

## Illinois History and Agriculture Timeline

10000-8000 BC	Paleo Indians roam the Area
8000-500 BC	Archaic Indians inhabit forests, hunt deer and small game use stone tools
500 BC-900 AD	Woodlands Indians develop maize build villages and burial Mounds
900-1500 AD	Misissippian culture improve ag methods
1673	Marquette and Joliet explore the Mississippi River
1680	LaSalle builds fort near present day St. Louis
1769	Illinois Indian tribes are trapped and starved near Fort St. Louis –now known as Starved Rock’
1778	George Rogers Clark takes Kaskaskia
1787	Illinois established as part of the Northwest Territory.
1795	Randolph County formed .
1809	US Congress makes Illinois a territory.
1818	Illinois Admitted as 21 <sup>st</sup> State. First state Constitution established. Kaskaskia is first state capital.
1820	Vandalia becomes new state capital
1832	Black Hawk War drives our Sauk and Fox Indians
1837	Chicago becomes a city (population 4000), John Deere develops self scouring steel plow
1838	Springfield becomes state capital. National Road is completed from Cumberland Maryland to Vandalia.
1839	Mormons driven from Nauvoo
1847	Cyrus McCormick begins manufacturing wheat reapers in Chicago.
1848	Second Constitution of Illinois ratified. Chicago Board of Trade organized .
1851	Illinois and Michigan Canal completed Illinois Central Railroad is incorporated. ICRR is given every other section of land on each side of the road as an incentive to build. They sell it to settlers and were able to build the railroad.
1856	First railroad bridge across the Mississippi is completed between Rock Island and Davenport, Iowa.
1865	Chicago Union Stockyards opened.
1867	Illinois Industrial University established (later University of Illinois)
1870	Third Constitution of Illinois ratified Great Chicago fire. Over 18,000 buildings destroyed with losses of \$200 million
1873	Joseph Glidden of DeKalb develops barbed wire fencing, patented in 1874
1886	Haymarket Square bombing and riot in Chicago during a labor rally.
1893	World Columbian Exposition in Chicago.
1904	The Jungle by Upton Sinclair published, leads to the Pure Food and Drug act 2 years later.
1922	A.E. Staley opens first commercial soybean-processing plant in Decatur.
1941	Work begins on mass production of Penicillin at the USDA Ag Research Center in Peoria. Mass production for the war Effort will be complete by 1944.
1954	Ray Kroc opens first McDonald’s restaurant in Chicago
1966	Illinois for the first time leads the nation in the export of agricultural and manufactured products.
1980	Illinois native John Block named US Secretary of Agriculture
1986	Federal Environmental Regulations approved encouraging Ethanol Use.
1993	Worst floods in state’s history ravage western and southern Illinois covering 500,000 acres and causing \$1.5 billion in crop and property damage