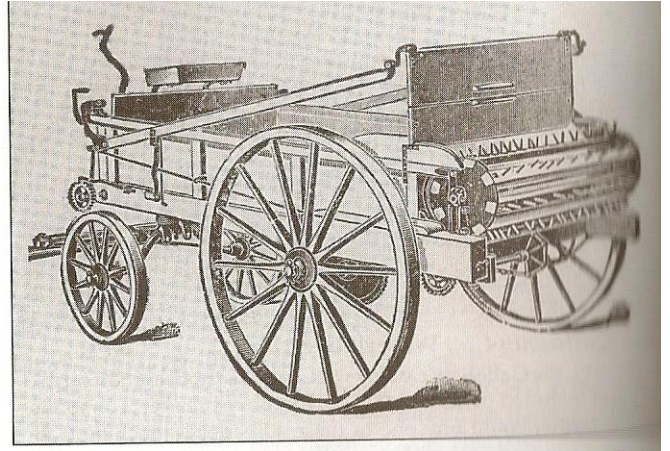


Can you Find These On the Farm?

Manure Spreader:

For many farmers the smell of manure meant money – not only in the 19th century, but even today. Commercial fertilizers were not widely available until 1940's, so animal manure was the way to fertilize the fields. Wagons were used (or sleighs in the winter) and a 6-tine fork used for pitching the smelly stuff on and off the wagon. It was a very tedious and time consuming job. The importance of manure to the success of the farm is very evident in the numerous discussions about manure which are present in agricultural newspapers of the time.

The first successful automated manure spreader was designed by Joseph Kemp in 1875. While there is nothing romantic about manure flying off the back of a spreader to fertilize the ground, the spreader is probably one of the most important inventions of the 19th century.



Wagon

The Dudley Farm Museum is home to a wide variety of wagons, carriages, and sleighs, with each of the 18 vehicles holding a place of importance on the 19th century farm in a time before paved roads and automobiles. This wagon stored under the milk house would have been used for general transport.



Horse Drawn Hay Rake



The typical early horse-drawn hay rake was a dump rake, a wide two-wheeled implement with curved steel or iron teeth usually operated from a seat mounted over the rake with a lever-operated lifting mechanism. The hay rake was pulled by one or two horses, across the mowed, dry hay, with the long, semi-circular teeth lowered to the ground. When the rake was full of hay, the teeth were raised and a windrow of hay was dumped. The man on the rake lifted the teeth with a lever. Some strength was required to operate it. While most New England farms used oxen to do the work, the Dudley's did have a team of horses. Gasoline powered tractors were not readily available until the early 20th century.