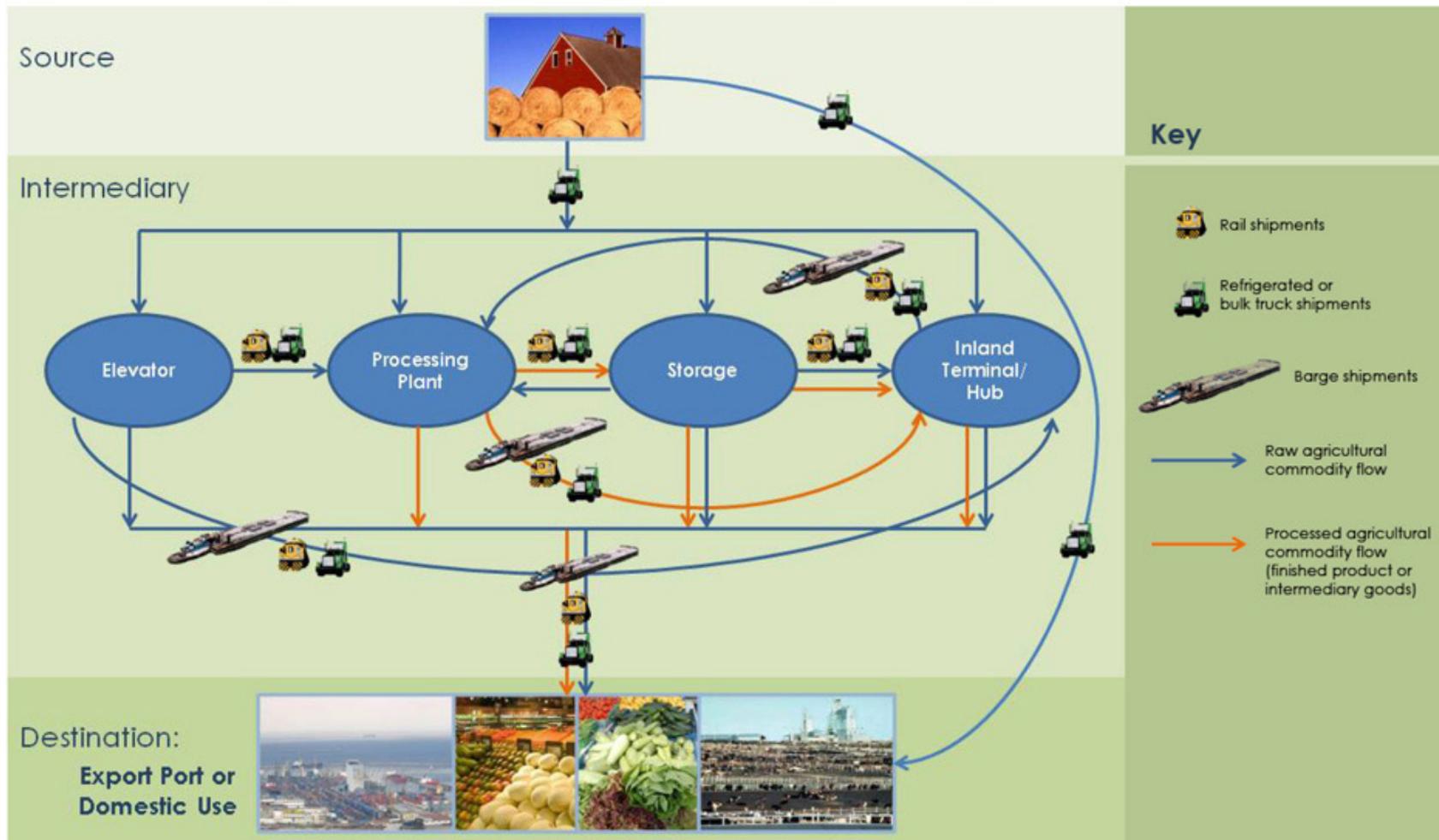
Farmer Operating Corn Picker with John Deere Tractor, ca. 1945



