

WHAT IS A FARMER?

Farming is an extremely important business in Ireland. Day-to-day farm business includes the buying and selling of animals and crops and keeping records of the money the farmer pays and receives. The farmer must also keep records of the animals on the farm and any medication that they might receive.

In their day-to-day business, farmers deal with many other organisations such as banks, accountants, insurance companies, co-ops (milk processing plants), farm organisations, meat factories and many more.



WHAT ARE THE FUNCTIONS OF A FARMER?

On the farm, there is work to be done every day of the year. However, as the seasons change, the farmer has different jobs to do.



THE IMPORTANCE OF FARMING

Farming provides us with much of our food, such as meat, fruit, vegetables, milk, dairy products and eggs. Cereals that are grown on farms provide us with vital ingredients to make foods such as pasta, bread and breakfast cereals. Milk, that cows supply us with, provides us with cheese, yoghurts and cream. Many of the foods grown on the farm are sent directly to shops and markets to be sold. Others, like cereals and grains, are sent to factories where they are packaged or made into other foods, such as bread and pasta.

SPRING

In spring, the weather gets warmer and the days get longer. **Lambing** and **calving** take place at this time. The farmer must constantly check that the ewes and cows and their newborn lambs and calves are healthy. The cattle are moved out of the sheds and back into the fields. Also in spring, the farmer must **sow** seeds for various crops e.g. potatoes.

