

Lesson 8.1: Evolution of Farming

## How Did This Lunch Get to School? Sample Responses

Think backwards. How did your lunch get to you?

School Lunch	Lunch from Home
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lunch placed on tray.</li> <li>• Lunch served by cafeteria workers.</li> <li>• Lunch placed in serving dishes by cafeteria workers.</li> <li>• Lunch cooked by cafeteria workers.</li> <li>• Ingredients prepared by cafeteria workers.</li> <li>• Menu ingredients defrosted by cafeteria workers.</li> <li>• Food placed in cold storage by cafeteria workers.</li> <li>• Food unpacked by cafeteria workers.</li> <li>• Food delivered by food service company.</li> <li>• Food loaded onto truck.</li> <li>• Food order packed at warehouse.</li> <li>• Food service receives order from school.</li> <li>• Food items stored in warehouse.</li> <li>• Food delivered from multiple processing companies.</li> <li>• Food products from multiple farms sent to processing companies (e.g., butchering, canning, flash freezing, washing, boxing etc.).</li> <li>• Fruit and vegetables harvested.</li> <li>• Seeds planted, watered, and weeded.</li> <li>• Livestock for food are raised, watered, fed, cleaned.</li> <li>• Farmers order seed and prepare fields.</li> <li>• Farmers plan for any livestock expecting young in the spring.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lunch removed from lunchbox/lunch bag.</li> <li>• Lunch bag/lunchbox placed in backpack.</li> <li>• Lunch packed in lunchbox/lunch bag.</li> <li>• Lunch items assembled and put into leakproof containers or plastic bags.</li> <li>• Ingredients for lunch taken out of refrigerator and pantry.</li> <li>• Food items purchased from grocery store, unpacked, and put in refrigerator and pantry.</li> <li>• Food stocked on shelves and in cases at grocery store.</li> <li>• Food unpacked in grocery storeroom.</li> <li>• Food delivered from multiple sources to grocery store by tractor trailer.</li> <li>• Food companies receive orders from grocery store.</li> <li>• Food items stored in company warehouses.</li> <li>• Food delivered from multiple processing companies.</li> <li>• Food products from multiple farms sent to processing companies (e.g., butchering, canning, flash freezing, washing, boxing etc.).</li> <li>• Fruit and vegetables harvested.</li> <li>• Seeds planted, watered, and weeded.</li> <li>• Livestock for food are raised, watered, fed, cleaned.</li> <li>• Farmers order seed and prepare fields.</li> <li>• Farmers plan for any livestock expecting young in the spring.</li> </ul>

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## A Colonial New Hampshire Lunch Is Served

During the 17th and 18th centuries, European settlers in New Hampshire ate their midday meal at home, a bit later than we typically do today. It was called “dinner,” and it was the biggest meal of the day. (The meal they had in the evening was called “supper.”)

Compare the steps it took to make a colonial lunch to getting a lunch at school today.

- Food is served in wooden bowls or on bread (ceramic plates and utensils came much later!) at the table to family members and anyone else who is working in the home or on the farm.
- Meal (mostly bread, vegetables, sometimes meat) is cooked by women in the household over a huge kitchen hearth fire and in a bread oven. Most things are stewed, boiled, or roasted.
- Ingredients are prepared by hand. Plucking, skinning, chopping, and mixing are all done without the help of machines.
- A special food may have been obtained by trading with a neighbor.
- Some ingredients are brought up from a root cellar, like potatoes or apples, or the family may have pickled or preserved fruit or vegetables in an earlier season.
- Ingredients are gathered from what the family has grown or raised.
- Seeds are planted, watered, and weeded.
- Fields and garden beds are cleared and prepared. If the family is just starting out, they will need to chop down many trees to clear enough acreage to grow and raise their crops and animals.
- Animals for food are purchased and cared for, especially those expecting young. They must be fed, watered, kept safe from predators, and provided with clean living space.

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## What Did New Hampshire Farms Produce?

### A typical pre-industrial farm would:

- Raise some live animals including cows, sheep, pigs, chickens, ducks, and geese
- Use those animals for meat, eggs, and fiber (sheep wool for clothing)
- Grow hay to feed animals
- Grow some cereal crops (corn or rye)
- Grow a variety of vegetables
- Grow fruit trees (apples and pears)
- Tap maple trees for sap
- Raise bees in hives for honey
- Keep the bulk of what was grown or raised for consumption on the farm
- Be smaller in size than later farms because of the difficulty and expense of clearing large amounts of land and caring for large amounts of livestock and crops.



