



Farming in the 1920s

MACHINES | FARM LIFE | CROPS | PESTS & WEEDS | MAKING MONEY | WATER | WORLD EVENTS

FARM LIFE

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SEARCH TEXT

PHOTOS & PRIMARY SOURCES
AT THE NEBRASKA STUDIES SITE.

SEARCH MEDIA



Summer – Threshing Season



One of the major tasks on Midwest farms each summer was the harvesting of small grains. Farmers cut the wheat or oats and tied the grain into bundles. When the wheat dried, farmers loaded the bundles onto a horse-drawn rack and brought them to the **threshing machine**. ([You can see how the machines worked here.](#))

Threshing crews traveled from farm to farm with huge machines that would "thresh" the wheat and oats, separating the grain from the straw.

Crews spent several days at each farm, working long hours in the summer heat. Threshing season was a time of hard work, socializing with neighbors, fun for children, and lots of wonderful food.

We now have [a special movie about what a threshing day was like](#). It's fascinating to compare threshing with [a modern corn harvest, presented here in a 30-second time lapse movie](#).

Merna Bailey said she used to sit by the side of the road waiting for the huge threshing engine to come to their farm. As a child, her job during threshing season was to put a bench in the yard and haul pails of water, towels and soap for the field workers to wash before meals.



Threshing was long, hard, dirty work.

Hollis Miller said when he was young, his job was to fill the water jugs with cold well water, wrap them in burlap to keep them cool, and take them to the workers.

Click link below for live web page to see videos.

http://www.livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe20s/life_09.htm

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