

# A Year of Food & Farming



ULSTER  
FARMERS'  
UNION

## Spring

March April May



Baby lambs are born. This gives the farmer many sleepless nights!

Animals are released into the fields after the long cold winter months 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.

Slurry is put on to grassland and fertilizers are put onto crops.

Early silage making begins.  
Tractors and trailers are busy in the fields.

Spring clean all livestock buildings.

Spring calving begins.

## Summer

June July August



Sheep are sheared to keep them cool during the summer. The wool is sent to market to make products like carpet and clothing. Wool is even being used to insulate buildings.

Winter planted crops are harvested using a combine harvester. Straw left over from the grain harvest is baled and stored for animal bedding and feed.

Many different fruit and vegetables are picked (beetroot, peas, tomatoes, celery, broccoli, broad beans, peppers and strawberries).

Potatoes are sprayed to protect them against blight.

If the weather is good, farmers make hay by cutting grass, drying it in the sun, baling and storing it as winter feed for the animals.

Lambs are weaned and fed separately.

Silage making continues.

## Autumn

September October November



The quality of the grass gets poorer and poorer and it will stop growing soon so farmers will start to feed the animals with meals.

Some cattle and sheep are moved indoors for winter (depending on the weather).

Land is prepared for sowing winter crops.

Crops are sprayed to protect them from insect damage (pests) and disease.

Ewes and rams are introduced to each other to produce springtime lambs.

Many different fruit and vegetables are harvested (Bramley apples, leeks, parsnips).

Autumn calving begins.

Harvesting of spring crops and potatoes is carried out.

Pigs continue to be fattened to produce pork for Christmas.

## Winter

December January February



Farmers take time to do repairs around the farm to buildings, animal pens, fences and sheds. Farmers often have to patch up leaky roofs.

All animals are fed with special food to keep them healthy, including silage and hay made earlier in the year.

Many different vegetables continue to be harvested (particularly brussel sprouts for Christmas).

With most of the animals inside farmers have to spend lots of time making sure their beds are clean and all their needs are catered for.

Calving continues and farmers have lots of baby calves to feed.

