

A year on the farm

Farms are busy bustling places all year round. Here are just some of the jobs farmers do in the different seasons. Fill in the blanks to complete each story.

Spring (March, April, May)

- Lambing time begins.
- Cows are vaccinated and wormed to help prevent disease.
- Any livestock that were housed for the winter are let out into fields to eat the grass.
- Crops are sprayed with pesticides to help protect them from pests and diseases. They help to control pests such as weeds or insects that damage and destroy food crops.
- All crops need a range of nutrients in order to grow which is why farmers apply fertilisers.

Vaccines help to prevent

Farmers add fertilisers to their crops in order to provide

Crops are sprayed to protect them from



Summer (June, July, August)

- Sheep are sheared of their winter coats to keep them cool, and the wool is sold.
- Crops that were planted in the spring and winter are harvested.
- Straw left over from the grain harvest is baled and stored for animal bedding.

Shearing makes sure that the sheep don't get too



A ewe is a sheep and a ram is a sheep

Cultivating and the soil



Cattle are kept in a barn due to the and weather



Autumn

(September, October, November)

- Lambs are sent to market and a few females are kept for breeding the next generation.
- Ewes (female sheep) and rams (male sheep) are mated so lambs are born in spring. A ewe is pregnant for five months.
- Some cattle and sheep are moved indoors for the winter due to Britain's cold and wet weather.
- Land is cultivated to break up and loosen the soil, and winter crops are sown.



Hay is

Winter

(December, January, February)

- All animals are fed winter feed including silage and hay made earlier in the year.
- Ewes are scanned to see if they are pregnant.
- Ewes are wormed and vaccinated before lambing.
- Top of the list is maintenance of farm buildings, machinery, hedges, fences and ditches.



DID YOU KNOW ?

Early summer is the best time to make winter feed like hay and silage for animals. Hay is cut grass that has been dried in the sun before being baled. Silage is made from cut grass too, but it is wrapped in plastic so that it ferments. Can you spot the different bales when you're next in the countryside?