Using horses and hand labor in the early 1900s made farming slow and inefficient. As you look around the countryside today, you will find farm machinery sitting abandoned out in some field or maybe by the old barn. These have been left to deteriorate due to people leaving the farms and the modernization of machinery.

The picture to the right is of a two-row planter used in the late 1800s and early 1900s. It could only plant two to three rows at a time and was pulled by teams of horses or mules. Compared to the present-day machines, these older models were small. Tractors like the one to the far right came into use around 1925. The new style of tires, rubber instead of lug, on tractors, air conditioning and radios on the equipment of today were not dreamed of then. The hay equipment of yesteryear as pictured to the bottom left, contrasts with the more modern equipment of today. The bales have increased in weight from 75 pounds to approximately 200 pounds. With the bale in the center photo, the bales are bigger but much easier to take care of today.

Grain, such as soybeans or corn, was hauled in small wagons over short distances to market. Many, like the deteriorated wagon to the bottom far right, were used for hauling grain and other farm products. Today grain is hauled to market in larger trucks and travels much farther distances.

All farm machinery has changed in one way or another from years past and will probably continue to change to help the farmer in all areas of his farming.