THE DOWNTURN IN AGRICULTURE: Implications for the Midwest & the Future of Farming
Chicago Union Stock Yard

By 1900 Chicago produced 82% of meat consumed in U.S. (Chicago Historical Society)
Farm employment for the U.S. and the 7th District (in million jobs)

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts
Percent of Principal Farm Operators Reporting Primary Occupation as Farming: 2012

United States 47.8 Percent

U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service
Commercial farms generate income, while the median farm loses money.

Median farm income, median off-farm income, and median total income of farm operator households, by farm type, 2014

U.S. agricultural productivity growth accounts for most of output growth between 1948 and 2011

Annual change in farmland values in Seventh Federal Reserve District

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
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