A tractor may be either a profitable or an unprofitable investment. A farmer must weigh the advantages and disadvantages carefully before buying a tractor. He should study the experiences of those who have used tractors in farm work, paying particular attention to those farms conform most nearly to his own in size and system of cropping. This is advice from specialists of the USDA. An average, one farm in 30 in the United States now uses a tractor. It has been estimated by manufacturers that over 300,000 tractors will be made this year. It behooves every farmer contemplating buying one to study his farm problem from every angle. The advantage of a tractor lies not so much in the reduction in the cost of doing a piece of work as in being able to do it in less time. Thus the number of acres that can be increased and the work done in less time is the saving of time is the important factor in making a profit on the crop grown. A tractor can be kept on the job in hot weather when horses are at a disadvantage. It can do heavy work and do it rapidly, thus covering the desired acreage in the proper season. It saves man labor, thus enabling the farm to be worked with less help. It some times decreases the number of horses needed, thus saving both investment in horses and the expense of feeding them. The tractor owner can increase his income somewhat by doing custom work for his neighbors; but this is often a doubtful practice. Outside work must be done at a time when it will not interfere with the necessary work on his own place or he will lose more by neglect than he makes by the custom work. The packing of damp soil and the difficulty of efficient operation are the chief disadvantages mentioned by tractor users. The fact that a tractor demands a certain amount of knowledge on the part of the operator can scarcely be considered a disadvantage. The training can be easily obtained at small expense. But too many men attempt to run tractors with out learning anything about them except the starting, stopping, and shifting gears. The important thing is the ability to detect trouble the minute it begins to develop, and know how to remedy it promptly instead of allowing it to run along until an expensive delay results. It pays to spend a few days gaining experience under a competent instructor. It is unwise to attempt to run a tractor without such preparation. With the increasing use of tractors, as well as automobiles and stationary engines, farmers are rapidly becoming familiar with the care and operation of gas engines. At the same time, tractors are being improved and simplified so that difficulties in operation are growing less each year. One of the most important points to consider when buying a tractor is the size of the farm. Experienced tractor owners rarely recommend the purchase of a tractor for use on a farm with less than 120-130 acres under cultivation, and for such farms the two plow outfit is usually preferred. However, most of the farms on which tractors are being used successfully are some what larger than this, and a majority of the farmers procure three plows. 4-plow machines are being used satisfactorily on some farms where there is a larger amount of work to be done, and where the conditions are such that one man can operate an outfit of this size. Size is not the only factor to consider.
In 1915, International Harvester tested its first known experimental motorized cultivator.

Wow! Ninety-five years of serving agriculture have now passed for this association and we continue to battle some of the same challenges of seed, weed and feed to produce food and fiber for a growing population as in 1919.

Weed control was an issue that continues to rob yields which equal profits from the toil of our labor. In the photo shown below are tools used to destroy weeds at the turn of the century. Early in the early 1920's, most tractors were still designed for cultivating and planting since even the smaller and more affordable tractors of the day were plainly not suited to row crop work. Early iterations of Harvester’s Motor Cultivator featured a tricycle design with two wheels in front and a single wheel in back for steering and power. By 1919, even though demand for Motor Cultivators remained strong, Harvester brass decided to scrap their limited production Motor Cultivator program. For the small operation, machines such as the Bee-man garden tractor were developed to till soil and destroy weeds. Machines allowed farmers to greatly improve weed control and thus improve yields.

Seed! We found one company’s seed corn ad in April issue of the local Monroe City Democrat newspaper in 1919. As you know, today’s high-powered hybrid seed varieties with stacked traits are a far cry ahead of those seed varieties or the ‘bin ran’ corn that many used for production in 1919. Fertilizer—Very little commercial fertilizer was used in the U.S. until after WW II so at the when Farmer Elevator & Exchange began, most fertilizer was manufactured and loaded on local farms and spread on fields. It is likely that none of us can truly understand what farmers in that era experienced and endured.

Univ. of Missouri Farm—circa 1919

From the Feed Bag
by Ron Dean, Livestock Consultant

For at least 95 years, when June arrives, summer is fast approaching on every farm, so it often takes multiple methods of control to achieve good results. Fly tags, insecticide pour-ons, back rubbers, dust bags, and knockdown sprays are helpful in reducing the number of adult flies on the animal. Face flies can develop resistance to pesticides over time, so switching drug classes of the pesticide used every year is important. Waiting until the start of fly season to apply fly tags and removing them as the old fly tags in the fall also decreases the development of resistance. Clipping pastures to a low stubble height just after seed heads emerge, and again in mid summer when weeds appear is recommended. Shade areas need to be available to decrease the UK exposure. A good management program, including an appropriate vaccination program (especially IBR and BVD), good nutrition, and minerals available at all times will improve the overall condition of the cattle and decrease disease. Face flies feed decrease the incidence of disease. Fly control is essential, but can be difficult as face flies are only on the animal a small percent of the time. Therefore addressing the egg and larval stages of the fly as well as the adults is most effective. A single fly-control program will not work on every farm, so it often takes multiple methods of control to achieve good results. Fly tags, insecticide pour-ons, back rubbers, dust bags, and knockdown sprays are helpful in reducing the number of adult flies on the animal. Face flies can develop resistance to pesticides over time, so switching drug classes of the pesticide used every year is important. Waiting until the start of fly season to apply fly tags and removing them as the old fly tags in the fall also decreases the development of resistance. Clipping pastures to a low stubble height just after seed heads emerge, and again in mid summer when weeds appear is recommended. Shade areas need to be available to decrease the UK exposure. A good management program, including an appropriate vaccination program (especially IBR and BVD), good nutrition, and minerals available at all times will improve the overall condition of the cattle and decrease disease.