### A typical industrial-era farm would:

- Cover more acreage because clearing land became easier with machines
- Focus on growing or raising a few related products (raise fruit trees and make preserves OR raise dairy cows and produce milk, butter, and cheese)
- Produce a greater amount of that product
- Sell most of the product
- Use the profits from the sale to buy items needed to meet other needs
- Be larger in size than earlier farms because of increased demand for the product.





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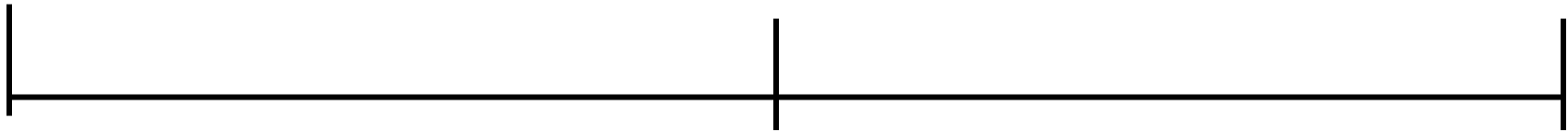
## New Hampshire Farms Timeline

Cut along the dotted lines and tape the strips together to make a timeline from 1550 to 1950

1550

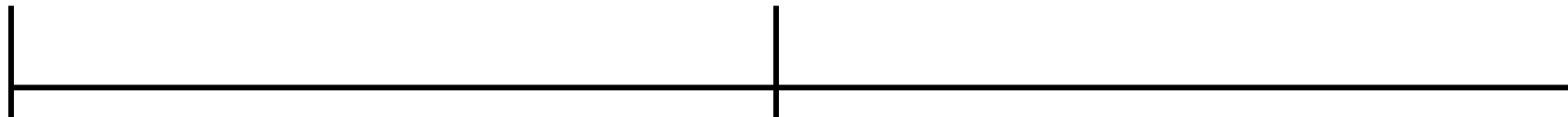
1600

1650



1700

1750

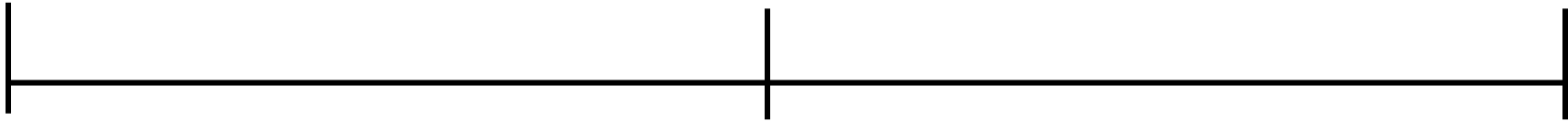




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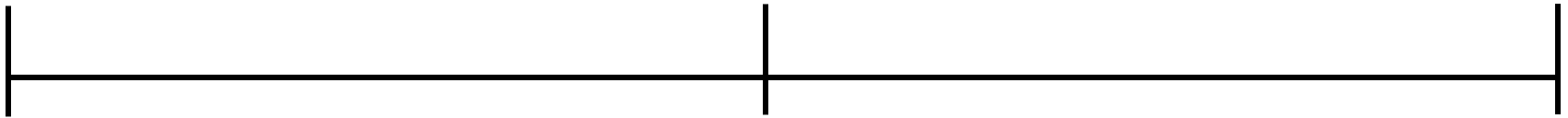
1800

1850



1900

1950



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## New Hampshire Farms Timeline – Labels

