

## UNIT II: THE GOLDEN AGE (1897-1918)

### Topic: Agriculture

#### Lesson 16: Economic Prosperity

##### Objectives:

1. Students will discover the changes in the number of farms and farm size.
2. Students will create and use graphs to draw conclusions about economic prosperity.

##### Materials:

Student access to *The Iowa Farmstead*, pp. 15 and 16

Activity sheet: Farm Production Graph

##### Activities:

1. Have students look at the farm size statistics on p. 15 of *The Iowa Farmstead* and identify the year when the number of farms was the greatest and the least. Compare these statistics with the average acres per farm for each year. Discuss the inverse relationships between the number of farms and size of farms.
2. Have students create graphs from the tables on pages 15 and 16 using the graph sheet provided. If students have had no experience making graphs, demonstrate the procedure on the board. Small groups of students could be assigned to each product. For instance two students could be assigned horses: one student would graph "Total Horses" and one would graph "Value Per Head," etc. Distribute graph paper and allow time to complete the graphs.
3. Display the graphs on a classroom board providing opportunities for students to observe patterns and trends based on the data. Discuss students' observations emphasizing the following points:
  - a. Among most farm products there was a tendency for prices to rise during the period 1900-1920 with some prices rising dramatically.
  - b. Among farm crops, production per acre generally increased as measured by average bushels per acre.
  - c. In general, the number of livestock on Iowa farms increased during the period 1900-1920.
  - d. The volume of farm products increased between 1900 and 1920.
  - e. The number of acres devoted to individual farm crops showed both negative and positive growth when viewed by category.
4. The cost of common household items increased only five per cent between 1900 and 1920. The prices farmers received for their products generally increased along with farm production. Based on these facts and the observations from the graphs, students should conclude farmers fared well economically between 1900 and 1920.

# FARM PRODUCTION GRAPH

Names \_\_\_\_\_

Product \_\_\_\_\_


1900

1905

1910

1915

1920