USDA GRAIN for all US acres in 1919

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRAIN</th>
<th>AVE. YIELD/ ACRE</th>
<th>PRICE/ BU.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>$2.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>$0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>$1.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As with many diseases, the disease outcomes can be influenced by nutritional imbalances, such as deficiencies of protein, energy, vitamins (especially vitamin A if forage is of lower quality), and minerals (especially copper and selenium). The presence of other organisms such as IBR virus, mycoplasma, Chlamydia, and Brachymena ovis will increase the incidence and severity of disease. The major question becomes what can be done to PREVENT the disease from being initiated a spreading. Management practices that reduce the risk factors associated with pinkeye are the most effective tools in decreasing the incidence of disease. Fly control is essential, but can be difficult as face flies are only on the animal a small percent of the time. Therefore addressing the egg and larval stages of the fly as well as the adults is most effective. A single fly-control program will not work on every farm, so it often takes multiple methods of control to achieve good results. Fly tags, insecticide pour-ons, back rubbers, dust bags, and knockdown sprays are helpful in reducing the number of adult flies on the animal. Face flies can develop resistance to pesticides over time, so switching drug classes of the pesticide used every year is important. Waiting until the start of fly season to apply fly tags and removing them as the old fly tags in the fall also decreases the development of resistance. Clipping pastures to a low stubble height just after seed heads emerge, and again in mid summer when weeds appear is recommended. Shade areas need to be available to decrease the UK exposure. A good management program, including an appropriate vaccination program (especially IBR and BVD), good nutrition, and minerals available at all times will improve the overall condition of the cattle and decrease disease.

The national average price of gasoline in 1919 was 25 cents per gallon. With the inflation adjusted for, the national average price of gasoline in 1919 is about $3.22 per gallon, an 18% higher than the current全国 average gasoline price.
U.S. Commodity Prices in 1919

On January 1, 1919 there were $4,399,000 head of cattle in the U.S.—more cattle than at any other time in the history of American agriculture. With the rescheduling of the export regulations of the War Trade Board, pertaining to shipments of meat, in March 1919, and the consequent opening of foreign markets to individual packers, the price agreements relative to hogs automatically went into existence. The control of the market through purchases by the Food Administration was considerably diminished, with a resultant inability to keep up hog prices. Later events, however, showed how price agreements to be no longer necessary, for within seven weeks of their entry into effect, the president of the Farmers Elevator Co. and the management of the Towanda, Pa., firm were dictating the market.
Perhaps worst of all, they felt that the city and all of its sins were encroaching on their way of life. Movies made in distant places exposed their children to unhealthy lifestyles, and radio stations broadcasting out of NY and Chicago brought city music and city jokesters into their own living rooms. The nation was divided — Country folks did not go down without a fight, though. Many historians have argued that the reactionary movements of the time are best understood as expressions of all the anxiety gripping rural America. “How ya Gonna Keep ‘Em Down on the Farm” brought the issue of a struggling rural class to the forefront of popular culture. The new, more isolated character of the nation was being transformed. Truth is: they weren’t. But they wanted to keep ‘em down on the farm!

Reprinted from June 1919 issues of the Monroe City Democrat

From several sections of the state reports have come a picture that insurance agents are deterring farmers. The farmers pretend to insure crops against practically everything, and as they offer cheap policies many farmers fall for the fraud. They require the farmers to sign “agreements” which turn out to be promissory notes which the sharpeners dispose of to a third person when they become collectible. When country people and town people cordially together to build all parts of the country everybody will be benefited. What ever injures your town lowers the value of your farm. Whatever injures the farmer limits the town.

The farmer who owns a farm is the particular person who is fixed. Banks may fail and factories close, workmen strike and mines suspend, merchants fail and towns burn, times panic and even crops may be short—but the farmers who has his acres will get along. He will live in comfort and quiet with plenty to eat, drink and wear. He is the most independent man on earth. Yet there are lots of them who do not appreciate this.

The war ended soon after the U.S. entered. As a result, the American soldiers did not return to the towns and farms that they had left behind. They had tasted excitement and were not keen to go back to their “boring” lives on the farm. Egging these towns and farms that they had left behind, the returning soldiers on was the fact that ‘boring’ lives on the farm. Egging these towns and farms that they had left behind, the returning soldiers on was the fact that ‘boring’ lives on the farm. Egging these towns and farms that they had left behind, the returning soldiers on was the fact that ‘boring’ lives on the farm. Egging these towns and farms that they had left behind, the returning soldiers on was the fact that ‘boring’ lives on the farm.

Some MO Facts from 1919:

• The Missouri Children’s Code was finally passed in 1919.
• Missouri became the 11th state to ratify the Federal Equal Rights Amendment for women the right to vote in July 1919.
• Governor – Frederick Gardner
• Attorney General – Frank McAllister of Paris, MO
• A. L. Abbott signed his position with International and accepted a like position with the Moline Plow Works.
• R.S. McClintic of Monroe City was elected to represent the 13th Senatorial District of Missouri in November 1912 and was state senator continuously until 1919. He was a member of the National Association of Educator of Monroe City public schools from 1913 until 1925.

The nation's shrinking rural population was an important part of the “the roaring 20s,” but in rural towns a different mood existed. Rural Americans did not fully share in all of the economic prosperity of the decade, and they feared that their political influence was shrinking as well.