

Farmers in Our Lives

Then ... and Now

Some photos to jog
our memories

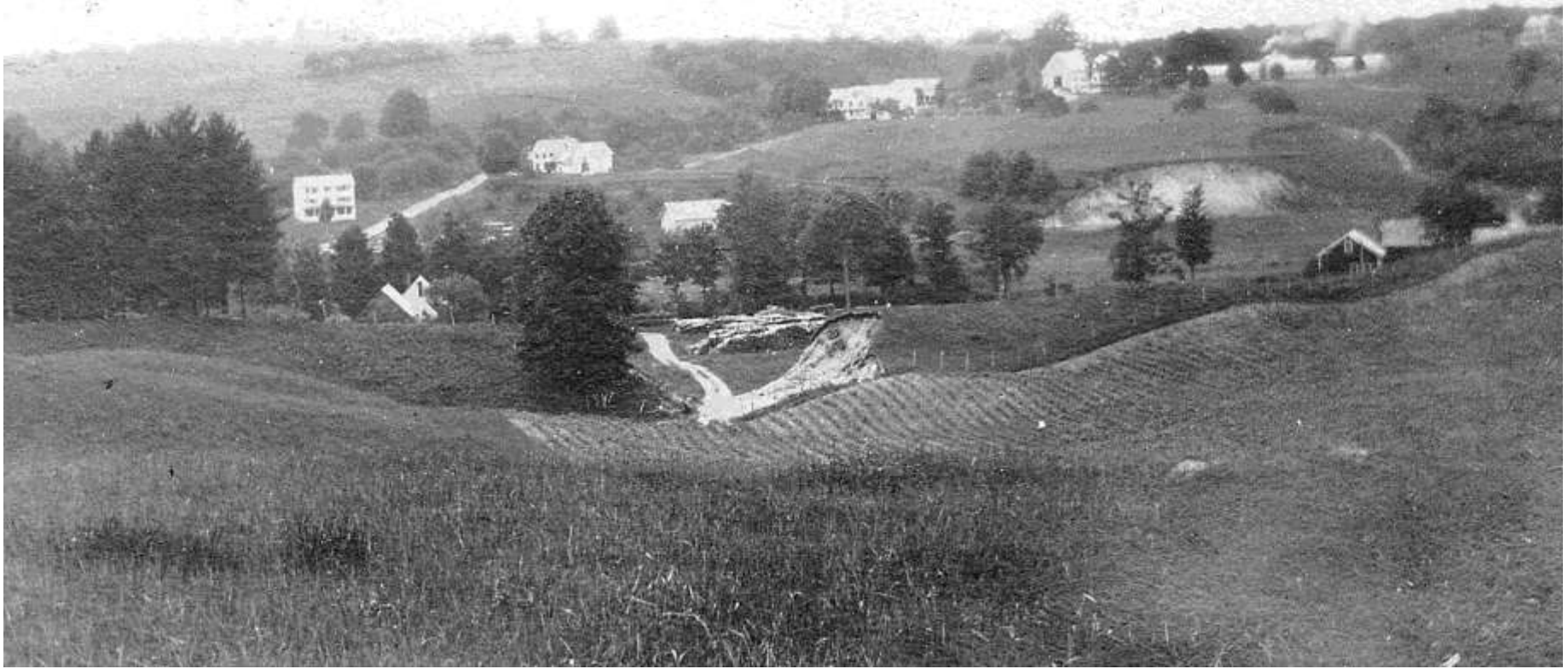
from Dave Brown July 2019



Early 1900s



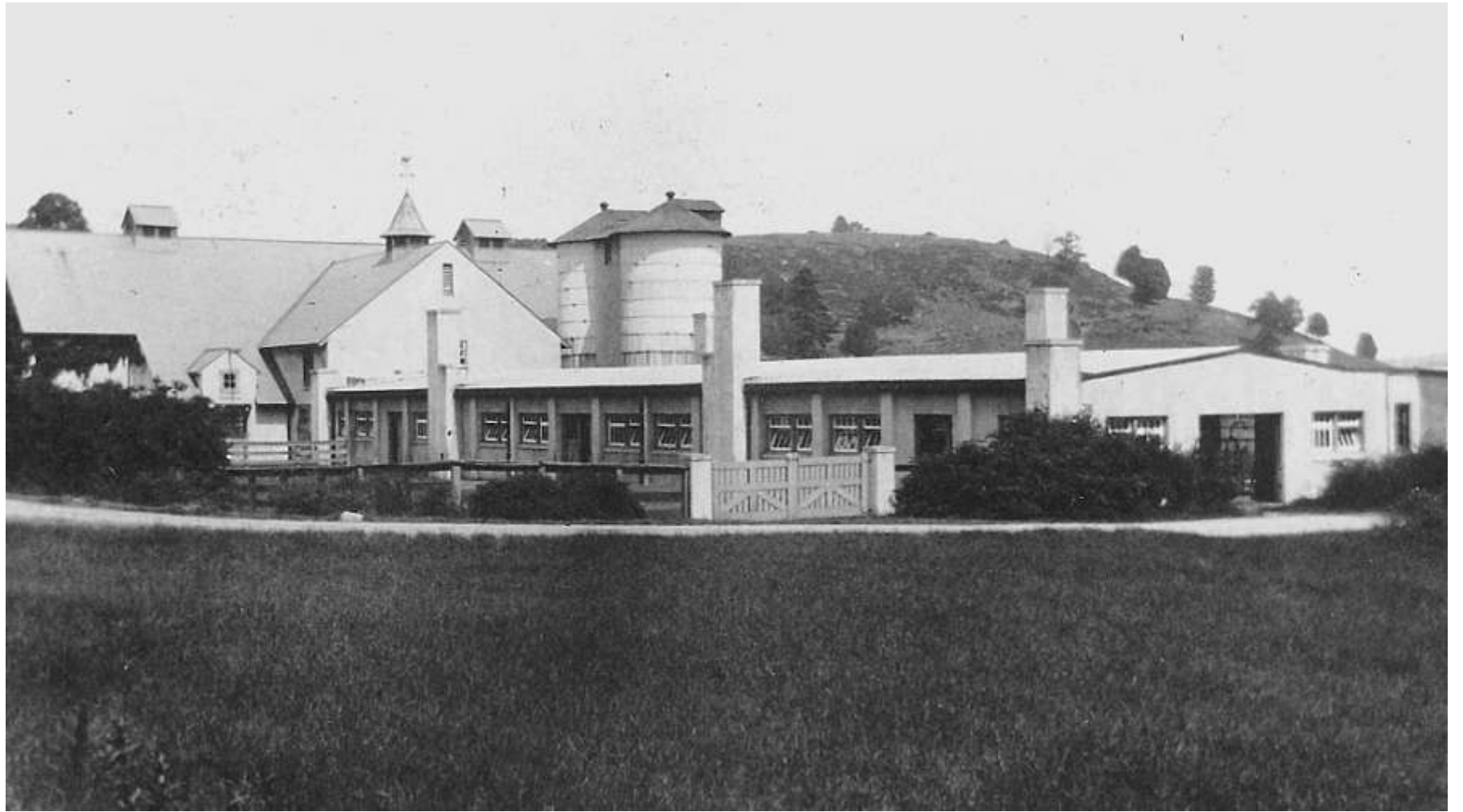
In northern New England



More land was in open fields & pastures.



Some farmers had pretty big operations in the early 1900s.



Here in southern
Rhode Island we
had windmills.





This neglected farm in North Kingstown was modernized into a dairy operation around 1940. But now it's a residential subdivision.



Down South, this scene was common
in the early 1900s



Did your family have a grocery store like this when you were young?

1930s-60s

**In the 1930s,
many families
had chickens in
their back yards.**





Many Northeast farm families on marginal land had to find jobs in nearby towns to augment incomes.



Southern Appalachia had few nearby jobs. Family heads sought work in the North. Many came back to retire on their home places.