<p>Groups like the New Hampshire State Grange, founded in 1873, attempted to support farming community life by hosting social events and agricultural fairs. But even groups like this could not keep the young people in the state from moving to the exciting cities for new opportunities.</p>	<p>The first English settlers arrived in New Hampshire in the 1620s. They learned to farm communally from the Abenaki and grow crops in the land that were new to them. Community fields were planted, and livestock were raised on a common green.</p>	<p>In 1890, the State of New Hampshire announced that there were 1,440 vacant farmsteads in the Granite State. The state started advertising these properties as possible summer homes. This effort to give new life to the farms of the past would help the state's rise as a popular tourist destination for people looking to escape the industrial cities.</p>	<p>Some New Hampshire towns have still not recovered their population to what it had been before the Civil War. By the 1900s, only one-third of Granite Staters worked in agriculture. This number represents a dramatic shift from a century earlier when nearly everyone engaged in farming at some level.</p>
<p>By the 1720s, colonists had begun to settle in the Merrimack River Valley and, a few decades later, the Connecticut River Valley. These areas were better suited to agriculture; crops such as rye, wheat, barley, and oats grew better further inland.</p>	<p>The second half of the 1800s was difficult for New Hampshire's rural communities. After the Civil War, many farmers stopped farming and others left New Hampshire altogether to move west. Many women from farm families continued to move to cities to work in textile mills.</p>	<p>Outside of Portsmouth, New Hampshire was rural in the 1700s. For most people, life followed the rhythm of the seasons. Community activities, such as church, school, and town meeting, were all organized around crops and farm life. Nearly every member of the community, aside from the minister, made their living through agriculture.</p>	<p>By the late 1700s, many New Hampshire farms had become successful operations. This can be seen in the buildings of the period, as small, simple cabins gave way to big farm complexes with many buildings focused around a central house.</p>



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Merino sheep from Portugal in 1810 led to a "sheep boom." New Hampshire had over half a million sheep by 1830. The wool from these sheep was used to create thread and yarn to supply the textile industry. The land was ideal for raising sheep. Thousands of miles of stone walls were built to keep the sheep.

New Hampshire farm families had always made textiles by raising sheep, producing wool, spinning thread and yarn, weaving cloth, and sewing clothing, curtains, and bedding. By the 1810s, though, farmers in southern New Hampshire started to sell the thread they spun to new mill operations, which would then use mechanized looms to weave the thread into cloth for mass textile production.

By the mid-1800s, New Hampshire and other parts of New England, became known for producing dairy products (milk, cream, butter, eggs), vegetables (most notably potatoes), fruit (apples, pears, peaches, blueberries, strawberries, pumpkins), and poultry. Goods were sold for cash, loaded onto trains, and sent off to Boston and beyond, to be eaten or canned.

In the 1700s during the long New Hampshire winters, farmers did other things. Men often developed skills to become cordwainers, coopers, silver- or tinsmiths, or furniture makers, while women often spun thread, wove textiles, and sewed clothing. The products they made were used by their families but also bartered away to other farm families in the town.

The shift away from self-sufficient farming in the mid-1800s also meant that people needed to buy more of the products they needed, as they were no longer making or growing these goods themselves. This change led to the creation of general stores and the development of town centers.

The arrival of more and more English people on the seacoast in the 1630s and 1640s led to a shift toward individual family farms. People wanted to have their own property according to the English tradition. Early farm families had to farm New Hampshire's rocky, soggy, tree-filled land. They planted oats, barley, and rye, but only corn grew well in the seacoast region.

New arrivals to New Hampshire in the mid-1700s also brought new kinds of crops. The Scots-Irish introduced potatoes and flax, which was used to make linen cloth and rope.

The colony's more successful farmers produced enough for their families and enough to sell a few goods at market by the late 1600s. Portsmouth and Boston both became economic centers. New Hampshire farmers sold fish, cattle, and lumber to merchants who then shipped these goods to places as far away as the West Indies and Europe.



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The Abenaki have been practicing agriculture for thousands of years in what is now called New Hampshire. Their main crops were squash, beans, and corn, called the "three sisters." They also hunted, fished, and foraged for berries and nuts.



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## New Hampshire Farms Timeline – Image Set



Three Sisters, 2018  
Source: Wikimedia Commons



Flax, 2018  
Source: Wikimedia Commons

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Spool of Thread, 1880  
Source: New Hampshire Historical Society



General Store, 1900  
Source: New Hampshire Historical Society



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Native Americans and English Trading, 1597  
Source: Edward E. Ayer Digital Collection, Newberry Library

