

Kansas Agricultural Census Data

A Federal Census was conducted every 10 years. Kansas also conducted a decennial agricultural census from 1875–1925. These censuses provide additional insight into how our six immigrant ancestors spent their time.

Louise and John Swart Farms

John and Louis began their married life in 1887 on a farm north of Leonardville. This had been John's parents' farm. The 1885 census showed that Martin Swart owned 240 acres. John's parents moved into Leonardville when John and Louise were married. John and Louise moved their family to Nemaha County in 1896. By 1925, Louise and John's sons had taken over the farming. George had 840 acres, primarily in corn and pasture. In comparison to previous years, he harvested 6,000 acres of corn in 1924, and no wheat. George's brother, Henry, had 160 acres. John E. Swart was not listed on the 1925 census, despite the assessor being his father. George Swart bought a large farm near Grinnell in Gove County, Kansas, and moved his family there in August 1929.

	1895	1905	1915	1925
acres	240	520	680	
cultivated	170			
corn	100	200	140	
oats	45	25		
millet	6	50		
potatoes		2	1/2	
Kafir corn			3	
Wheat, acres			92	
Prairie hay				
sorghum				
Sudan grass				
Bushels of wheat on hand			2000	
Bushels of corn on hand		600	300	
Tons of hay cut		50		
Pounds of butter churned	200		200	
Dollars of dairy product sold		320	200	
Dollars of poultry/eggs sold		520	300	
Horses	8	9	14	
Milk cows	7	12	7	
Other cattle	12	120	35	
swine	18	80	62	
dogs	2		1	
sheep				
hens				

Bertha and J. G. Nanninga Farm

Bertha and Juergen were married in 1886. Juergen had been living with and farming for his father, Reinders Tjaart (R. T.) Nanninga, who reported owning 400 acres on the 1885 census. R. T. homesteaded his farm in 1871. Juergen bought 80 acres for \$500 from his father in 1889. Juergen died in 1918, and Bertha died in October 1924. Their children continued to farm the home place.

Bertha's will specified that the farm was to remain intact until her youngest child, Elizabeth, was 21 years of age in 1933. Then, the farm could be sold, if that was what the children decided. Her will further specified that Margaret and Carl were to manage the farm, and that those children who were not yet married would continue to live and work on the farm. She also specified that the planned milk house was to be built as soon as possible.

	1895	1905	1915	1925
acres	80	240	320	480
Cultivated, acres	55			
Corn, acres	65	80	80	120
Oats, acres	38	30	25	50
Millet, acres	4	7		
potatoes	2	1.5	1	1
Kafir corn			5	2
Wheat, acres			55	16
Meadow, pasture			100	200
sorghum			4	
Sudan grass				3
Bushels of wheat on hand			900	
Bushels of corn on hand		400	400	1000
Tons of hay cut	6	40	16	
Pounds of butter churned	300	200	300	225
Dollars of dairy product sold		100	200	400
Dollars of poultry/eggs sold		75	150	800
Horses	5	6	14	9
Milk cows	7	12	9	3
Other cattle	10	28	41	35
swine	8	16		12
dogs	1	2	3	2
sheep				
hens				200

Lizzie and George Weller Farms

Lizzie and George rented their first farm north of Riley from 1891–1914 (Map 1), so the first two Agricultural Census reports would pertain to that farm. The 1915 census pertains to the farm two miles south of Leonardville (Map 2). George rented the Fosha farm from 1917–1937 (Map 3) and the 1925 census pertains to that farm.

