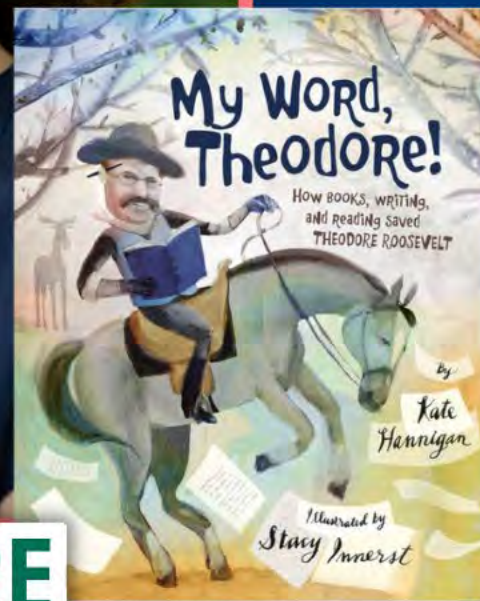




AUTHORS & AITC

**OCTOBER 27,
2026**

**SPECIAL GUEST:
KATE HANNIGAN**



ILLINOIS

AG MAG

An Agricultural
Magazine for Kids

TRANSPORTATION

The Importance of Transportation

TRANSPORTATION is very important in almost every part of our daily lives. Without transportation, we could not travel around. We would have no products to buy in stores. We could not get items delivered to our homes.

AGRICULTURE is also an important part of our daily lives. We rely on agriculture to give us food, clothing, and fuel for our vehicles every day. Farmers rely on transportation to get the food they produce to the people who need it. Can you imagine not having a way to transport

food, clothes, or other items that you need in your life? How could we survive without transportation?

Illinois is located at the center of the transportation system in the United States. Our state produces food that feeds people around the world. Our state is home to the largest railway junction in the nation. Our river system allows massive amounts of products to be shipped out of the country. Our advanced network of roads and interstate highways

connects us to the rest of the country.

We are lucky to have an amazing transportation system in Illinois. We also have thousands of people with **CAREERS** in transportation who help get people, goods, and services where they need to be. Let's learn more about the roads, rivers, and rails that connect us all and help agriculture remain the #1 industry in Illinois.

Celebrating



in agriculture

and the 100th anniversary of





The Land of Lincoln

The State of Illinois is 55,584 square miles. The Mississippi River forms the state's western border and Lake Michigan is the far northeastern border. Chicago, a port on Lake Michigan, is the third largest city in the US. Over 12 million people live in the state, and over 75% of the population lives in the Chicago metropolitan area. While Illinois is the 5th most populous state (behind California, Texas, New York and Florida), nearly 75% of the state is covered with farmland.

Illinois has over 70,000 farms covering over 27 million acres. Those farms account for over \$19 billion in revenue each year. Not only do we plant and harvest goods in Illinois, we also process and ship various agricultural products across the state, the nation and the world. Read on to see how Illinois became a 200-year-old agricultural powerhouse.



The landscape of Illinois that is favorable for farming is due mainly to the glacier periods from over the last 2 million years. Glaciers scraped the land leaving rock and sediment behind. This glacier movement formed our current lakes and rivers and as it retreated some of the most productive soil in the world was left behind. Drummer silty clay loam, the official state soil, is found on more than 1.5 million acres of Illinois land.

FIRST people



The first people in Illinois were probably small groups of nomadic hunters. These hunters followed herds as they roamed. As the ice sheets melted and population grew, early Native Americans turned to woods, lakes and rivers for food and protection.

The Archaic Period

This period of Native American culture lasted from about 10,000 years ago to about 3,000 years ago. Archaic people lived in small camps along rivers and streams. The archaic people made advances in hunting techniques and started cultivating native plants to supplement their diet.



The Middle Woodland Period

This period of Native American culture lasted in the current Illinois area from about 3,000 years ago to 1,250 years ago. In addition to introducing pottery vessels for food storage, the Middle Woodland people began using the bow and arrow to hunt for food.



The Mississippian Period

Lasting from 1,100 years ago to about 500 years ago, the Mississippian people had a more stable cultivated food supply of corn, squash and some beans. Additionally, the Mississippian people are known for building ceremonial and burial mounds such as Cahokia Mound in southwestern Illinois.



