



Carrie Meyer's paper "The Farm Debut of the Gasoline Engine," was the lead article in *Agricultural History*, summer, 2013, and received a "best paper" award for the journal in 2013.

Automobile history scholars have long recognized that farmers' familiarity with gasoline engines contributed mightily to the successful introduction of Henry Ford's Model T in 1908. Yet the use of such engines on the farm has received scant attention. Today many people believe that tractors brought the internal combustion engine to the farm – in the 1920s or 1930s. Indeed Deborah Fitzgerald's much admired *Every Farm a Factory* (2003) claimed that, "for most farmers, the tractor was their first brush with the internal combustion engine." Meyer's paper rectifies this misconception and demonstrates the importance of farm gas engines with careful analysis of census data, farm journals, and USDA reports from the early 1900s.

