



Barnyard Thingamabobs

Just as the household provided numerous opportunities for gadget development, the farm and field offer endless chores ripe for simplifying. Production by animal and grain require the right tools to create unique products necessary for survival.

Unlike today when we go to the supermarket for most goods, individual families raised their own livestock and crops. Think of planting crops without a plow or harvesting fields of wheat without a scythe. Think of all the gadgets necessary to manage the animals alone! Horses, cows or oxen were used to power many of the larger implements necessary for crop cultivation.

As the power sources moved from man to animal to mechanical, the scale to which we could produce food increased manifold. That, in and of itself, allowed people to move away from farms where they grew their own food to urban settings where goods are purchased at central locations.

It can be argued that the creation of gadgets to perform these necessary, rudimentary functions hastened man's ability to live communally.