Rocks to Robots: Ag Tech Timeline Game



a game from



Rocks to
Robots: Ag
Tech
Timeline
Game



Illinois

- 1809 - Illinois Territory was formed
- 1818 - Illinois became the 21st state
- 1820 - Springfield became the 3rd state capital
- 1870 - The Great Chicago Fire



State Symbols

- Insect: Monarch Butterfly
- Snack Food: Popcorn
- Soil: Drummer Silty Clay Loam
- Vegetable: Sweet Corn
- Pie: Pumpkin Pie
- Grain: Corn

agintheclassroom.org



Illinois Agriculture

Innovation and Invention



Click or tap an era to get started.

Geography and Pre-Statehood pre-1818

The First 100 Years 1818-1919

Emerging Modern Agriculture 1920-present

Illinois Farm Bureau Family of Companies
Illinois FB 1920-present

Il.stateaghistory.org



GROWING A NATION

An interactive timeline of the history of agriculture in the United States

Click or tap an era to get started.

The Seeds of Change 1600 - 1929

From Defeat to Victory 1930 - 1949

Prosperity and Challenges 1950 - 1969

Into a New Millennium 1970 - 2000

Information Age 2000 - present

Growinganation.org



Inspecting Meat Packing Plants

This is a page from a letter Upton Sinclair sent to President Roosevelt on March 10, 1906. In it, Sinclair suggested the placement of federal inspectors in meatpacking houses, and advised that these inspectors should be disguised as workers in order to discover the true conditions at the plants, as Sinclair did when he researched his book. Read this explanation of Sinclair's landmark book and answer the questions below.

"In 1905, author Upton Sinclair published the novel titled *The Jungle*, which took aim at the brutalization and exploitation of workers in a Chicago meatpacking house. It was the filthy conditions, described in nauseating detail--and the threat they posed to meat consumers--that caused a public furor. Sinclair urged President Theodore Roosevelt to support the presence of federal inspectors in the meatpacking houses. Both the Food and Drug Act and the Meat Inspection Act were passed in 1906."

Questions

Why did the U.S. government take responsibility for inspecting meat products for export as well as for domestic consumption?

In what other areas does the government have systems for protecting the public?

"Agency History," U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service [online].

You ask - "Is there anything further, say in the Department of Agriculture, which you would suggest my doing?" I would suggest the following: That you do as Doubleday, Page & Company did, find a man concerning whose intelligence and integrity you are absolutely sure; send him up here, or let me meet him in Washington, and tell him all that I saw, and how I saw it, and give him the names and addresses of the people who will enable him to see it. Then let him go to Packingtown as I did, as a workman; live with the men; get a job in the yards, and use his eyes and ears; and see if he does not come out at the end of a few weeks feeling, as did the special correspondent of the London "Lancet," when I met in Chicago, that the conditions in the packing-houses constitute a "menace to the health of the civilized world." *The Lancet* for Jan 8, 1906, p. 29 - 1906.

Thanking you for your kind interest,

Very sincerely,



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

16TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: 1861-1865
BORN: FEBRUARY 12, 1809 IN HODGENVILLE, KENTUCKY
DIED: APRIL 15, 1865 IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

- Had a background in pioneer farming and worked as a country lawyer.
- Believed that farmers' interests were of primary importance.
- Established the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1861.
- Endorsed education as the key for continued progress in agriculture. In 1862, Lincoln passed the Morrill Land Grant College Act, which donated land for colleges of agriculture.



THOMAS JEFFERSON

3RD PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: 1801-1809
BORN: APRIL 13, 1743 IN ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VIRGINIA
DIED: JULY 4, 1826 IN MONTICELLO, VIRGINIA

- Known as one of America's early agronomists due to his practices with crop rotation, fertilizer, and contour plowing.
- Believed that agriculture, manufacturing, commerce, and navigation were the four pillars for the nation's prosperity.
- Thought that farmers are the nation's most valuable citizens, because they are tied to their country and devoted to its interests.



FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

32ND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: 1933-1945
BORN: JANUARY 30, 1882 IN HYDE PARK, NEW YORK
DIED: APRIL 12, 1945 IN WARM SPRINGS, GEORGIA

- In order to relieve suffering caused by the depression, Roosevelt's domestic program consistently focused on agricultural recovery.
- To assure a greater food reserve, Roosevelt passed the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938. This act included the maintenance of a large grain reserve.
- Stated that the basic principles of farm policy are: to give agriculture a fair share of an increasing national income, to provide consumers with abundant food supplies, to stop waste of soil, and to reduce the gap between surpluses and shortages.



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**SPECIAL GUEST:
RUTH SPIRO**