

UNIT II: THE GOLDEN AGE (1897-1918)

Topic: Agriculture

Lesson 13: Introduction to the Agricultural Journal the *Iowa Farmstead*

Objectives:

1. Students will learn that agricultural journals and newspapers brought useful information to families.
2. Students will learn that the *Iowa Farmstead* contains information about agricultural improvement and prosperity during the Golden Age of Agriculture (1897-1918).

Materials:

Student access to the *Iowa Farmstead*

Activities:

1. Introduce the lesson by telling students they will learn about the Golden Age of Agriculture, a prosperous time for agriculture in Iowa.
2. Review these historical points.
 - a. Until this time, farm methods had remained much the same as those used during the pioneer period, even though improved machinery had relieved some of the hard physical labor.
 - b. By 1900, the nation was in a period of industrial expansion which meant there were larger numbers of people living in cities working in factories. These people had to purchase food for their families which created a growing market for Iowa agricultural products.
3. List the following on the board or on a transparency:
 - a. Agricultural education
 - b. Increased production
 - c. Higher farm income
 - d. Scientific and technological progress
 - e. Transportation and communication improvement
 - f. Leisure
4. Provide students with access to the *Iowa Farmstead*. Review the following points:
 - a. During this period many agricultural newspapers and journals were published. These were widely read by members of farm families. Just as rural people learned about agriculture from magazines and papers, the students will learn about the Golden Age of Agriculture from this agricultural magazine the *Iowa Farmstead*,
 - b. Allow students to look through the magazine and encourage them to look for articles about the six topics listed on the chalkboard.
 - c. As students identify the page number where topical information is found, list the page numbers on the board.
 - d. Tell students they will learn more about each topic so that they will better understand the reasons for calling this period of time the Golden Age of Agriculture.