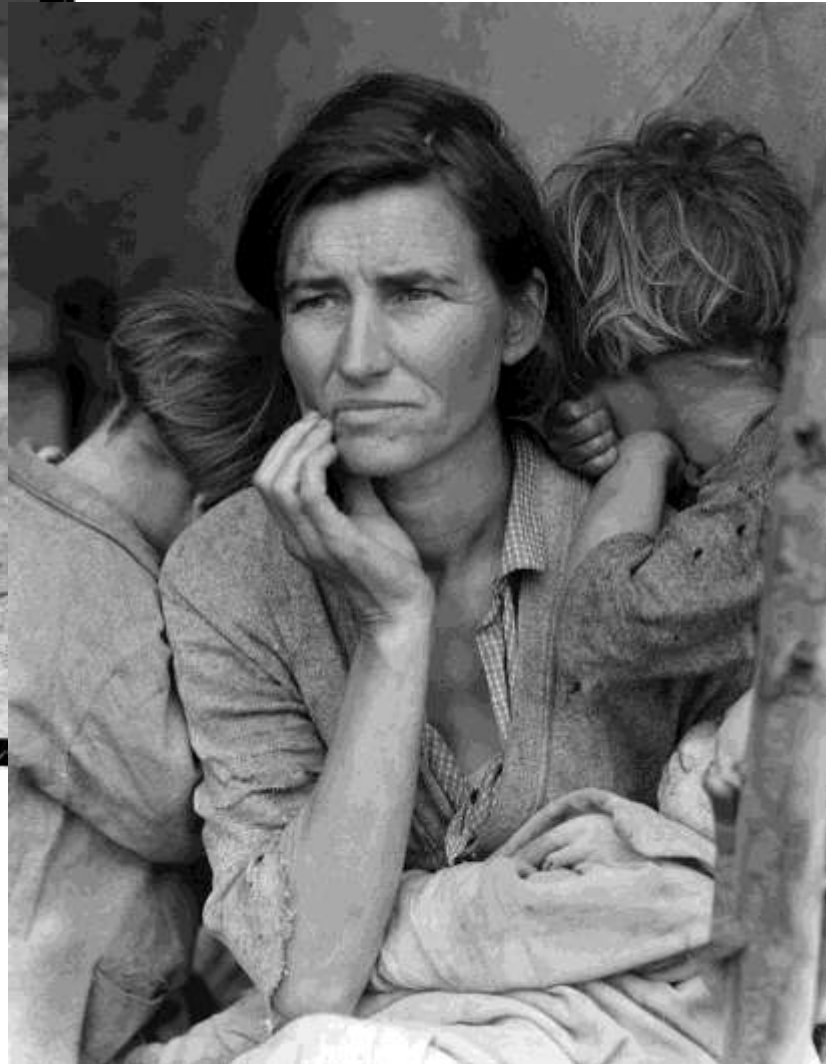
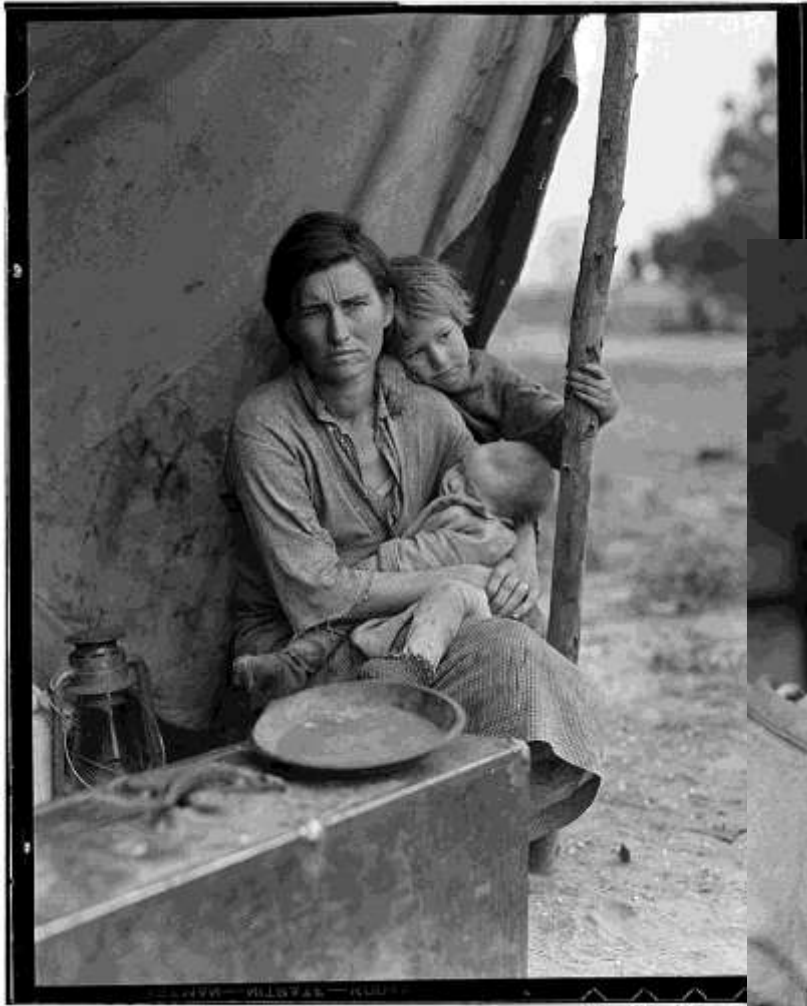
Douglas Barnet photo