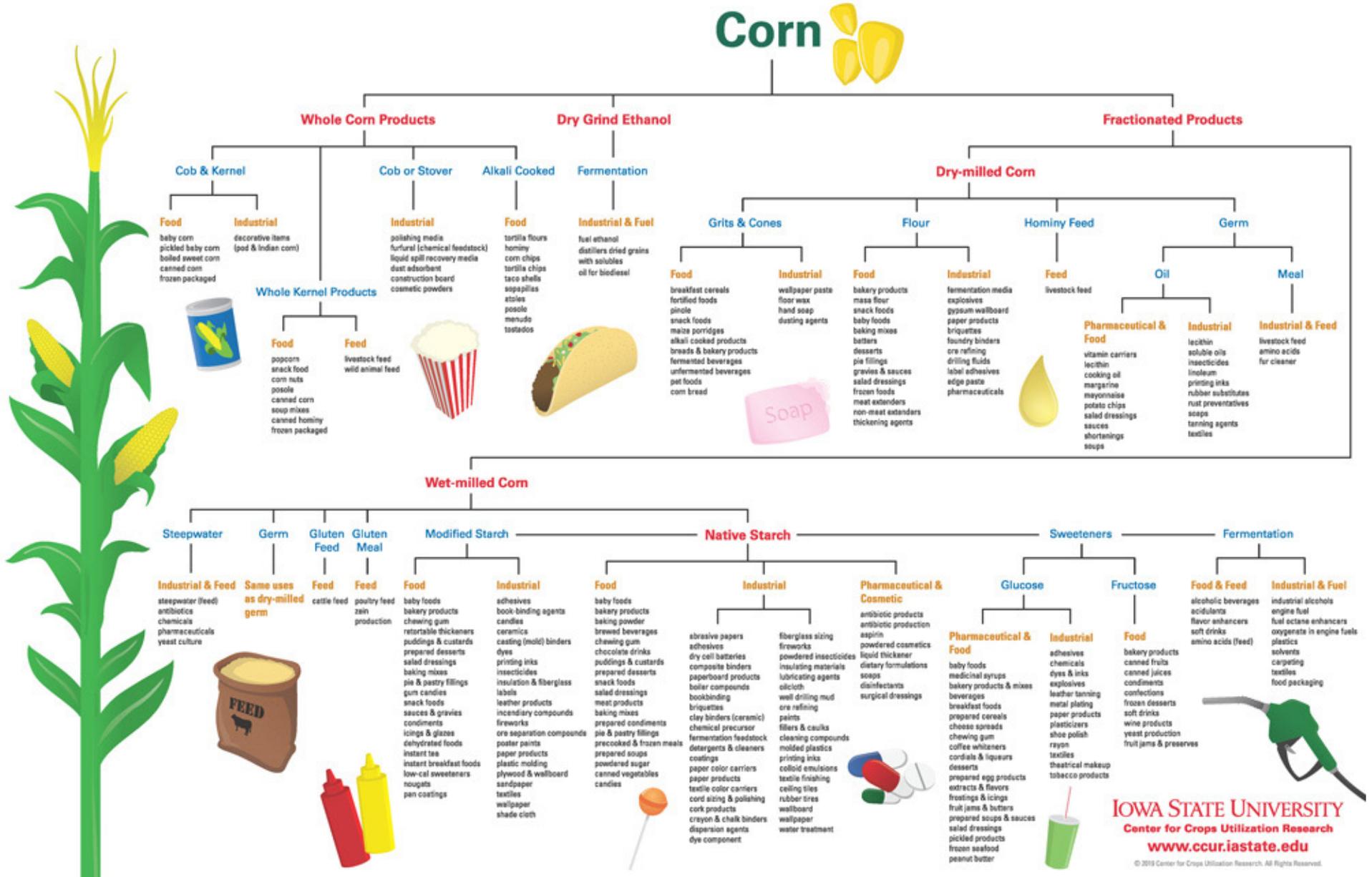
Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Iowa, ca. 1945

