

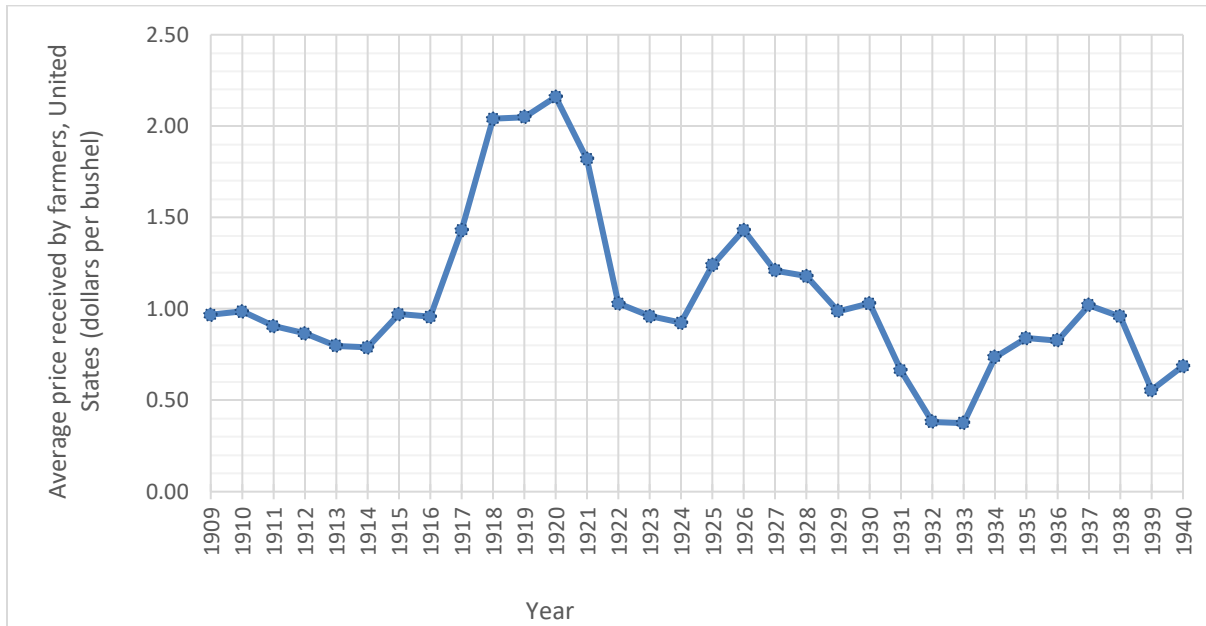
# Up from the Dust Prologue & Part 1

**Essential Questions:** What are some of the benefits of family farms? What are some of the economic and natural forces that make farming difficult?

## Document Analysis

The graphs below track the average price of wheat and annual rainfall over time. Look closely at each graph, including the historical notes, and then answer the questions that follow.

**Figure 1: Average Price of Wheat (1909–1940)**



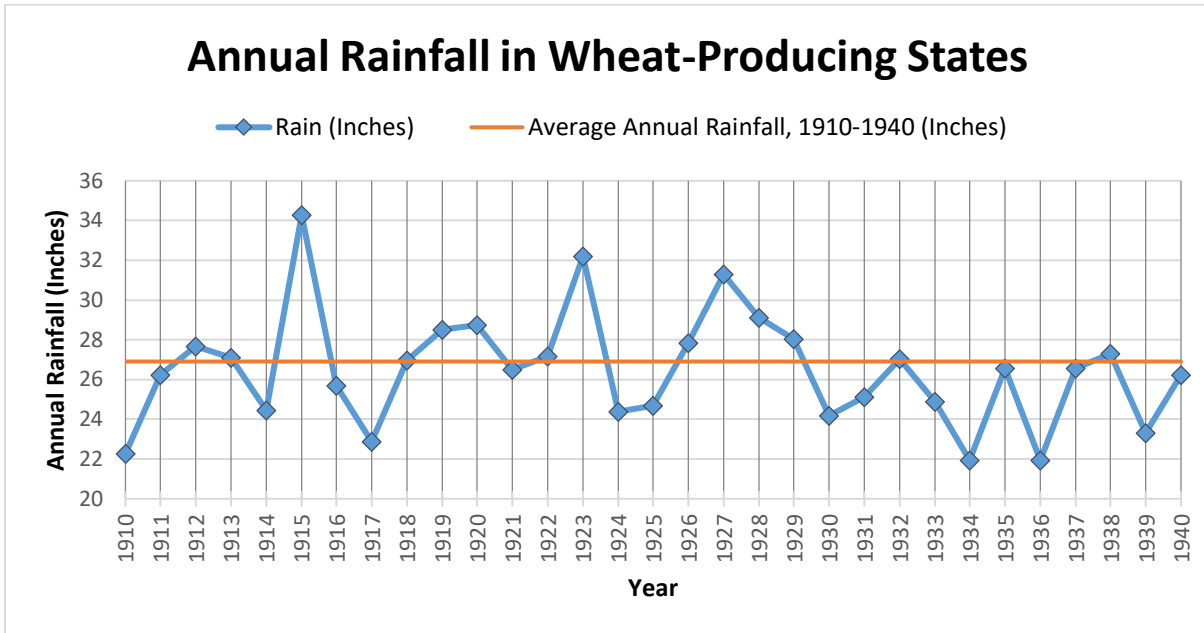
Source: *The Wheat Yearbook*, US Dept of Agriculture. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/wheat-data/>

Some historical notes to consider:

1. Demand for wheat and government purchases occur during World War I 1917–1921.
2. The stock market crash and onset of the Great Depression occur in 1929–1939.
3. New Deal policies go into effect in 1933–1939.
4. There were years of low rainfall from 1930–1940.

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Figure 2: Annual Rainfall in Wheat-Producing States (1910–1940)



Source: *The Wheat Yearbook*, US Dept of Agriculture. <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/wheat-data/>

1. After looking closely at each graph, describe the patterns that you observe.
2. What does the data reveal about farming life? What appears to make it challenging?
3. List some possible reasons for the data changing over time.