Still seen in some parts of the South up into the 1960s. Ametia photo

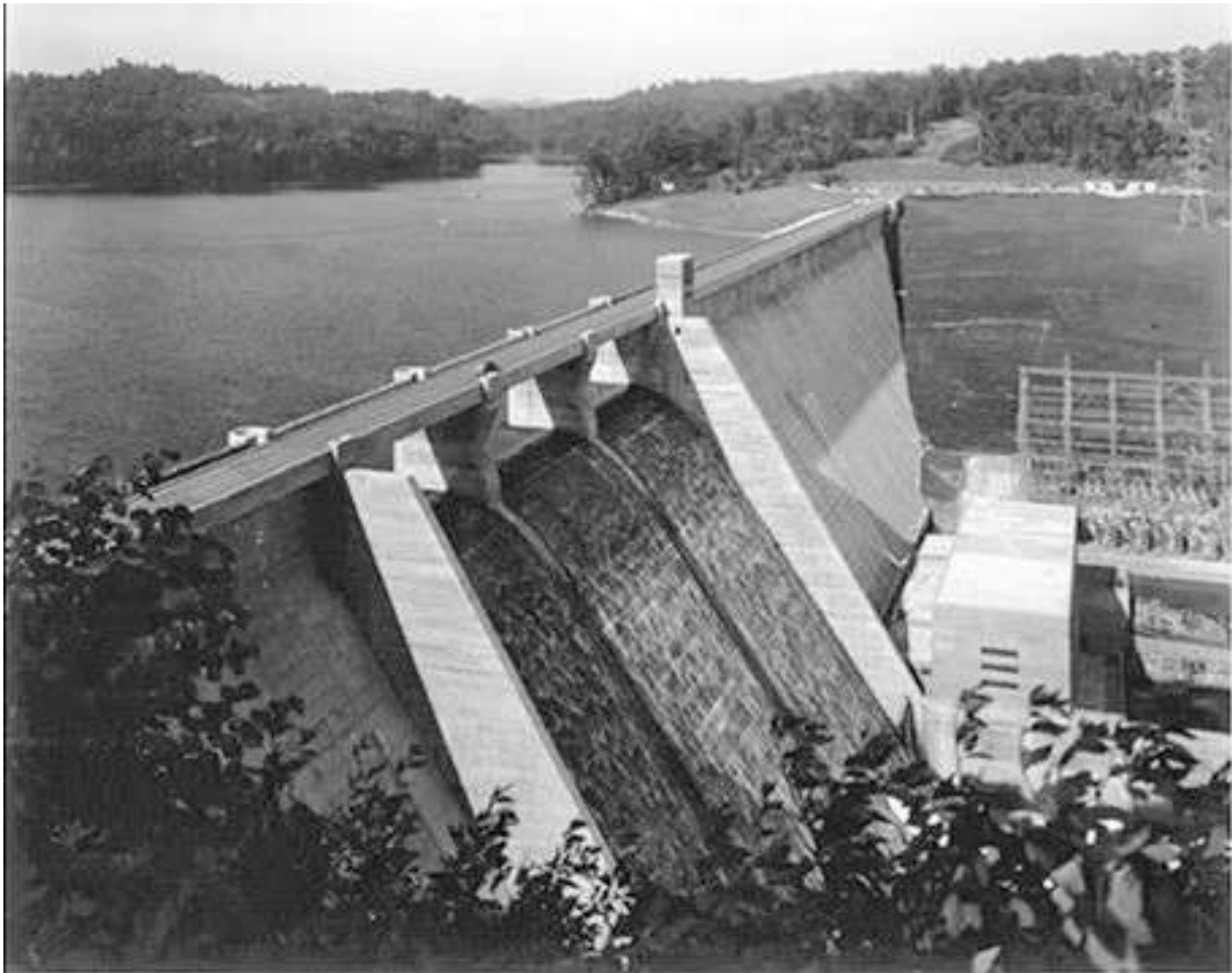


Besides the dust storms of the 1930s, farmers in some major river basins had bad flooding. USDA NRCS photo



Many rural families lost their land and had to migrate in the 1930s.

Photos by Dorothea Lange



Big multi-purpose programs like the Tennessee Valley Authority were mobilized.

TVA photo on YouTube

USDA began to encourage soil conservation practices in 1936, during the Depression yet.



Photo of contour plowing in Iowa, from USDA NRCS

Tractors came into wider use.



Progressive farmers tried out hybrid seeds and better fertilizers recommended by land-grant universities.

