

Glossary

alfalfa: a forage crop used to feed cattle.

auger: shaft with a metal incline attached. As the shaft turns, the incline moves grain through a tube.

Belgian horse: a breed of large, strong horse originally bred in Belgium to pull heavy loads.

belt: a flat, continuous loop made of flexible material that connects two pulleys mechanically for the purpose of transmitting motion from one pulley to the other.

bin: a contained area for storing grain on a farm.

blower: a long cylinder located at the rear of a threshing machine where a large fan generates enough wind to draw the straw toward it and then blow the straw through the cylinder and onto a pile.

bull wheel: a large, ground-driven drive wheel connected to other gears that provides power to a machine when the machine is pulled forward. Also called *drive wheel*.

bundle: many stalks of grain bound together with twine.

bushel: unit of volume used to measure grain. Oats is measured at 32 pounds per bushel, and wheat at 60 pounds per bushel.

butt: the bottom end of a bundle of grain where there is no seed.

by hand: without the use of machinery.

cap: a bundle of grain used as protective covering for a shock; also, a protective covering made of cloth for people to wear on their heads.

Century Farm: a farm officially recognized as having been continuously

cap: a bundle of grain used as protective covering for a shock; also, a protective covering made of cloth for people to wear on their heads.

Century Farm: a farm officially recognized as having been continuously owned by one family for one hundred years or more.

chaff: the thin covering on seeds that is removed during threshing.

chuck: a meal.

chute: a sloping channel made of metal or wood through which things can descend. On a threshing machine, the grain auger dumped oats into a chute that carried it to the grain wagon. Farmers also pitched

silage down an enclosed vertical chute on a silo or threw hay down a chute in the hay barn.

clothes rack: a portable rack on which clothes can be hung to dry.

cyclone seeder: a device used to evenly scatter grass and alfalfa seed onto a prepared seed bed. With a cyclone seeder hung over one shoulder, the operator would walk briskly through the field while turning a crank that rotated a platform onto which the seed dropped from a small canvas bag connected to the device.

dinner: the main meal of the day, served at midday or in the evening.

drill: a farm tool used to plant grain seed. The drill opens the soil so the seed drops into the ground at a preset depth.

drive belt: belt used to transfer motion from a source that creates the motion.

drum: a metal cylinder used to crush the stalks of grain and force the seeds to fall off the stalks.

elevator: a farm tool used to move grain from one area to another, usually to load or unload; also, a large storehouse for grain.

ensilage: fodder harvested while green and kept succulent by partial fermentation, also called *silage*.

garter snake: a common, harmless snake found in fields and yards.

gatepost: a post that is attached to the wires of a gate but is not set into the ground.

grain: any of the grasses raised for their seed to feed humans or animals.

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grain: any of the grasses raised for their seed to feed humans or animals. Wheat, barley, oats, rye, and rice are grains. The word *grain* is also often used to describe the seed of the plant.

grain bin's top board: As the granary filled with oats, boards had to be added to cover the door. Adding the top board indicated that the granary was nearly full.

grain box: farm tool used to transport grain, also called the *wagon box*.

grain stubble: the part of the stalk remaining in the field after the plant is harvested.

granary: a building or area within a building where grain is stored, also called the *grain bin* or *bin*.

gunny sack: a sack made of burlap.

harvest: to gather a crop; also, the season in which crops are gathered.

head: the end of a bundle of grain where the seed is.

hopper: storage tank for grain on a combine.

lowlands: low-lying land where the soil often remains wet longer than that on the hillsides.

oats: cereal plant with edible seed.

old-timer: experienced person.

pitching bundles: loading bundles onto a rack or unloading bundles from a rack.

post: a length of wood fixed firmly upright in the ground to hold up wire for a fence.

pull out the pin: to disconnect a wagon or other farm tool from the tractor by removing a bolt or draw pin that extended through the hitch on the implement and into the hitch on the tractor.

pulley: a simple machine consisting of a wheel with a groove in which a rope can run to change direction or point of application. Also called a *sheave*.

put in the pin: to connect a wagon or other farm tool to the tractor by inserting a bolt or draw pin that extends through the hitch on the implement and into the hitch on the tractor.

rack: a farm tool mounted on a running gear or wagon used to hold hay or bundles or some other farm crop.

running gear: a farm tool mounted on a running gear or wagon used to hold hay or bundles or some other farm crop, consisting of a rack and a *running gear* connected by a bolt or draw pin that extends through the hitch on the implement and into the hitch on the tractor.

rack: a farm tool mounted on a running gear or wagon used to hold hay or bundles or some other farm crop.

rig: gear or equipment necessary for a particular task.

running gear: the wheels and chassis on which a rack is mounted; also called a *wagon*.

seed: a small, hard fruit of a plant.

separator: another name for threshing machine, so called because it separates the grain from the stalk. Also used to describe a *cream separator*, a centrifugal device that separates milk into cream and skim milk.

shaker: the part of a threshing machine that shakes the plants to force the seeds to separate from the stalks.

shock: an orderly pile of six or eight bundles of grain set on end in a field to dry and covered by another bundle known as the cap.

sieve: a straining device on a threshing machine that allows the seed and other small particles to drop through while retaining the straw and larger pieces of chaff.

sorrel: a light to medium brown color of horse coat.

spike pitcher: a member of the threshing crew designated to pitch bundles from the wagons into the threshing machine or to stay in the field and pitch bundles onto the wagons.

spreading shocks: removing each bundle from the shock and placing it on the ground to dry.

stacking bundles: loading bundles onto a rack; also called *pitching bundles*.

stake out a calf: to tie a calf to a stake in the ground so the animal can graze without roaming.

stalk: the dry plant after the seeds have been removed.

straw: the dried stem of the plant after it has been separated from the seed.

swather: a farm implement that cuts and windrows grain.

supper: a meal served in the evening, especially if dinner was served at midday.

thresher: a threshing machine or a person who uses one.

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threshing machine: a farm machine that separates the grain from the stalk by shaking the stalks (threshing) and by using fans to blow off the chaff (winnowing); also called a *thresh machine*, *thresher*, or *separator*.

tight load: a load in which the bundles are packed tightly together and, therefore, keep themselves on the rack.

tipping shocks: upending an entire group of bundles without separating them.

wagon: the wheels and chassis on which a rack is mounted; also called *running gear*. The term *wagon* may also refer to the combination of running gear and rack.

wheat: a cereal plant with edible seed used for flour.

wind stacker fan: a large fan on a threshing machine that blows the straw onto a pile.

wing feeder: a feeder attached to the standard feeder on a threshing machine that allows bundles to be pitched into the machine from several directions.

winnowing: a process that removes chaff from grain by the use of forced air from a fan. Before threshing machines were invented, winnowing was done by placing grain on a strong cloth or piece of burlap that workers on each corner would use to bounce the grain into the air, allowing the wind to blow off the chaff.

wire loop: the part of a gate that slips over the top or bottom of the end gatepost to hold the gatepost firmly to a post set into the ground.