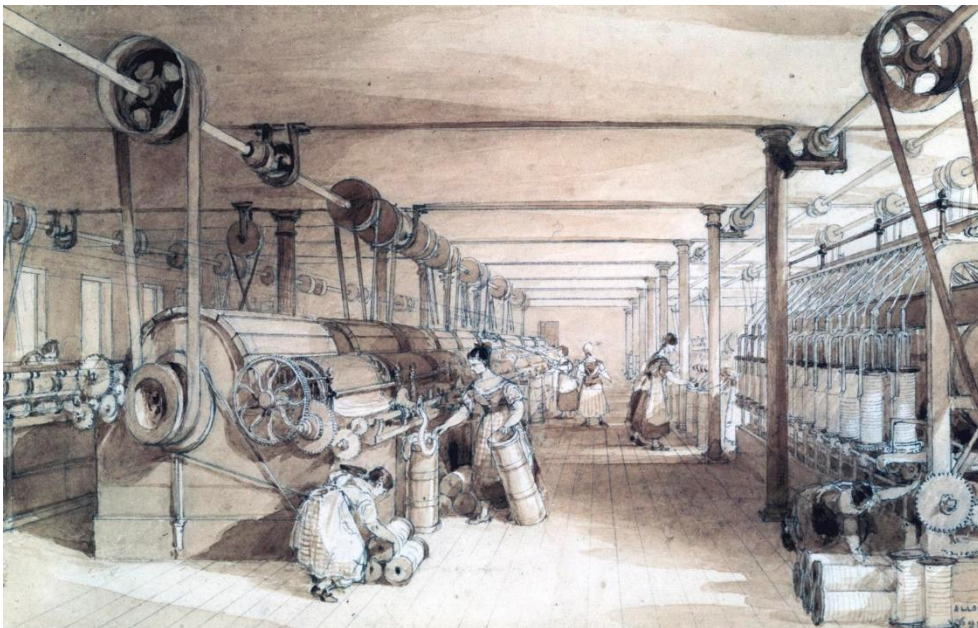


Farmland in New Hampshire, 1902  
Source: New Hampshire Historical Society

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New Hampshire Farm Scene, 1993  
Source: New Hampshire Historical Society



Cotton Carding Machines, 1834  
Source: ©The Board of Trustees of the  
Science Museum





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Grazing Sheep, circa 1880 – 1985  
Source: New Hampshire Historical Society



Workers at a New Hampshire Factory, circa 1910  
Courtesy of the Goffstown Historical Society

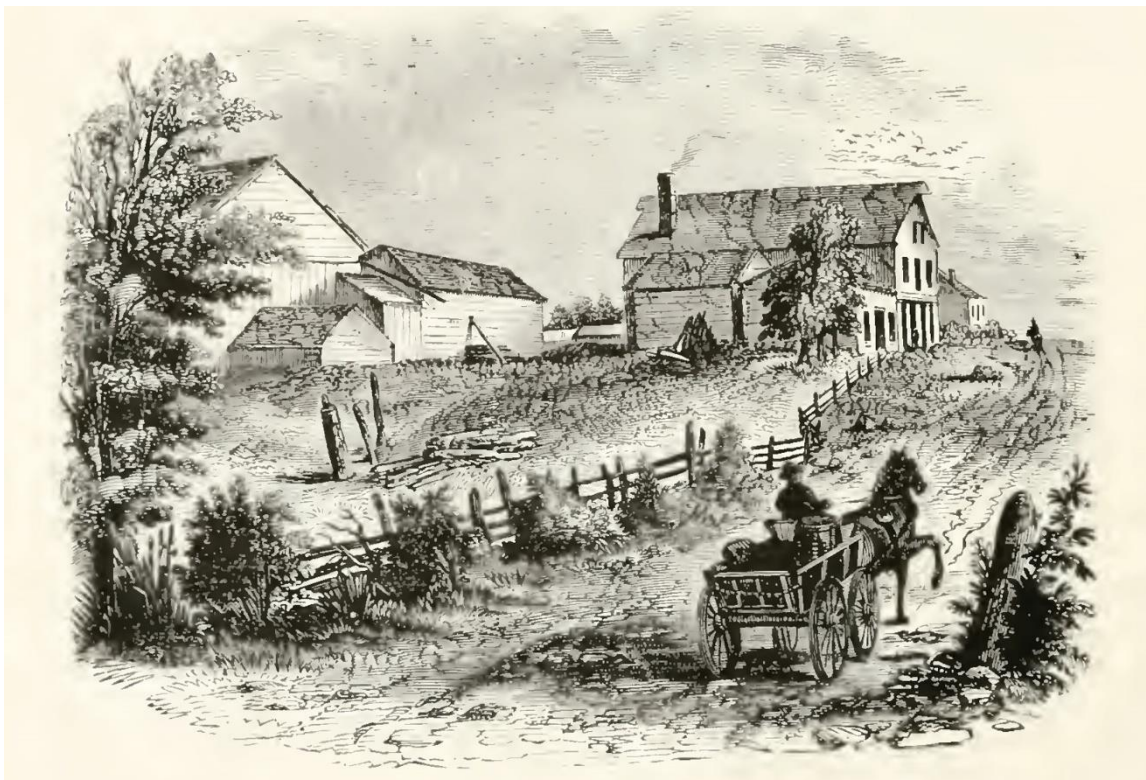




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New Hampshire Farms: Your Opportunity, circa 1920  
Source: New Hampshire Historical Society



