

A: To irrigate the family garden

Q: Which president signed the Homestead Act in 1862?

A: 5 years

Q: Why was the Homestead Act repealed in 1976?

A: Abraham Lincoln

Q: Two hundred and seventy million acres or 10% of the area of the United States was claimed and settled under the Homestead Act. An acre is about the size of a _____.

A: The amount of land for homesteading was decreased or taken by other governmental acts.

Q: John Widtsoe's book on dryland farming stated that a man should not farm more than 160-200 acres. Today the average farm in Utah is 773 acres. How is this possible?

A: Football field including the end zones.

Q: How old did you have to be to be a homesteader?

A: Mechanization and Irrigation

Q: Why would sandy soil be a poor choice for a dryland farm?

A: 21

Q: To file a claim cost \$18, how long did you need to stay (build a home and farm) on the land to claim complete ownership?

A: Sandy soil does not hold any moisture.

Q: For a dryland farm, why would you plow in the fall and not the spring?

A: To keep moisture from the winter snow in the soil rather than let it evaporate in spring heat.

Q: According to Dr. Widtsoe, what dooms a dry-farm?

A: Weeds

Q: Why would you summer fallow (or rest) the land occasionally?

A: To maintain fertility in the soil.

Q: Which crop is “king” for dryland farming?

A: Wheat

Q: Why does Dr. Widtsoe suggest that Utah farmers should store flood waters?

Round Robin Discussion Questions Key

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