



Livestock (cattle and sheep)

A year on the farm

Take a look at some typical farming activities during the seasons



Spring

March April May

- Lambing
- Cows are vaccinated and wormed. They are also scanned to see if they are pregnant
- Any livestock that were housed for the winter are let out into fields to eat grass
- Beef cows born in autumn are sent to market (spring calves are normally sent to market during the winter)

Summer

June July August

- Sheep are sheared to keep them cool during the summer
- The wool is sent to the market
- Some of the lambs are weighed and the heavy ones sent to market



Autumn

September October November

- Remaining lambs are weighed and sent to market
- A few females are kept for breeding purposes
- Ewes (female sheep) & rams (male sheep) are mated for birth of lambs in spring
- Calving for beef cows (cows mated in early summer will calve in spring)
- Some cattle and sheep are moved indoors for winter

Winter

December January February

- Female sheep are scanned to see if they are pregnant, wormed & vaccinated before lambing
- All animals are fed winter feed including silage and hay made earlier in year
- Cows are mated for autumn calving (on some farms they are mated early in the summer for spring calving)

Crops (cereal and oil seeds)

- Spring crops are sown
- Fertilisers applied to crops
- Crops are sprayed to protect them from insect damage (pests) and disease



- Spring and winter planted crops are harvested
- Straw left over from grain harvest is baled and stored for animal bedding

- Land is cultivated and winter crops are sown
- Crops are sprayed to protect them from insect damage, pests and disease

- Farm maintenance of buildings, machinery, hedges, fences and ditches



Grassland

Did you Know

- Haymaking – grass is cut, dried in the sun, baled and stored for winter feed
- Silage making – grass is cut, wrapped and stored for winter feed (the wrapped conditions cause the grass to ferment and ‘pickle’)
- Farmers make hay and silage during summer months



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