Food from the Farm

Farm animals and the food they give us, and the words of farmers, butchers and food writers, from A1 to C2.

A1–C2 · English Vocabulary, Lesson 13

a herd of cows · free-range eggs · bring home the bacon

Farm animals *A1–A2*

cow	bull
pig	sheep
lamb	hen
goat	duck
bee	horse
farmer	tractor
field	barn

cow → beef · pig → pork, bacon, ham · sheep → lamb, mutton, wool

Dairy, grains and meat *A1–A2*

milk	butter
cheese	yoghurt
cream	egg
wheat	flour
bread	rice
oats	honey
sausage	bacon

some milk · a loaf of bread · a dozen eggs · one sheep, ten sheep

Farm and shop *B1–B2*

Animals: a herd of cows, a flock of sheep · calf, heifer, bull · ewe, ram, lamb · piglet, chick

Farming: dairy farm, arable farm, livestock, crops, barley, graze, silage, the harvest, combine harvester

The butcher's: mince, steak, a chop, a joint, a fillet, sausages · beef, pork, lamb, mutton, veal

Labels: free-range · organic · locally sourced · best before (quality) · use by (safety)

Idioms: bring home the bacon, don't count your chickens, make hay while the sun shines, till the cows come home

*The cows **graze** outside in summer and eat **silage** in winter. The milk **is collected** every other day.*

a cow only gives milk after she has had a calf

Precise and figurative *C1–C2*

The craft: husbandry, lambing, rotational grazing, yield, hedgerows, hedge-laying, smallholding

Breeds: rare breeds, heritage breeds, native breeds, grass-fed, grain-finished

The trade: provenance, traceability, supply chain, food miles, subsidies, abattoir, slaughter

Metaphors: the cream of the crop, separate the wheat from the chaff, a cash cow, sow the seeds of, reap what you sow

The debate: per kilo, per gram of protein, per hectare · regenerative farming · land unsuitable for crops

*Ear tags and passports give full **traceability**, so the **provenance** of the beef is never in doubt.*

husbandry: the care of animals and land

On the farm

- *Milk comes from cows.*
- *Butter is made from cream.*
- *We milk the cows twice a day.*
- *Who wants to collect the eggs?*

Common mistakes

- ~~cow meat~~ → **beef** · ~~pig meat~~ → **pork**
- ~~a bread~~ → **a loaf of bread**, **some bread**
- ~~ten sheeps~~ → ten **sheep**
- ~~I bought it in the butcher~~ → at **the butcher's**

Words with a past

- **veal**: Latin *vitellus*, a little calf · **gammon**: *gambe*, a leg
- **poultry**: Latin *pullus*, a young animal · **wheat**: related to *white*
- **abattoir**: French *abattre*, to strike down
- **yoghurt**: from Turkish *yoğurt*

My new words

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