Flowchart of U.S. Agricultural Supply Chain for Raw and Processed Products, 2009

Figure 1-1: U.S. agricultural supply chain for raw and processed products



Flowchart Showing the Uses of Corn, 2009



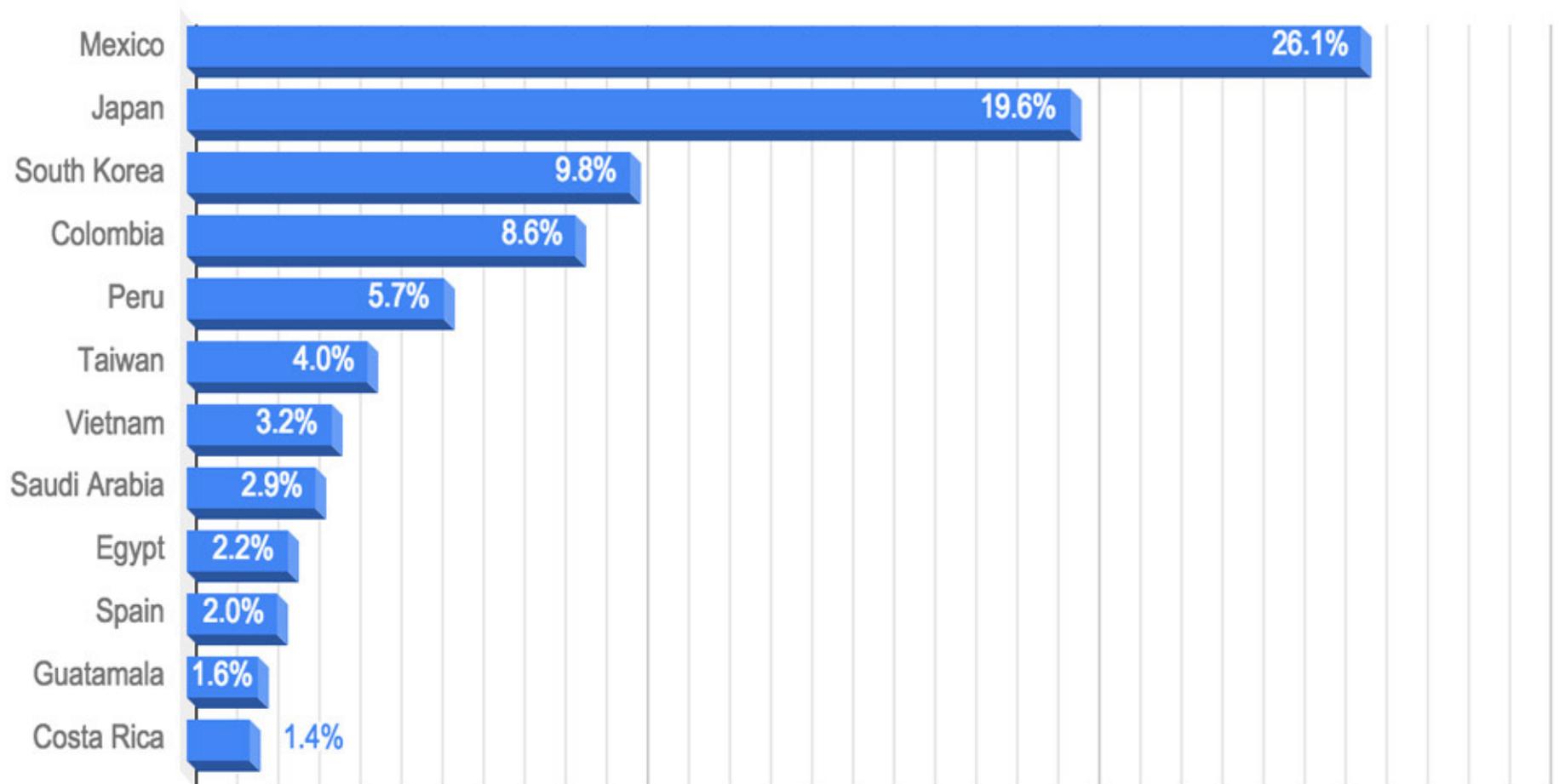
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
 Center for Crops Utilization Research
www.ccur.iastate.edu

© 2010 Center for Crops Utilization Research. All Rights Reserved.

“Corn,” Center for Crops Utilization Research, Iowa State University, 2009. Courtesy of Iowa State University

“Percent of Total U.S. Corn Exports by Country” Graph, 2017

Percent of Total U.S. Corn Exports by Country, 2017



“Percent of Total U.S. Corn Exports by Country, 2017,” Foreign Agricultural Service, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), 2017. Courtesy of USDA

“Compare... Cargo Capacity” Infographic, February 25, 2019

COMPARE ...

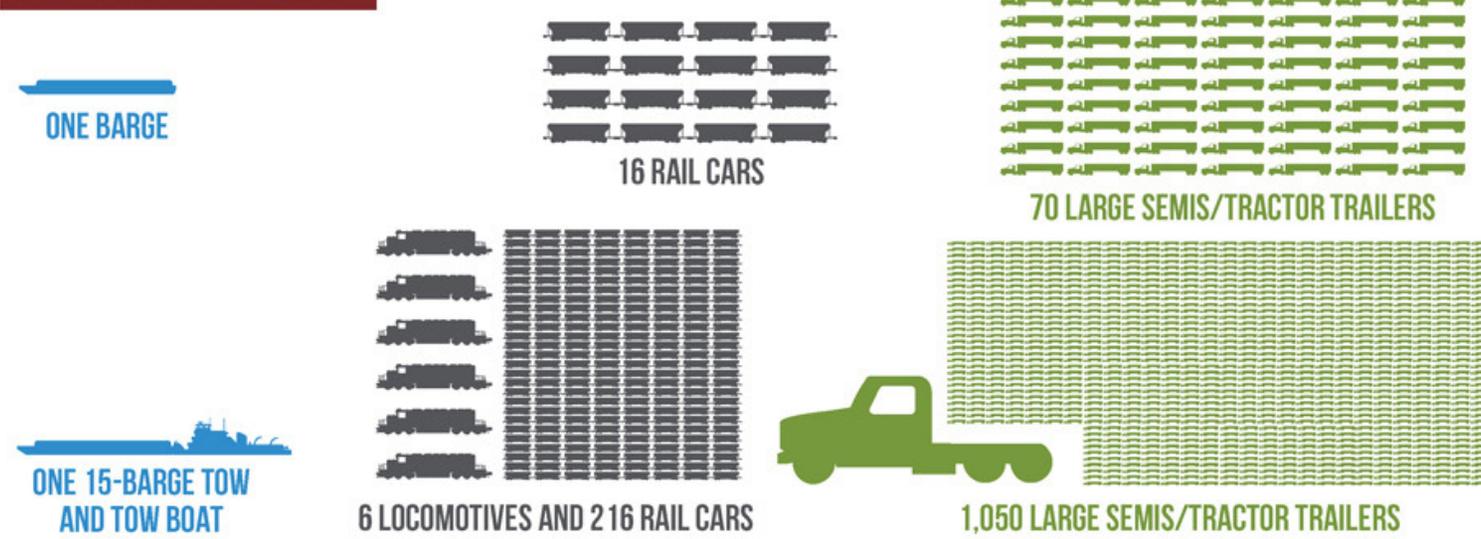


Source: Iowa Department of Transportation | 800 Lincoln Way | Ames, IA | www.iowadot.gov