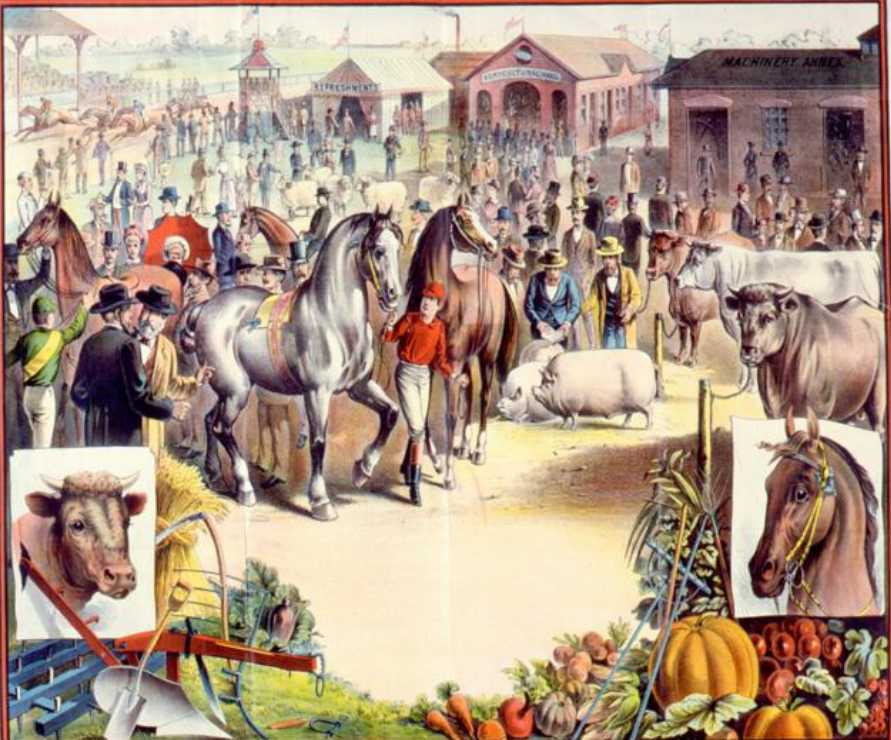
Colonial Farm, circa 1760s  
Courtesy of the Internet Archive





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**THE FIRST ANNUAL FAIR**  
OF THE  
**NEW HAMPSHIRE GRANGE**  
**State Fair and Festival Association,**  
WILL BE HELD AT  
**TILTON and FRANKLIN, SEPTEMBER 29 - 30,**  
**DRIVING PARK, TILTON, and October 1, 1886.**



**THE LARGEST EXHIBITION OF HORSES, CATTLE, SHEEP AND SWINE** Ever seen in the State.

Gov. Currier, Gov. Robie, of Maine, and Hon. Mortimer Whitehead, of New Jersey, Lecturer of National Grange, will be present on Thursday and deliver addresses.  
Other distinguished officials will be present each day of the Fair and address the people.

**MUSIC BY THE HIGHLAND BAND, OF LAKE VILLAGE.**  
A Band Concert will be given on the Island Thursday evening.

**BICYCLE RACES, FOOT RACES and First-class BASE BALL Games** HAVE BEEN ARRANGED FOR THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, AND EXHIBITIONS OF SPEED ON THE TRACK WILL BE GIVEN EACH DAY.

