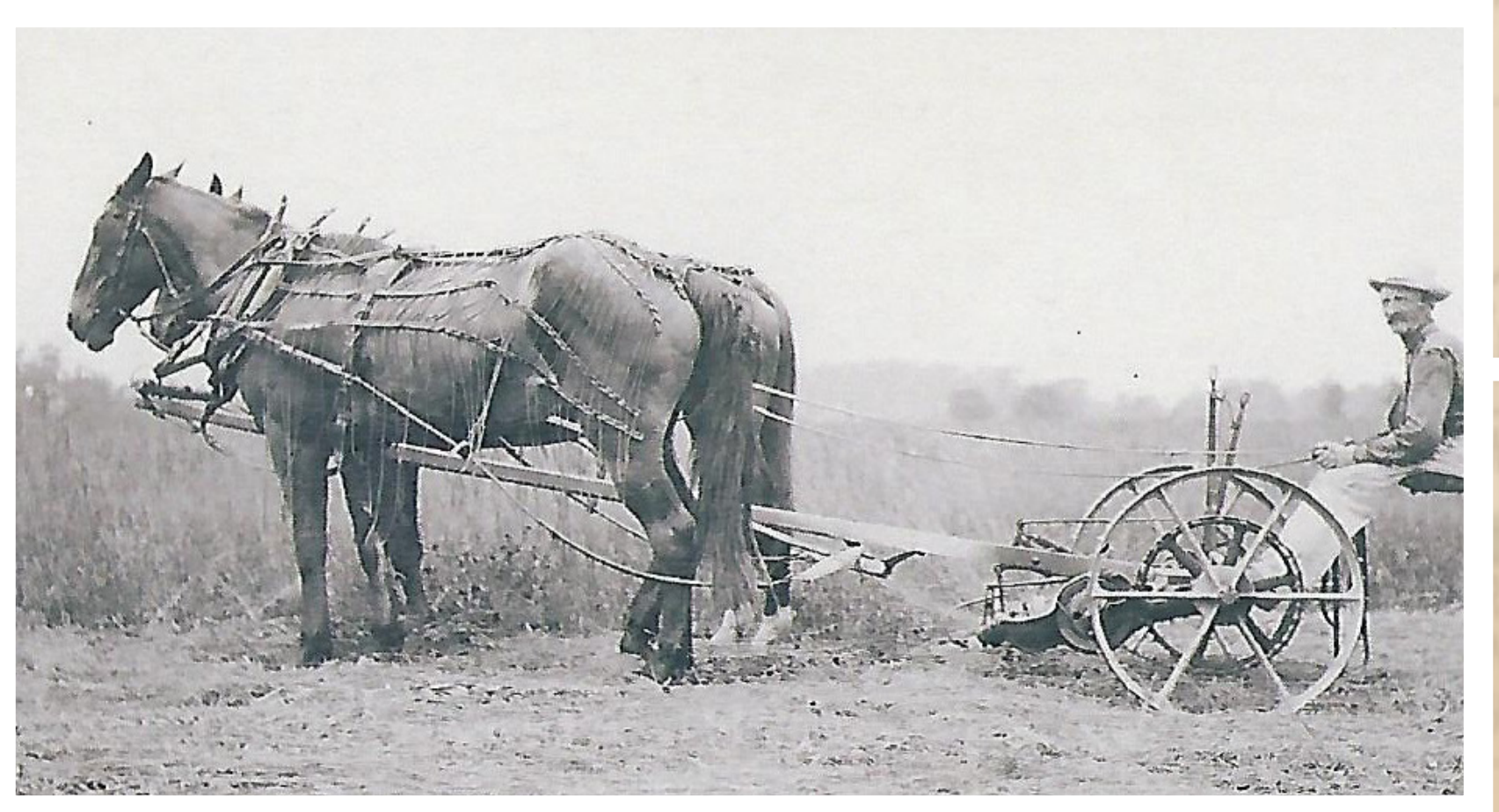


# Farming in Wayne



For the first 50 years Wayne was largely an agricultural village. The land was fertile and available at a good price, making it easier for families to make a living by farming.



Before modern day equipment, horse drawn ploughs were used to prepare the land for new crops every planting season. A single-furrow riding plough, like the one in this photo, created one narrow trench in the ground for planting seeds and for irrigation. Usually one horse would be enough to plough light soil but in Wayne the soil was heavier and more horsepower was a must.



Mainstream crops grown around Wayne included grain, corn, potatoes and sugar beets.



Wayne was also known for its dairy and sheep farms.



Chickens were an important staple on every farm for their eggs and meat, but in later years breeding and showing exotic chicken species became a social event in Wayne.



As technology evolved, tractors replaced horses and farm-work became more mechanized. This meant farms could expand and increase production into the 20th century. Beginning in the 1940s as population left Detroit, much of Wayne's farmland was developed for housing and industry in the suburban sprawl.