

Farming through the Seasons!

As the seasons change, so too does life on the farm.



Spring

March, April, May

Spring is often the busiest time of year on farms

- Baby lambs are born and spring calving begins
- Animals are released into the fields after the long cold winter to graze
- Spring crops are sown and sprayed to protect against disease
- Many different vegetables are harvested: carrots, leeks, cabbage, scallions, turnips
- Potatoes are planted
- Early silage making begins – Tractors and trailers are busy in the fields
- Spring clean on livestock buildings
- Local agricultural shows begin!

Summer

June, July, August

'Make hay whilst the sun shines!'

- Farmers make hay by cutting grass, drying it in the sun and baling it up as winter feed for livestock
- Sheep are sheared to keep them cool during summer
- Winter crops are harvested – Straw left over from the grain harvest is baled and stored for animal bedding and feed
- A variety of seasonal fruit and vegetables are picked (Beetroot, peas, tomatoes, celery, broccoli, broad beans, peppers and strawberries)
- Potatoes are sprayed to protect against blight
- Silage making continues
- Lambs are weaned
- Local agricultural shows continue

Autumn

September, October, November

Planting and harvesting

- Some cattle and sheep are moved indoors for winter (depending on the weather)
- Land is prepared for sowing winter crops
- As the quality of grass gets poorer, farmers start to feed animals with meal
- Crops are sprayed to protect from insect and pest damage
- Fruit and vegetables such as bramley apples, leeks and parsnips are harvested
- Autumn calving begins
- Harvesting of spring crops and potatoes is carried out
- Pigs continue to be fattened to produce pork for Christmas
- Livestock is moved indoors for winter

Winter

December, January, February

End of year crops and housing

- Livestock are brought indoors to save the land from getting trampled! Once they are indoors, they require a daily routine for the farmers such as bedding, mucking out and are fed with special food such as silage, hay and meal which were prepared earlier in the farming calendar
- Farmers complete repairs around the farm such as fences, sheds, roofs and animal pens
- Many different vegetables continue to be harvested for Christmas dinner, particularly brussels sprouts!
- With livestock spending most time indoors, farmer must ensure their beds are clean and the animals are catered for
- Calving continues and farmers are very busy tending to them!

