Memories of Life on the Farm
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Published by Purdue University Press


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Memories of Life on the Farm

Corn on the Cob

Homer Crandall collects seed corn in Mount Summit. (Henry County, 1924)

These stalks of corn show low ears and high ears, which was a rather important attribute when corn was picked by hand. (Indiana, 1934)

Allen Lewis from Wingate chooses next year’s seed corn by placing it in a box on the side of his wagon at harvest. (Montgomery County, 1917)
(Top left) Chester and William Joyce, two brothers who farmed in Logansport, display seed corn on hangers for drying. (Cass County, 1921)

(Bottom left) Lawrence Lutz of Haubstadt works in his storage area to select ears of corn to use for seed. (Gibson County, 1926)

(Right) C. J. Temet Jr., a New Haven–area farmer, used a seed corn cart fastened behind the wagon during husking to collect his best ears for next year’s seed. (Allen County, 1923)
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(Above) Robert Keim of West Lafayette rolls seed corn into a rag doll, which was a cloth wrap used to test corn seeds for germination. (Tippecanoe County, 1936)

(Top right) Seed corn hangs in a barn loft on the farm of Taylor Fouts in Camden. (Carroll County, 1929)

(Bottom right) Inside the corn storage house of Lowell L. Moffitt of Knightstown (Henry County, 1928)
Members of the vocational agriculture class in Portland examine rag doll testers to check seed corn for germination percentage and evidence of disease. (Jay County, 1927)
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(Top left) After testing the ears, corn was either kept for seed or fed to livestock. (Indiana, 1933)

(Bottom left) Planting commercially grown hybrid seed corn, such as this bag of Farmcraft seed from Oxford, allowed farmers to achieve higher yields and better stands of corn. (Benton County, 1946)

(Right) The daughters of E. E. Baker look on as he shells seed corn in Dayton. (Tippecanoe County, 1930)
(Far left) Grading corn at the Wickersham Seed Company plant at Brookston (White County, 1946)

(Top right) Shelling and inspecting corn at Brodbeck Brothers new seed house near Wabash (Wabash County, 1937)

(Bottom right) An exterior view of the Oxford Farmcraft Company (Benton County, n.d.)
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(Top left) A worker uses a machine to grade and sack corn at the Purdue Agricultural Alumni Seed Improvement Association plant. (Tippecanoe County, 1948)

(Bottom left) In this photo taken in Lafayette, a little girl poses next to a bag of certified seed corn produced by Mitchell Farms in Windfall. (Tippecanoe County, 1944)

(Right) Sears and Roebuck stores used this exhibit of certified seed corn from the Benton County Hybrid Seed Association. (Benton County, 1942)
J. H. Bone proudly displays medals he won as a corn grower at the Corn School and Stockmen’s Convention at Purdue University. (Tippecanoe County, 1948)

Three 6-horse teams of Percheron mares pull discs while two 2-horse teams drag corn planters on the Penney-Gwinn Farm in Noblesville. (Hamilton County, 1935)

Merle Skinner and his sons, William and Byron, prepare the corn planter for the planting season on their 400-acre farm. (Indiana, 1945)
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Robert McFarren of Gosport pours seed corn into his enlarged planter box. (Owen County, 1953)

An attachment on this wagon lays the corn planter check wire on the James Bailey farm in Delavan, Illinois. (Tazewell County, IL; 1921)

Horses pull a planter using a check wire to keep the rows straight on the Lauros Rutan farm in Mulberry. (Clinton County, 1929)
(Top left) Homer Young (walking) replants corn that was washed out on his Bloomington-area farm with the help of his son, Everett. (Monroe County, 1923)

(Top right) A mule team plants corn on the Henry Marshall farm in Lafayette. (Tippecanoe County, 1936)

(Bottom) Using a four-horse planter, George G. Seaman from Taylorville, Illinois, could plant 40 acres of corn per day. (Christian County, IL; 1929)
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Planting corn on the N. D. Sommers and Son Farm in Grove City, Ohio (Franklin County, OH; 1961)

Preparing to plant corn on the Elmer Janssen farm (Tippecanoe County, 1965)

A farmer uses a four-row corn planter on the Kentland farm of Warren T. McCray, governor of Indiana from 1921 to 1924. (Newton County, 1931)
(Top) Eight-year-old George Leo Elrod from Dillsboro poses on a corn cultivator. (Dearborn County, 1923)

(Bottom) Two men fill an eight-row corn planter with seed and fertilizer at the Conner Prairie Farm in Noblesville. (Hamilton County, 1960)
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This corn is cultivated by dragging a mower wheel down the rows. (Indiana, ca. 1910s)

Cultivating corn with a three-horse team on the John Stout farm in Chatham, Illinois (Sangamon County, IL, 1920)

Two 3-horse teams cultivate corn on the Richard Goris farm near Lafayette. (Tippecanoe County, 1934)
M. S. Steckel from Mulberry uses a six-row cultivator in his cornfield. Allen wrote, “Steckel had his two-row Farmall and decided he could get more efficient use from it. A log was fastened to the drawbar after the drawbar braces were shortened to the proper length of about 12 inches and two 2-row cultivators attached.” (Clinton County, 1931)

A woman uses a Case tractor to pull three rotary hoes in a cornfield on the Breeder’s Gazette Farm located at Spencer. (Owen County, 1932)
Ed Smith adds a herbicide to a spray rig on the Jess Smith and Son Farm in Urbana, Ohio. (Champaign County, OH; 1966)

