

## UNIT 1:THE RISE OF TECHNOLOGY (1870 - 1896)

### Topic: Agriculture

#### Lesson 1: The Iowa Agriculturist

##### Objectives:

1. The students will gain an understanding of the yearly cycle of the Iowa farmer of the 1880s.
2. Students will gain an understanding of the technological advances in agriculture in the late 1800s.

##### Materials:

The Iowa Agriculturist

##### Activities:

1. Briefly review the following points to establish the historical setting for the lesson:
  - a. The frontier period in Iowa lasted from 1830 - 1870.
  - b. By 1870 there were over one million people living in Iowa, mostly in rural areas.
  - c. During the latter half of the nineteenth century, improvements were made in farm machinery which made farming less difficult and allowed each farmer to cultivate more land.
2. Provide access to *The Iowa Agriculturist*. Allow time for students to browse this publication and observe the various farm implements pictured.
3. Read and discuss the information included in the magazine. It may be helpful to use the following breakdowns to guide discussion.
  - Plowing
  - Planting (small grain)
  - Planting (corn)
  - Cultivating
  - Harvesting (small grain)
  - Harvesting (corn)
  - Haying
  - Threshing and Husking
4. As a class create an illustrated chart identifying the annual cycle of the horse farm of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Use *The Iowa Agriculturist* as a guide.