CARGO CAPACITY



EQUIVALENT UNITS

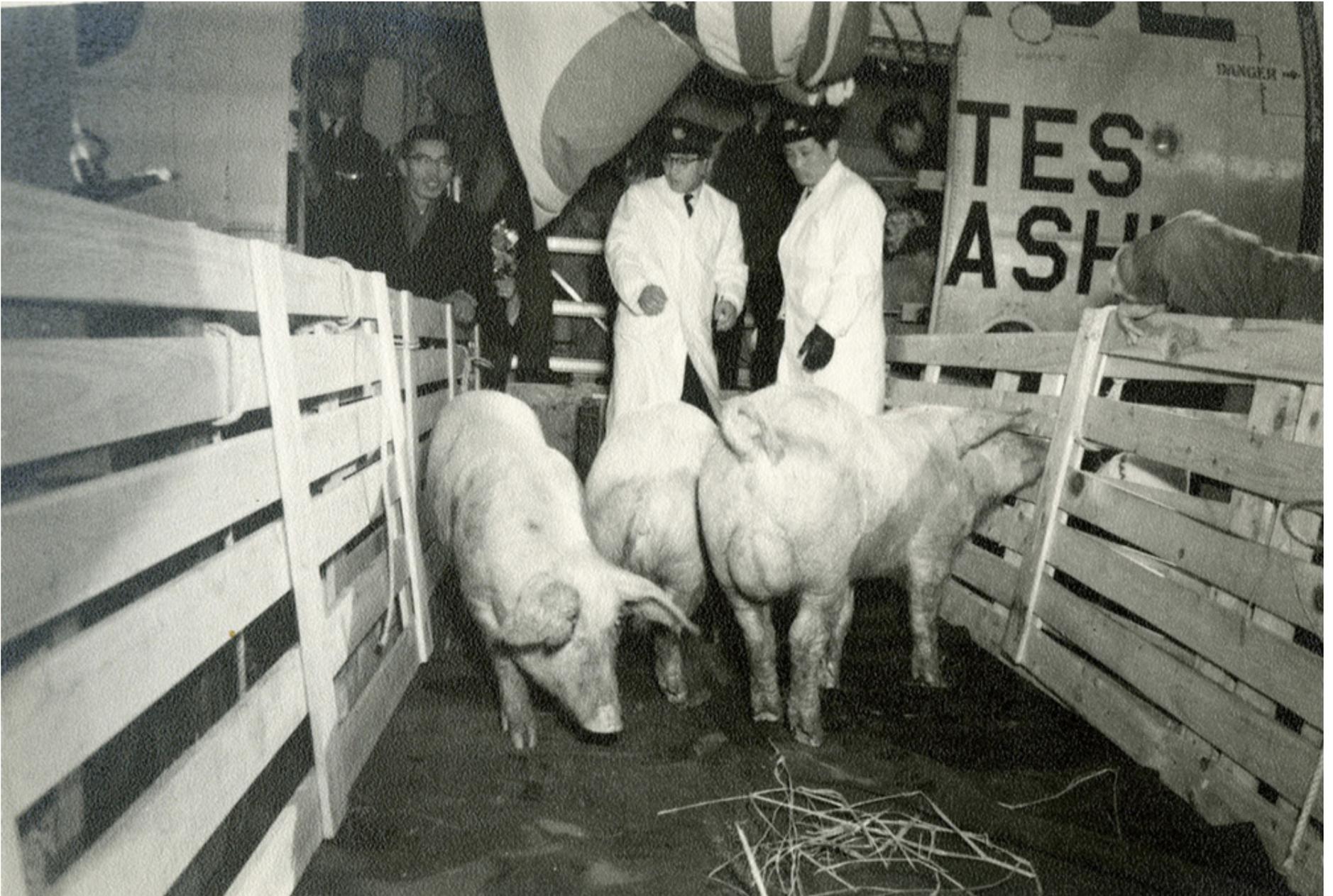


EQUIVALENT LENGTHS



PM 444 02/25/2019

Iowa Hog Lift to Japan, 1960



Goeppinger, Walter, Iowa State University, 1960. Courtesy of Iowa State University Special Collections

Lee Norris' Truck Loaded with Hogs, 1960



Magano, Arthur, 1960. Courtesy of United States Air Force

Letter from Governor Herschel Loveless to Lee Norris about the Hog Lift, January 18, 1960

Letter from Governor



STATE OF IOWA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DES MOINES

HERSCHEL C. LOVELESS
GOVERNOR

18 January 1960

Mr. Lee Norris
Fremont
Iowa

Dear Mr. Norris:

I would like to add my own word of appreciation for your very important contribution to the success of the Hogs-for-Japan airlift here at Des Moines last Saturday.

