

Digital Classroom

Analysing Agriculture

What can a farm tell us about defining moments?

The **introduction of merino sheep** was a defining moment in a community because it led to:

- Increased exports from Australia.
- Further European expansion and conflict with Aboriginal people.
- Land degradation through the elimination of native animals and plants, and erosion.

The **introduction of federation wheat** was a defining moment in a community because its introduction led to:

- Fully sustainable use of the soil.
- Increased numbers of farms and settlements in more marginal areas.
- Increased productivity of farms which could run sheep and grow wheat.
- Railways expanded to carry wheat to ports.

The **introduction of cattle (and the dung beetle!)** was a defining moment in a community because it led to:

- Cattle did not wander and stayed in their own area, so fences were not needed.
- People's diet improved with access to meat such as beef.
- Cow poo spoiling the land.
- Erosion of soil.

The **impacts of farming on Aboriginal people** was a defining moment in a community because it led to:

- Aboriginal health and education rates improving.
- Aboriginal people were able to enter the cattle industry and develop skills.
- More conflict and massacres.
- Movement of Aboriginal people to missions.

The **introduction of new farm machinery** was a defining moment in a community because it led to:

- Improved productivity.
- Farmers could create larger farms.
- New railways and towns were created.

The **introduction of rabbits** was a defining moment in a community because their introduction led to:

- Burrows helping to aerate the soil and increase its productivity.
- A new, cheap food source.
- Land degradation.
- Them spreading easily throughout most of Australia.

The **introduction of new plants** was a defining moment in a community because it led to:

- Choking off streams.
- Competition with native plants.
- Creation of a more culturally familiar landscape for settlers.