

Farming in the West: *Farming in the West*

Homestead Act of 1862

Congress passed a law that would give land to people in the west.

- Positives
 - People received Free LAND to Farm
- Problems
 - People didn't have enough Money
 - Large companies illegally took the money

Oklahoma Land Rush

- 100,000 people lined up to take free farm land
- Boomers: Those who charged in
- Sooners: Those who sneaked in early

Sodbusters

- The land in the Great Plains was great for farming
 - Thick layer of Sod
- Sodbusters cut through the sod to the fertile land

Populist Party

- Farmers and Labor Unions came together in 1892 to form a political party
- They demanded:
 - Income Taxes
 - Increase in farm prices
 - Switch to a gold/silver standard

National Grange

- First national farmers' organization
- Offered
 - Education
 - Fellowship
 - Support
- Encouraged
 - Self sufficiency
 - Cash only cooperatives