**ADMISSION, 25 CENTS. CHILDREN UNDER 10, if accompanied by Parents or Guardians, FREE.**

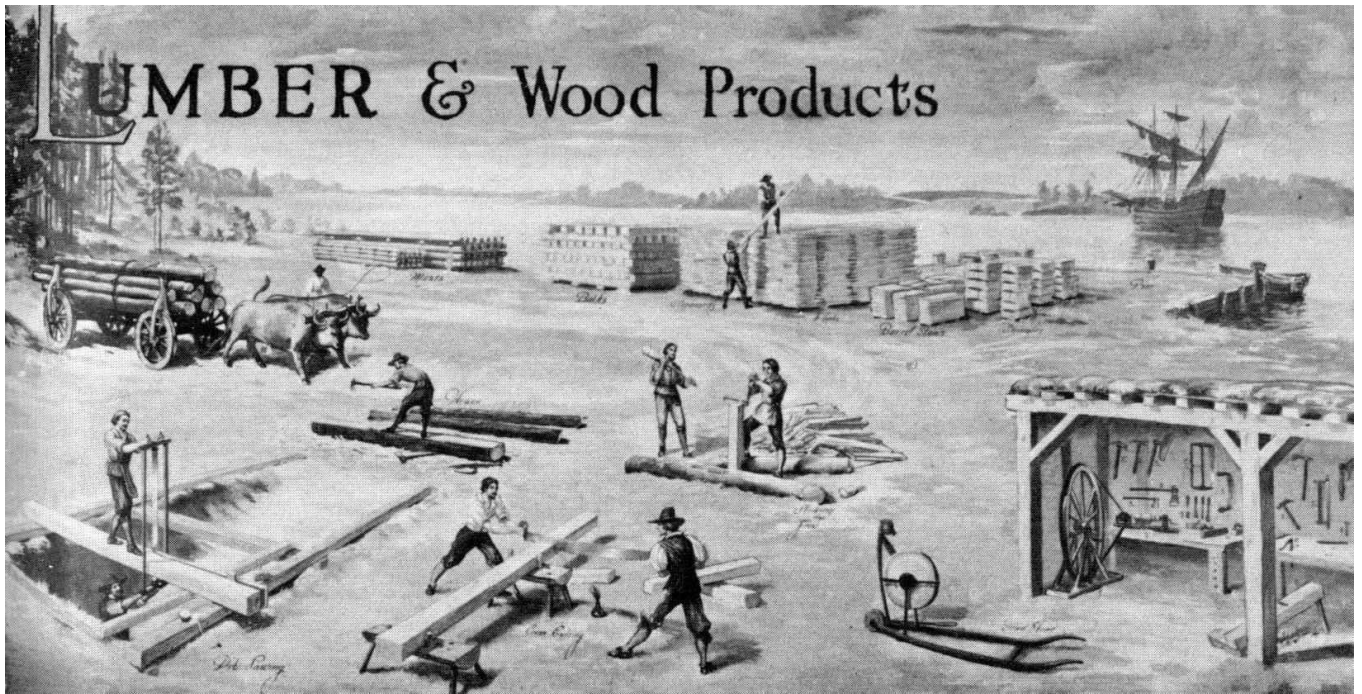
The Railroads will carry Passengers at Reduced Rates and Exhibits Free.  
WM. H. STINSON, President. J. M. TAYLOR, Treasurer. N. J. BACHELDER, Secretary.  
For Premium Lists and further information, address the Secretary, East Andover.  
Printed by The Merrimack Journal Print Press, Franklin Falls, N.H.

New Hampshire Grange Fair and Festival, 1886  
Source: New Hampshire Historical Society





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Lumber and Wood Products  
Source: Project Gutenberg



Planting in the Colonies, 1631  
Source: Project Gutenberg





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Spinning in the Colonial Kitchen, circa 1700–1850  
Source: Wikimedia Commons



