



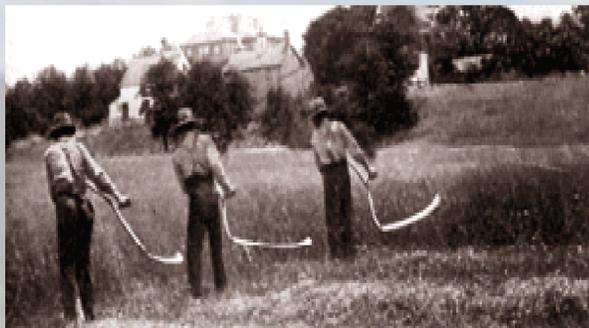
FOOD IS CHEAP, BUT AT WHAT COST?

The Industrialization of Agriculture and a Loss of Community

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Abstract

The purpose of my research is to prove the loss of community our country has experienced since the industrialization of agriculture. Of utmost importance to my research is the definition of authentic 'community', not to be confused with the physical components of a town. The research and recognition of 'community' is valuable because its loss has been extremely detrimental for our society. The conclusion includes potential plans by which aspects of 'community' could be integrated into modern industry. My research regarding the relationship between community and agriculture was completed and organized in a chronological fashion.



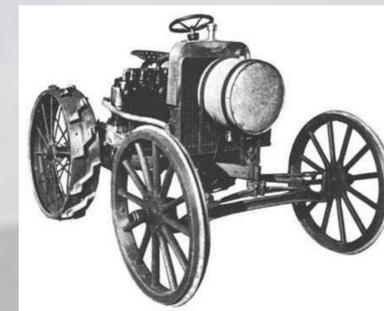
<http://www.vaes.vt.edu/s>



www.press.uchicago.edu

Mechanization

- ◆ Technological advancements
- ◆ Increased demand for food production
- ◆ Food surpluses; Food subsidies
- ◆ Farmers either grow or lose land



www.ssbtractor.com/features/ford1.jpg



<http://www.rc-trucks.org/john-deere-9620.JPG>

The Problem

- ◆ Sense of community is lost
- ◆ Agribusiness driven by profit
- ◆ Increased isolation at work can lead to physical and mental health problems

Authentic Community

Is more than a place of residence.

- ◆ Rural communities of the 18th and early 19th centuries
- ◆ Work was a way of life and a means of economic support
- ◆ Harper's "Changing Works" — farmers worked together during harvest



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<http://nue.okstate.edu/>

Conclusion

As a society it is important to recognize the family morals, togetherness and cooperation of the 18th and early 19th centuries. While as a nation we will strive for economic progress, a lot can be learned from the strong communities of the past. These rural communities were self-sufficient, in that most of the food they produced was fed to their families and livestock. Although, it is not possible to return to a less-populated country anytime soon, it is possible to implement some aspects of authentic community in our modern society. Two solutions include increasing our involvement in neighborhood activities, and on a more extreme level, decentralizing our over-urbanized cities.