It was a source of satisfaction to know that some of the best breeding stock available was going forward under this international good will project. I am sure the Japanese people will be very grateful for this most practical expression of interest.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Herschel C. Loveless".

Herschel C. Loveless
Governor of Iowa

hcl/att

Speech by Governor Norman Erbe on the Dedication of the Japanese Friendship Bell, October 17, 1962 (pg. 1)

PRESS RELEASE: October 17, 1962 FROM: Office of the Governor

REMARKS BY THE HONORABLE NORMAN A. ERBE
JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP BELL DEDICATION
OCTOBER 17, 1962

Inscribed on the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia are the words from Leviticus 25, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

We are dedicating today a bell which might aptly be described as one which will "proclaim peace and friendship throughout all the land."

This Bell of Peace and Friendship is a gift from the citizens of Japan's Yamanashi province to the people of Iowa.

It is a gift from sister to sister, for Yamanashi province is our sister state by act of the Iowa State assembly in 1961.

This bell is a token of appreciation for help received by the Yamanashi province following a 1959 typhoon which killed 57 persons, injured almost a thousand, destroyed sixteen hundred homes and flooded another 14 thousand homes. Comparable damage was inflicted to the farmlands and livestock which Yamanashi depends upon for livelihood--for Yamanashi, like Iowa, is an agricultural state.

When news of this disaster reached Iowa, a people-to-people program was organized to help the people of Yamanashi. Several organizations including the National Corn Growers Association, 4-H clubs, local and state officials developed a hog-lift to provide a nucleus of a new program of livestock breeding and feeding in Yamanashi.

Thirty-five breeding hogs and 60 thousand bushels of corn were obtained through the efforts of these individuals and sent to Japan.

Today, in the shadows of Mt. Fuji, the sacred mountain of Japan which is part of Yamanashi province, these animals and their offspring represent the hopes and livelihood of the citizens of our sister state.

Officials have kept in touch with this program in Yamanashi and report that more than 500 hogs have been produced as progeny of the breeding hogs air-lifted from Iowa 2½ years ago.

Because Iowans were responsible for that shipment, and because Iowa is Yamanashi's sister state, this bell of friendship is a gift from the people of Yamanashi to the people of Iowa.

Last March, this bell was formally presented in Japan to a representative of Iowa. At the presentation, Governor Hisashi Amano of Yamanashi said that it was his hope and prayer that as this bell sounds for peace, the peoples of Iowa and Yamanashi, united through friendship, will proceed

Speech by Governor Norman Erbe on the Dedication of the Japanese Friendship Bell, October 17, 1962 (pg.2)

-2-

hand in hand as sister states for the promotion of peace, culture and welfare.

To that I would like to add my prayer, and the prayer of all the people of Iowa, that the very real friendship which exists between the people of Yamanashi and the people of Iowa will spread throughout all the world -- and peace and friendship will reign eternal.

On behalf of the people of Iowa, I say to the people of Yamanashi ...
AH - REE - GAH - TOH GO - ZAI - MAHSS.

Governor of Yamanashi, Japan, Asking Citizens to Help Iowans Suffering from Flood Damage, 1993

Iowans Need Your Help

The State of Iowa is suffering from unprecedented floods. Residential, industrial and farm land in Iowa, well over 1.8 times the size of our prefectural land, was flooded in mid-July and still a very wide area is flooded. Some 250,000 people are suffering from the damage to the water treatment plant in central Iowa. Many people have met the difficult situation.

The people of Iowa showed their humanity and profound friendship 30 years ago by donating 35 breeding hogs and 100,000 bushels of corn to us when the two huge typhoons raged across Yamanashi Prefecture in 1959. Since then we established a sister state relationship and have had many cultural exchanges.

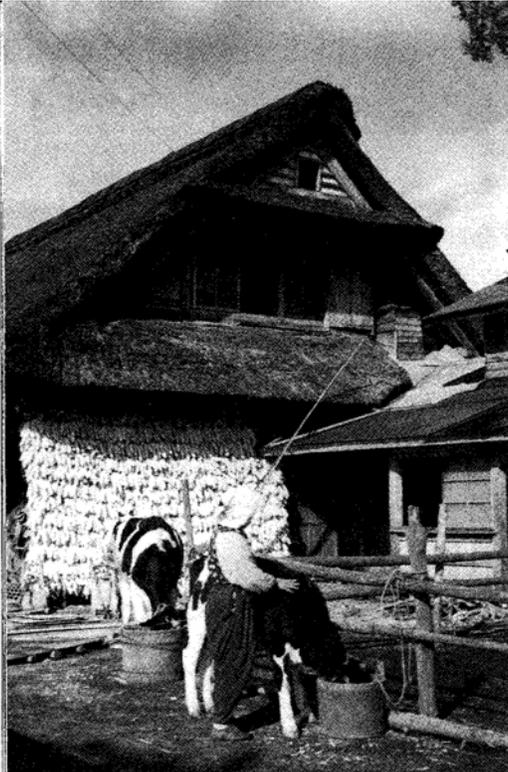
Now there are difficulties in Iowa from the flood much the same as were. Now is the time for us to show our friendship and thanks for their aid.

