

Then and Now

United States farmers have seen many changes through the years. Farm machinery and ways of farming change with modern

technology. Match the following to see how farms of the 1800s compare to farms of today. The first one has been done for you.

Farms of the Past

1. Farmers milked one cow at a time by hand—about 5 cows in an hour.
2. The farmer plowed 1 to 2 acres in a day.
3. Almost 90 of every 100 people lived on a farm.
4. Farmers learned how to farm from only their parents and neighbors.
5. Farmers lost many animals to sickness and poor nutrition.
6. Each farmer grew enough food to feed 3 to 5 people each year.
7. Horses were used for plowing.
8. Farmers controlled weeds and insects by hand.
9. Farmers had to grow all or most of the food for their families as well as raise products to sell for cash.

Modern Farms

- A. Farmers use veterinarians (animal doctors) and feed high nutrition feeds to their animals.
- B. Farmers raise certain products to sell and often buy most of the family's food from grocery stores.
- C. The farmer may plow 60 or more acres a day.
- D. Farmers might milk three to six or more cows at the same time with milking machines. One person might milk 35 or more cows in an hour.
- E. Tractors are used for plowing.
- F. Farmers protect crops by using insect, disease and weed controllers.
- G. Farmers go to school to learn what scientists have discovered about agriculture.
- H. Fewer than 2 out of every 100 people live on a farm.
- I. Each farmer grows enough food to feed about 129 people a year.