	1895	1905	1915	1925
acres	160	160	240	320
cultivated	100			
Corn, acres	60	80	80	115
Oats, acres	36	15	20	48
Millet, acres	4	3	1	6
Potatoes, acres	1	1	1/4	1/2
Kafir corn, acres		2		4
Wheat, acres			39	31
Prairie hay	55			
sorghum			2	6
Sudan grass				2
Bushels of wheat on hand				210
Bushels of corn on hand		300	300	200
Tons of hay cut	2		14	
Pounds of butter churned			75	
Dollars of dairy product sold			35	45
Dollars of poultry/eggs sold	30	50	100	250
Horses	4	4	9	11
Milk cows	4	2	8	5
Other cattle	6	12	8	36
swine	13			5
dogs	1	2	2	2
sheep				
hens				200

Jacob and Christina Zeisset Farms

Jacob and Christina were married in 1896, so Jacob was farming for others until then. The first report on the Zeisset farm in 1905 pertains to the farm located in the Arbor neighborhood (map 2, 5). The 1915 and 1925 information pertains to the farm Jacob and Christina owned (map 7).

	1895	1905	1915	1925	
acres		160	240	160	
cultivated					
Corn, acres		67	42	65	
Oats, acres			28	12	
Millet, acres					
Potatoes, acres		1/2	1/4	1/4	
Kafir corn, acres		3	5		
Wheat, acres				15	
Prairie hay					
Sorghum, acres		2	5		
Sudan grass					
Bushels of wheat on hand				180	
Bushels of corn on hand		200		800	
Tons of hay cut		35			
Pounds of butter churned		150	100	100	
Dollars of dairy product sold			250	250	
Dollars of poultry/eggs sold		75	150	450	
Horses		8	6	6	
Milk cows		5	9	6	
Other cattle		28	1	12	
swine		18	13	14	
dogs		1	2	2	
sheep					
hens				180	

Bettie and Ludwig Hoerman Farm

Ludwig Hoerman lived with his parents and siblings on the Hoerman farm west of Leonardville. When they were married in 1899, Bettie and Lou lived in Clay County, north of Green. When the farm adjacent to his father's became available, Ludwig's father purchased it and then sold it to Ludwig in 1902. Lou purchased an additional farm in 1912 – it was across the road south of Jacob Zeisset's farm. Statistics for only the home farm were provided for the 1915 Agricultural census. The 1925 census showed both farms.

	1895	1905	1915	1925
acres		240	240	400
cultivated				
Corn, acres		40	50	100
Oats, acres		25	20	50
Millet, acres			5	3
Potatoes, acres			1/4	
Kafir corn, acres				5
Wheat, acres		35	40	60
Prairie hay, acres				100
Sorghum, acres			5	5
Sudan grass, acres				
Bushels of wheat on hand				1000
Bushels of corn on hand				400
Tons of hay cut		60		
Pounds of butter churned		500	50	300
Dollars of dairy product sold			400	
Dollars of poultry/eggs sold			200	
Horses		6	7	9
Milk cows		5	3	6
Other cattle		23	25	48
swine		53	35	36
dogs			1	2
sheep			9	60
hens				180

Henry and Perseda Zeisset Farm

Henry Zeisset farmed for several different farmers until he rented a farm in the Grandview area in 1906 (map 1). He and Perseda married in 1909 and when his lease was up in the Grandview community, they moved to the Schreiber farm where Perseda previously lived. Her father died in 1896. She moved with her mother into Leonardville in 1905 to a house Mrs. Schreiber had built south of the German Evangelical church. After Mrs. Schreiber died in 1915, Henry bought the farm from the Schreiber heirs in 1916.

	1895	1905	1915	1925
acres			160	160
cultivated				
Corn, acres			70	65
Oats, acres				13
Millet, acres				
Potatoes, acres			1/4	1/4
Kafir corn, acres				
Wheat, acres			20	14
Prairie hay, acres				10
Sorghum, acres				
Sudan grass, acres				
Bushels of wheat on hand				
Bushels of corn on hand				900
Tons of hay cut			16	
Pounds of butter churned			100	
Dollars of dairy product sold				129
Dollars of poultry/eggs sold			230	300
Horses			8	6
Milk cows			4	2
Other cattle			7	19
swine				8
dogs			1	1
sheep				
hens				120