Using an LP gas weed burner to control weeds in corn (Indiana or Illinois, 1960)
(Top left) A man leads a horse pulling a log between furrows to control chinch bugs on the farm of Jo Hoffman in Bluffton. (Wells County, 1921)

(Top right) A furrow with a creosote barrier and holes for traps keeps chinch bugs from moving out of an infested wheat field into an adjacent corn crop. (Indiana, 1934)

(Bottom left) This man uses a bucket to apply creosote as a barrier for stopping chinch bugs. (Indiana, 1934)

(Bottom right) Small corn borer larvae damage to corn leaves in Paxton, Illinois. (Ford County, IL; 1949)
(Top left) This man treats corn for corn borer using a HerdSeeder to spread the insecticide. (Cass County, 1959)

(Top right) Silas Hill from Paxton, Illinois, sprays for corn borer using a 25-percent solution of the insecticide DDT at the rate of two quarts in 10 gallons of water per acre. (Ford County, IL; 1949)

(Bottom) Filling tanks as a crop duster prepares for takeoff (Grant County, 1950)
(Top left) Tying a shock of corn on the farm of W. A. Withrow from New Richmond (Montgomery County, 1917)

(Top right) An autumn scene on the farm of Noah Eaton near Mentone shows the shocked corn in the field. (Kosciusko County, 1934)

(Bottom) Husking corn by hand on the W. E. Campbell farm in Olin, North Carolina (Iredell County, NC; 1927)
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A farmer husks corn from a shock on the Charles A. Martin farm in Brooksburg, Jefferson County, 1922.

A large field of shocked corn on the farm of Lawrence Braun in Decatur, Adams County, 1929.

A snow scene showing shocked corn and farm buildings, White County, 1944.
Farmers from Stockwell pitch in to harvest a woman’s corn crop after the death of her husband. (Tippecanoe County, 1934)
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(Top left) A man hauls a wagonload of corn on the Chester Meek farm in Galveston. (Cass County, 1938)

(Top right) This man places husked corn in a wagon pulled by Percheron mares on the Penney-Gwinn Farm in Noblesville. (Hamilton County, 1938)

(Bottom) A farmer hand-husks corn and throws the ears into a wagon. (Indiana, 1936)
(Top) A. L. Henderson of Linden operates a tractor pulling a corn picker while his wife drives a wagon alongside. (Montgomery County, 1917)

(Bottom) Henry Schurter drives a Caterpillar RD4 pulling a John Deere two-row picker to harvest corn on the J. P. Werner farm near Tremont, Illinois. (Tazewell County, Ill.; 1936)
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A two-row picker pulled by a John Deere tractor on the farm of Louis Withrow near Romney (Tippecanoe County, 1929)

Harvesting corn with a New Idea one-row, pull-type picker on a farm near New Castle (Henry County, 1959)

Dumping corn from a picker-sheller into a wagon on the farm of James Kellerman near Romney (Tippecanoe County, 1956)
Paul Boes from Lafayette brings corn out of the field. (Tippecanoe County, 1948)

Joe Fisher shovels ear corn from a horse-drawn wagon into a temporary crib on the David S. Wise farm in Flora. (Carroll County, 1938)

This man uses an unusual method to tip a wagon so that popcorn can be unloaded and stored in the elevator on the farm of R. O. Snelling. (Tippecanoe County, 1944)
Emptying corn into a crib on the farm of Marvin Yoder (Tippecanoe County, 1951)

Alonzo Richards shovels corn from a crib in Plymouth. (Marshall County, 1942)
Dave White from Morristown adjusts the spout from the elevator to drop corn where he wants it. (Shelby County, 1955)

After filling this temporary crib on the Russ Skinner farm in Lafayette, a man takes wagonloads of corn to another crib. (Tippecanoe County, 1952)

This wagon bed has a sloping floor to make it easier to push corn into the elevator on the farm of O. M. Michel in Tipton. (Tipton County, 1949)
A steam engine powers a corn sheller in front of a crib on the farm of T. P. Ellis in Lovington, Illinois. (Moultrie County, IL; 1920)
An electric motor runs a corn sheller on the Joe Yundt and Son Farm in Frankfort. (Clinton County, 1928)

Shelling corn from a crib using a sheller owned by Ken Brummet of Otterbein (Benton County, 1957)

Corn is placed into a dryer on the Jim Kellerman farm in Romney. (Tippecanoe County, 1956)
Elvin Wakey from Grand Ridge, Illinois, hauls corn to town with a team of horses and a wagon. (LaSalle County, IL; 1918)
Trucks filled with shelled and unshelled corn wait to be unloaded at the elevator in Montmorenci. (Tippecanoe County, 1960)

A man dumps shelled corn on a farm owned by Herbert F. Kelley and his son, Walter, in Brookston. (White County, 1963)

Carl Baker of Delphi has his corn weighed in Camden before it will be ground, mixed, and returned as complete feed by a bulk feed truck. (Carroll County, 1958)
Using a six-mule team to disc under cornstalks on the farm of Jess Andrew from West Point (Tippecanoe County, 1935)

Shredding cornstalks in the field using a New Idea No. 825 field chopper (N.p., 1959)
(Top) Plow shields developed by Purdue University are attached to a breaking plow for covering cornstalks. (Tippecanoe County, 1934)

(Bottom) Horses, hogs, and cattle eat cornstalks during the winter on the Owen Skiles farm in Frankfort. (Clinton County, 1939)