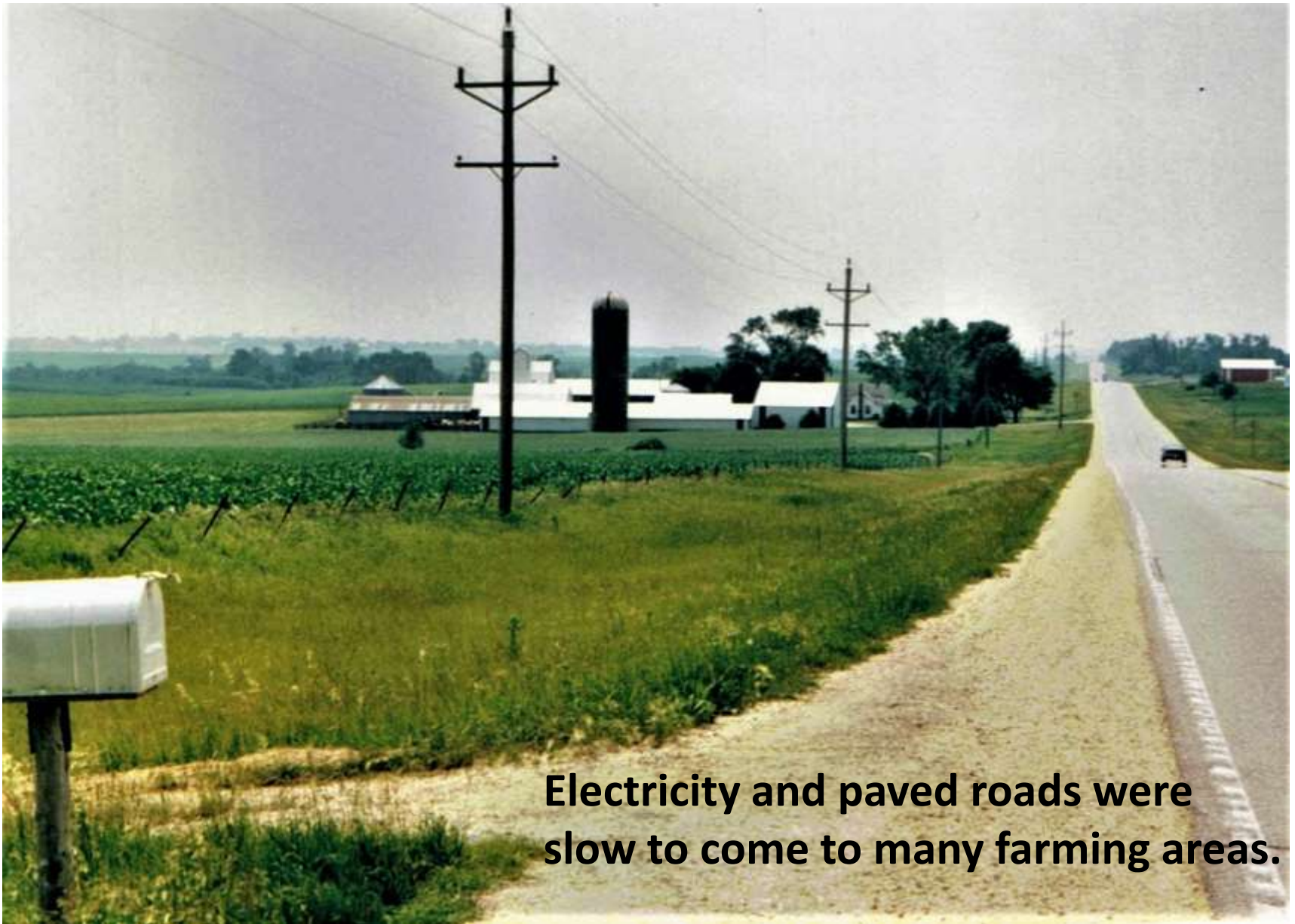


Photo from Tennessee Valley Authority

Irrigation increased, but often water was wasted.



Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS



Electricity and paved roads were slow to come to many farming areas.

Iowa farming area surveyed by Dave Brown, 1955

Recent decades – many changes



Minimum-till farming has been gaining popularity.

Photo from USDA NRCS, Iowa

High-hoop tunnels are extending growing seasons.



Greenhouse Megastore photo

Photovoltaic panels can help power farm operations.

But how far to go in clearing land for big solar cell “farms” is a hot policy issue these days in Rhode Island.



Photovoltaic panel system for a high hoop farm in North Kingstown RI

RI farmers are growing wine grapes and other new products.



Farmers are finding ways to reduce ag chemical use and to “live with” wildlife.



But reduced ag chemical use for urban plants and trees is spotty.



Drones with sensors are helping farmers to monitor crops.



Photo by Quang Nguyen Vinh via Pexels

Groups on Aquidneck Island are enabling space for community gardens.



And these veggie growers are market savvy.

They find out ahead of time

what local restaurants and others want them to provide.





**Supermarkets
bring together
farm products
from far and
wide around
the world.**



Farmers markets are spurring local food sources to provide good quality.

Lots of good socialization takes place there too.



