



FSA Photo by Arthur Rothstein

Fritz Fredrick shows how
high his wheat would grow if
there were no drought.
Grant County, North Dakota
July 1936

Modern Photo by Bill Ganzel

Fritz Fredrick in the same field. Harvest of this wheat has been delayed by early summer rains.

Grant County, North Dakota
July 1977



“This picture here was taken in 1936 and this was practically the only field of wheat that I know of that was harvested. I just picked it up, and I used that for chicken feed. I picked up two loads out’ a about 20 acres.

“We had just shifted in the 30s from horses to tractors. That was a big shift. Those that had horses went down to practically nothing. That was hard done. And then the dust storms come along. The ground got real fine and it would not stop blowing. Some of it drifted up the field where there was some sand drifted so deep that you couldn’t even drive

over it with a tractor. After a while, we started the strip cropping, and this here would disappear. It didn’t blow.

“That combine in the old picture, it was around \$1,785. That was the whole thing. The one now, oh, I think they’re around \$12,000 to \$25,000 for these combines [in 1977]. The prices are not in line, that’s all I can see.”