Please offer your warm hands in order that the people of Iowa may recover from their difficulties as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Organizer:	Ken Amano Yamanashi International Association
Co-sponsor:	Yamanashi Prefecture The Board of Education All cities in Yamanashi Prefecture
Cooperator	NIHON ECONOMIC NEWSPAPER YOMIURI NEWSPAPER ASAHI MAINICHI SANKEI, SANNICHI KYODO TSUSHIN, JJITSUSHIN NHK KOFU YAMANASHI TV AND RADIO UTY

“The 1960 Hog Lift,” 2001 (pg.1)



The 1960 Hog Lift to Japan



How Iowa & Yamanashi Became Sister States

by Ginalie Swaim

A farmer's home in Yamanashi, Japan in the 1950s was considerably different than its equivalent on an Iowa farm.

Below: Another Yamanashi farmhouse, destroyed by typhoons. The story of Iowa's 1960 relief effort unfolds through photographs and clippings in scrapbooks kept by Iowan Richard S. Thomas.

I AM NOT a world traveler. Count Victoria and Key West, Halifax and L.A. as the distant reaches of my modest travel career.

But in October 1999 I found myself seated on a tatami mat in the home of a Japanese family, surrounded by laughter, new friends,

and intriguing foods with wonderful colors and textures.

Given my non-nomadic nature, it's unlikely that I ever would have been part of an Iowa Sister State delegation to Yamanashi, Japan, if it hadn't been for a typhoon, a Des Moines Air Force officer, and a plane full of hogs.

In the autumn of 1959—while I was still an Iowa farm kid chasing hogs, in fact—typhoons ravaged Yamanashi, the prefecture (or state) west of Tokyo. As a third grader, I probably hadn't studied Japan yet, but another Iowan knew the country well.

M/Sgt. Richard Thomas, of Des Moines, had been stationed with the U.S. Air Force in Japan. He had visited Yamanashi, dramatically rimmed by mountains (including Mt. Fuji), and with vegetable gardens and rice paddies tucked into every available space. And he had gotten to know several people there. Hearing that typhoons had damaged one of his favorite areas of Japan spurred him to action.



ALL BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOS FROM RICHARD THOMAS'S SCRAPBOOKS, COURTESY YOSHIKO SWIFT

“The 1960 Hog Lift,” 2001 (pg.2)



M/Sgt. Richard S. Thomas (in cap) was the “go-between for Iowa-Yamanashi and Des Moines-Kofu sister affiliations,” according to the photo caption in a scrapbook kept by Thomas. Here he poses in front of the Air Force plane that carried the hogs. With him (from left) are Japanese dignitaries Juji Kasai (former National Diet member), Seiichi Natori (Speaker of Yamanashi Prefectural Assembly), Ryogo Matsuura (Economic Director of Yamanashi Government), and Mayor Keijiro Takano of Kofu.

What Thomas and other Iowans soon set into motion was a series of endeavors that would build a bridge of friendship and cooperation between Iowa and far-distant Yamanashi.

IN JANUARY 1960 at the Des Moines Airport, a gift of 36 breeding hogs awaited departure for Japan in a U.S. Air Force C-130 specially fitted out with aluminum hog pens. Lt. Col. Oscar Tebbetts of Des Moines headed the airplane’s all-Iowa crew.

The 28 gilts and 8 boars (Poland-China, Landrace, and Minnesota No. 1 and No. 2) were accompanied

by farmers Roscoe Marsden (of Ames) and Albert Miller (Ogden), who would stay for two months to teach Japanese farmers how to raise hogs on corn. The hope was that the gift of the hogs would assist Yamanashi in the wake of the typhoon damage and also help modernize Japanese agriculture. As Marsden said, “We’re going to have to learn to live with people on the face of this earth. Foreign affairs in this day of modern transportation have become local affairs.”

Walter Goeppinger (Boone), president of the National Corn Growers Association, had spearheaded the project. Sixty thousand bushels of corn were also headed to

Japan, along with the hope that Japan would become a market for Iowa’s surplus corn.

All but one of the 36 hogs weathered the 40-hour trip (one died in Guam). Betty Hockett, of Osceola, with her husband, Lloyd, and sons, was among many families of U.S. servicemen stationed in Japan. Hockett and others greeted the plane in Tokyo. Scratching one of the hogs on the back, she said, “Can you smell Iowa on me?”

M/Sgt. Thomas also associated hogs with Iowa. Described by reporters as “a rawboned Iowan with a love for Japan,” Thomas said, “Everyone in Iowa knows hogs. They’d be run out if they didn’t.”

“The 1960 Hog Lift,” 2001 (pg.3)



Above: Welcomed by onlookers and international flags, the Iowa hogs arrive at the breeding station in Kofu. **Below:** The first shipload of corn arrives in March 1960.



