

AGRICULTURE ADVENTURES FOR FAMILIES

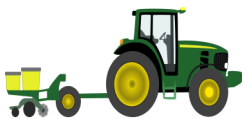


April is the time of year when all the hard work that farmers have done over the winter becomes very important as they begin the process of planting their fields. What work you might ask? During the winter season farmers are busy making key decisions on what seeds to plant, what nutrients and pest control will be purchased, what equipment and machinery should be fixed or acquired, and the list goes on. Illinois is proud to be the home of many inventors who revolutionized the agriculture industry and this month we will examine some of those key people.

Ag Inventors from Illinois

John Deere

In 1837 in Grand Detour, Illinois, blacksmith John Deere was aware of farmers' concerns that their plows, designed for the sandy soil of the eastern United States, weren't shedding the thick prairie soil of Illinois. In response, Deere made a highly polished steel mold board from a broken sawblade. John Deere, blacksmith, evolves into John Deere, manufacturer. Later he remembers building 10 plows in 1839, 75 in 1841, and 100 in 1842. After ten years in Grand Detour, John Deere formed a new partnership and moved to Moline, situated on the Mississippi River with water power and transportation options. His new state-of-the-art plow factory doubles production the next year. The rest is history.



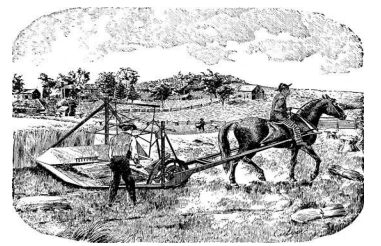
Source: www.deere.com

Cyrus McCormick

Cyrus McCormick - In 1824 by the age of 15, Cyrus McCormick was already working on agriculture inventions and invented a cradle for harvesting grain. His father had been working on a horse drawn reaper and turned the project over to his son, Cyrus. Cyrus designed the first mechanical reaper in 1834 and within a few years, farmers embraced this amazing machine. By 1847 Cyrus moved his business from his family in Chicago. Sales boomed to over 23,000 by the mid 1850's but

his factory was destroyed by the Great Chicago Fire and had to be re-built in SW Chicago.

Fred Hatch



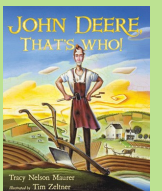
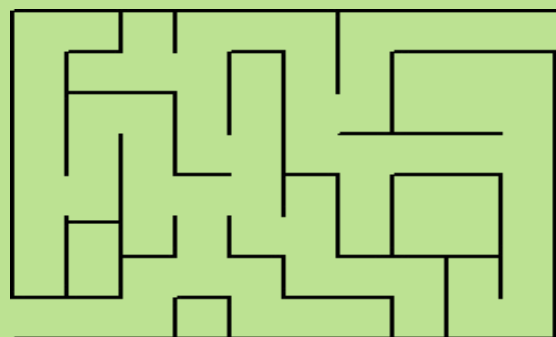
Fred Hatch finished college at the Illinois Industrial University at Champaign (now the University of Illinois) and returned to his father's dairy farm in Spring Grove, IL in 1873. He was a member of the university's second graduating class, and was eager to demonstrate what he'd learned at college including a concept he learned from his professor about the formation of silage from sugar beet pulp and maize. He and his father built a structure inside their barn to hold silage. They dug a 10x16 rectangular hole, eight feet deep, and lined it with rocks and mortar and extended the walls 16 ft. above the ground. That fall, they loaded the new silo with green corn fodder. Almost immediately, their cows stayed fatter and gave more milk than they ever had before.



In 1876, the Hatches built two more silos, again inside the barn. They were identical to the original one, except that their foundations were made of concrete instead of loose stone. Those three silos were used until 1919, when the farm changed hands, and the barn and silos were all demolished. Nearby, however, in the Spring Grove park, remains a permanent marker honoring Fred Hatch, builder of America's first upright silo.

Source: <https://www.farmcollector.com/farm-life/fred-hatches-american-silo>

Help Calvin find his lost John Deere Book!



Written By:
Tracy Nelson Mauer

Choose your prize:

Choices include a \$25 Beggar's Pizza Gift Card, a \$25 Home Run Inn Gift Card, OR *3 AMC Movie Tickets *AMC Yellow tickets not valid in California, New York & New Jersey.

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Complete and submit an entry every month all in 2018 and your name is automatically entered into an "End of Year" drawing for a gift basket full of ag themed goodies. Good luck!

Last month's word search
winner is...



Janet Lence

Congratulations!!

April Word Search

D L J H O B N D M J M P I I S
E I M C C O R M I C K N H L D
E O R V H G U J D Q V A Z L L
R S Q C B B D P S E T N P I E
E P Q C D G Y T N S F M R N I
J N P U Y R O T C A F E T O F
R E I L H D O F V O P N B I W
A Q W H A R H J E A E Y I S V
S J P S C N Q B E M H A T C H
W E O H B A T R P R J E A Q V
K O E R T U M I W L E E M C D
D O L D E I U N N L V S Y D W
B X T P S Q Y K G G S E O L J
V T R M E N I A R G B O Y W T
K U H R C S Y W O Q O F A Q I

DEERE
EQUIPMENT
FACTORY
FIELDS
HATCH
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MACHINE
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Name: _____

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Deadline is the 20th of each month.