Dairy Farm Workers, circa 1944–1988  
Source: New Hampshire Historical Society

## Lesson 8.1: Evolution of Farming

## New Hampshire Farms Timeline Answer Key

1. The Abenaki have been practicing agriculture for thousands of years in what is now called New Hampshire. Their main crops were squash, beans, and corn, called the “three sisters.” They also hunted, fished, and foraged for berries and nuts. **Three Sisters, 2018**
2. The first English settlers arrived in New Hampshire in the 1620s. They learned to farm communally from the Abenaki and grow crops in the land new to them. Community fields were planted and livestock were raised on a common green. **Native Americans and English Trading, 1597**
3. The arrival of more and more English people on the seacoast in the 1630s and 1640s leads to a shift toward individual family farms. People want to have their own property according to the English tradition. Early farm families had to farm New Hampshire’s rocky, soggy, tree-filled land. They planted oats, barley, and rye, but only corn grew well in the seacoast region. **Planting in the Colonies, 1631**
4. The colony’s more successful farmers produced not only enough for their families but also enough to sell a few goods at market by the late 1600s. Portsmouth and Boston both became economic centers. New Hampshire farmers sold fish, cattle, and lumber to **merchants** who then shipped these goods to places as far away as the West Indies and Europe. **Lumber and Wood Products**
5. By the 1720s, colonists had begun to settle in the Merrimack River Valley and, a few decades later, the Connecticut River Valley. These areas were better suited to agriculture; crops such as rye, wheat, barley, and oats grew better further inland **Farmland in New Hampshire, 1902**
6. New arrivals to New Hampshire in the mid-1700s also brought new kinds of crops. The Scots-Irish introduced potatoes and **flax**, which was used to make **linen** cloth and rope. **Flax**
7. Outside of Portsmouth, New Hampshire was rural in the 1700s. For most of the people of New Hampshire, life followed the rhythm of the seasons. Community activities, such as church, school, and town meeting, were all organized around crops and farm life. Nearly every member of the community, aside from the minister, made their living through agriculture. **Colonial Farm, 1885**
8. By the late 1700s, many New Hampshire farms had become successful operations. This can be seen in the architecture of the period, as small, simple cabins gave way to big farm complexes with many buildings focused around a central house. **New Hampshire Farm Scene, 1993**
9. In the 1700s during the long New Hampshire winters, farmers did other things. Men often developed skills to become cordwainers, coopers, silver- or tinsmiths, or furniture makers, while women often spun thread, wove textiles, and sewed clothing. The products they made were used by their families but also bartered away to other farm families in the town. **Spinning in the Colonial Kitchen, 1885**



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10. New Hampshire farm families had always made textiles by raising sheep, producing wool, spinning thread and yarn, weaving cloth, and sewing clothing, curtains, and bedding. By the 1810s, though, farmers in southern New Hampshire started to sell the thread they spun to new mill operations, which would then use mechanized looms to weave the thread into cloth for mass textile production. **Spool of Thread, circa 1880**
11. By the mid-1800s, New Hampshire and other parts of New England, became known for producing dairy products (milk, cream, butter, eggs), vegetables (most notably potatoes), fruit (apples, pears, peaches, blueberries, strawberries, pumpkins), and poultry. Goods were sold for cash, loaded onto trains, and sent off to Boston and beyond, to be eaten or canned. **Dairy Farm Workers, circa 1944–1988**
12. Merino sheep from Portugal in 1810 led to a “sheep boom.” New Hampshire had over half a million sheep by 1830. The wool from these sheep was used to create thread and yarn to supply the textile industry. The land was ideal for raising sheep. Thousands of miles of stone walls were built to keep the sheep. **Grazing Sheep, circa 1880–1985**
13. The shift away from **self-sufficient farming** in the mid-1800s also meant that people needed to buy more of the products they needed, as they were no longer making or growing these goods themselves. This change led to the creation of general stores and the development of town centers. **General Store, circa 1900**
14. Groups like the New Hampshire State Grange, founded in 1873, attempted to support farming community life by hosting social events and agricultural fairs. But groups like this could not keep the young people in the state from moving to the exciting cities for new opportunities. **New Hampshire Grange Fair and Festival, 1886**
15. The second half of the 1800s was challenging for New Hampshire’s rural communities. After the Civil War, many farmers stopped farming and others left New Hampshire altogether to move west. Many women from farm families continued to move to cities to work in textile mills. **Cotton Carding Machines, circa 1834**
16. In 1890, the state of New Hampshire announced that there were 1,440 vacant farmsteads in the Granite State. The state started advertising these properties as possible summer homes. This effort to give new life to the farms of the past would help the state’s rise as a popular tourist destination for people looking to escape the industrial cities. **New Hampshire Farms: Your Opportunity, circa 1920**
17. Some New Hampshire towns have still not recovered their population to what it had been before the Civil War. By the 1900s, only one-third of Granite Staters worked in agriculture. This number represents a dramatic shift from a century earlier when nearly everyone farmed in some way. **Workers at a New Hampshire Factory, circa 1910**



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## A New Hampshire Farm in the 21st Century

<b>Farm name and address</b>	
<b>Location</b> Describe the nearby geographical features, both natural and human-made.	
<b>Products available</b>	
<b>How can people access these products?</b>	
<b>What does the farm's website say about its history?</b>	