After a two-week quarantine, the hogs were transported to the Sumiyoshi Breeding Station in Kofu, where they were met by Governor Hisashi Amano. Kofu, the capital of Yamanashi, and Des Moines had already begun a Sister Cities relationship under President Eisenhower's People-to-People program, first launched in the mid-1950s.

"This is a warm hand of friendship extended across the sea," said Hideo Tokoro, Japan's agricultural attaché to the U.S. "It is the spirit of the people-to-people program expressed in the most realistic as well as the most sublime of terms.

"Like these hogs you have presented, the seed of friendship you have planted will increase itself, producing generations of blue ribbon friends and goodwill of the purest strain."

This "warm hand of friendship"

“The 1960 Hog Lift,” 2001 (pg.4)



Yamanashi Governor Hisashi Amano gives a hearty pat to an Iowa hog, as dignitaries, workers, and photographers look on.

would continue to stretch across the Pacific in the years to come. That March, the Yamanashi prefectural government passed a resolution making Iowa its sister state, and Iowa followed suit later that year. The next spring, Governor Hisashi Amano visited Iowa to celebrate the relationship, and in June 1962, Yamanashi sent a gift to Iowa—also of considerable weight but of far more melodious sound than three dozen hogs. The gift was a bronze temple bell (weighing a ton and measuring four feet high) and a bellhouse (fabricated in Japan and shipped in 39 boxes for assembly here). A site south of the capitol was chosen for this “bell of friendship,” as reporters called it.

It soon became a popular backdrop for photographing Japanese visitors to Iowa. And there were many—for these gifts of hogs and corn, bell and bellhouse, as well as the rapidly developing Sister State relationship, brought on a steady stream of Japanese visitors to Iowa, and Iowans to Japan.

ONE OF THOSE VISITORS was Iowa governor Harold Hughes in the mid-1960s. “After we landed in Tokyo, I left the other governors for the two-hour train trip to Kofu,” he wrote in his autobiography. “Arriving at the station, I found myself amid a sea of little children waving American and Japanese flags. Some

five thousand people were there for a tumultuous welcome.

“I toured the farms, including the hog barns which are enhanced with fresh flowers in vases every day. ‘For the benefit of the hogs,’ said my Japanese guide. When he pointed to thousands of swine and said, ‘From Iowa,’ I remembered the Japanese friendship bell recently installed on our Statehouse grounds and thought how some twenty-odd years before we were deadly enemies. I glanced at my guide and estimated him to be my age. If I had been sent to the South Pacific, we could have killed each other.”

The flow of people between Iowa and Yamanashi has grown steadily over the years. Most re-

“The 1960 Hog Lift,” 2001 (pg.5)

cently, Governor Tom Vilsack and First Lady Christie Vilsack were guests in Yamanashi last year, as part of the 40-year celebration of “sisterhood,” and this August, Governor Ken Amano and a Yamanashi delegation visited Iowa during the week of the State Fair.

Scores of people, ranging from students to dignitaries, have crossed this bridge of friendship between Yamanashi and Iowa, to share children’s artwork and quilts, to discuss issues like aging and agriculture, and to tackle RAGBRAI and Mt. Fuji. As the Japanese attaché had predicted, gestures of great generosity in 1960 and 1962 have produced for Iowa and Yamanashi “generations of blue ribbon friends and goodwill of the purest strain.” ❖

Ginalie Swaim is editor of Iowa Heritage Illustrated. She takes pride in her ability to use chopsticks but is still “all thumbs” at origami.



BOTH PHOTOS BY JOHN ZIEGLER (2001)

In 1962, Yamanashi sent Iowa an enormous bronze bell and bellhouse, as thanks for the 35 breeding hogs and 60,000 bushels of corn that Iowa sent the prefecture after devastating typhoons. Below: The elaborately ornamented “bell of friendship” and bellhouse were installed south of the capitol, here visible in the distance.



“Iowa Sister States Agriculture Impact,” 2019 (pg. 1)



Who We Are

Iowa Sister States is a volunteer-driven non-profit organization based in Des Moines, Iowa. We strive to build sustainable international partnerships that connect Iowans to the world community. Iowa has a powerful history of citizen diplomacy, and our dedicated volunteers and staff are proud to continue this legacy.

What We Do

We manage the State of Iowa's official relationships with our nine international partners:

- Cherkasy Oblast, Ukraine
- Hebei Province, China
- Kosovo
- Stavropol Krai, Russia
- Taiwan
- Terengganu, Malaysia
- Veneto Region, Italy
- Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan
- Yucatan, Mexico

Our Mission

ISS is a volunteer driven organization dedicated to connecting Iowans within the world community. Our mission is to provide international programs that promote the interests of Iowans abroad. We do this by facilitating and hosting exchange programs between Iowa and our Sister States.