Farmers markets are now reaching out to “food deserts”.
Some neighborhoods lack good grocery stores.



At fairs, our young people can see some aspects of agriculture in the past and present.





Some New England farmers still have good uses for oxen, like hauling logs out of woodlots.



Skills in home canning of fruits & vegetables are still a source of pride.

Vintage farm equipment shows are attracting next generations.

This one was here on Aquidneck Island in 2017.



Small older tractors are still better for some farm tasks than big new ones.



**But don't
tell that to
this happy
kid!**





AQUIDNECK
COMMUNITY
TABLE

HOME MARKETS GARDENS COMPOST MAP EVENTS SPONSOR JOIN US

New partnerships here on Aquidneck Island are doing exciting things to help bring all this together.

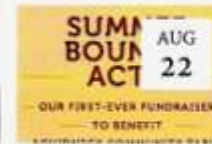
Maybe there are some ways that we can be part of it, right here at John Clarke?



The Food Explorers Program Returns to Our Markets
Jul 10, 2019



Monday Farmers Market at Miantonomi Park
Jul 15, 2019



Summer Bounty: Join us to Celebrate the 25th Birthday of our Farmers Market
Aug 22, 2019



The Food Challenge
Sep 21, 2019 - Sep 28, 2019



<https://aquidneckcommunitytable.org>

Our mission is to grow a healthy local food system, accessible to all on our island.

Aquidneck Community Table (ACT) works in many different ways to build our local food system: fresh foods at our farmers markets, community gardens, and school