How We Benefit Iowa

- We provide Iowans (in all sectors) with opportunities statewide to connect with the international community via the sister state relationships.
- We host themed programs in various areas including: agriculture, law, business, culture, education, and many others.
- We facilitate exchange programs to host incoming delegations, as well as out-bound.
- We facilitate specific scholarship opportunities for Iowans to study in Iowa's sister states, as well as host students to attend Iowa-based colleges and universities.
- We facilitate missions to our sister states that are open to all that support citizen diplomacy and are looking for new ways to engage the international community.
- And so much more!

“Iowa Sister States Agriculture Impact,” 2019 (pg.2)

Iowa Sister States Agricultural Impact

Since its conception Iowa Sister States has had an impact in the agriculture sector. Many of our sister states are formed because of similarities between our two states and often this includes being an agricultural state. Below are many examples of how Iowa Sister States has had an impact in the agriculture sector both in Iowa and globally.

Iowa Sister States (ISS) oldest relationship with Yamanashi, Japan began in 1960. This relationship came out of a good will agricultural exchange. In 1959 Yamanashi experienced an extremely destructive typhoon. Sergeant Richard Thomas of Iowa heard the news of Yamanashi's plight and felt a strong reaction to the news. Sergeant Thomas had vacationed in Yamanashi and previously helped form a sister city relationship between Kofu and Des Moines. Sergeant Thomas organized a hog lift of 35 breeding hogs and 100,000 bushels of corn to send to Yamanashi as aid. The hogs that were sent to Yamanashi were bred with a breed in Yamanashi. Their offspring created a new pork company that is alive and thriving in Yamanashi to this day. This began a long history of exchanges over the years.

The history of the hog lift has had many lasting impacts even to this day. Currently Blue Ribbon Bacon Festival from Iowa has collaborated with Yamanashi to create a Japan Bacon Festival! This has allowed more Iowa pork products to come into the Yamanashi market and introduce the style of Iowa bacon and pork to Japan. The Japan Bacon Festival will be putting on its 3rd festival in November 2019.



2017: 1st Annual Japan Bacon Festival

Another famous agriculture delegation was the delegation from Hebei, China in 1985. The delegation in 1985 was like any normal ISS Agriculture delegation. The group consisted of various government officials from Hebei, China that were here to learn about Iowa and Iowa's agriculture. ISS took them on a tour of various farms, Sukup Manufacturing, visited local cities, and were home hosted for a portion of their time here. One difference was that later one of the delegates from the 1985 delegation would go on to become the President of China. President Xi Jinping will still talk of his time in Iowa and learning about our agriculture. This has led to continued exchanges and projects, especially in the agriculture sector.

This partnership helped to create the US- China Friendship Demonstration Farm. It exhibits Iowa's best crop varieties and agricultural technology and requires cooperation from both of our states to be successful. This farm signifies the leading role Iowa and Hebei have taken on in people-to-people diplomacy between China and the US. The U.S.-China Demo Farm is the very first farm of its kind in China due to its comprehensiveness. This farm project of 3,130 acres, or 19,000 Mu in the Chinese measurement, includes an Iowa-Kimberly Farm of 300 acres, a typical Iowa town square, a Kimberly farmstead, an ag equipment exhibition center, a museum to showcase the friendship history between the two states, a conference center, and a family-experience site.

“Iowa Sister States Agriculture Impact,” 2019 (pg.3)

Another project has been our collaboration with the World Food Prize Global Youth Institute. Since 2014, we have facilitated a relationship between Hebei high schools and the Global Youth Institute hosted annually in Des Moines where students discuss food security issues with each other and international experts. Bringing student delegates from Hebei gives a different perspective for Iowan students to hear and share our culture with the Chinese students.



President Xi Jinping visiting Kimberley Farms

Another sister state that has been active in the agricultural sector has been Kosovo. Kosovo is Iowa's newest sister state but has become one of the most active sister state relationships. Our cooperation with Kosovo is across many sectors but again one of our commonalities is agriculture.

One project that was very successful was our partnership with FFA, Iowa Farm Bureau, and Hawkeye Community College Global Agricultural Learning Center (GALC). We first partnered 5 FFA Chapters in Iowa with 5 vocational agricultural schools in Kosovo. In September of 2018 the 5 Iowa FFA chapters sent 1 student and 1 teacher to visit and study agriculture in Kosovo. After their visit the cooperation continued to grow monthly video calls with to speak about various areas of agricultural education. This also includes more discussion about agricultural practices and techniques. In April of 2019 the Kosovo schools were able to then visit their Iowa counterparts to continue learning from each other. The goal of this is to continue to educate and encourage youth in both Iowa and Kosovo to follow their passion in agriculture.



Representatives from Iowa Farm Bureau, FFA, ISU, and GALC visiting a dairy farm in Kosovo

Iowa Sister States has had a lasting impact in the agricultural sector as seen through the examples above but also through many other countless examples in our other sister states. We have done many exchanges with our sister state of Cherkasy, Ukraine, who has similar fertile geography that can efficiently cultivate crops such as corn and soybeans like Iowa. In our partnership with Stavropol, Russia we have had many agricultural exchanges over the years. Throughout the years Iowa Sister States has continued to encourage growth in the agricultural field both in Iowa and in our sister states.