

Agriculture

Word	Definition	Translation
abattoir	a place where animals are killed for meat.	
agriculture	the work, business, or study of farming.	
arable	relating to, used for, or involved in the growing of crops	
artificial fertilizer	an inorganic substance that is obtained by mining or is produced by a chemical process that is used to help plants to grow in a healthy way.	
backbreaking	physically very hard and tiring.	
barley	a plant that is a type of grass that produces grain. The grain is used for making food, beer, and whisky.	
barn	a large building on a farm where animals, crops, or machines are kept.	
beef	the meat from a cow.	
bloom	if a tree or plant blooms, it produces flowers that have opened.	
bone meal	a substance made of crushed bones, used as food for animals or for helping plants to grow.	
BSE	bovine spongiform encephalopathy; a disease in cows that affects the brain and the ability to control the muscles. The disease can be spread to humans if they eat meat from an infected cow, where it appears in the form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.	
bullock	a young male cow that has been castrated.	
calf	a young cow (plural: calves).	
cash crop	a crop that farmers grow so that they can sell it, rather than use it themselves.	
cassava	a tropical plant with roots that can be cooked and eaten or made into flour = manioc.	
cereal	a plant that produces grain, used as food for people and animals.	
cocoa	a brown powder made from a cocoa bean. It is used for making chocolate and chocolate-flavoured food and drinks.	
collective farm	a farm that is run by the people who work there but is owned by the government or another group of people.	
combine harvester	a large machine used on a farm for cutting grain crops and then removing and cleaning the seeds.	
commercial farming	the growing of crops for sale rather than as food for a family.	
compost	a mixture of decaying plants and vegetables that is added to soil to improve it.	
consumption	the use of something such as fuel or energy, or the amount that people use.	
corn	wheat, or any similar crop of grain that is grown as food.	
cotton	a plant grown in warm regions that has white fibres in its fruit that are used for making cotton cloth. Cotton is an important cash crop in many areas of the world.	
crop	a plant grown for food, usually on a farm.	
cultivation	the process of growing crops or other plants, or the use of land for growing crops or other plants.	

dairy farming	the business of keeping cows and selling their milk.	
domestic	1 relating to a particular country. 2 relating to people's homes and family life.	
equipment	the tools, machines, or other things that you need for a particular job or activity.	
estimate	to say what you think an amount or value will be, either by guessing or by using available information to calculate it.	
exploit	to treat someone unfairly in order to get some benefit for yourself.	
export	the practice or business of selling goods to another country.	
extensive farming	farming activity that takes place over a large area of land.	
factory farm	a farm in which farm animals and birds are kept inside in small spaces and are made to grow or produce eggs very quickly.	
fallow	fallow land has been deliberately left for a time without any crops or animals on it, in order to improve the soil.	
farmyard	an area that is surrounded by the buildings on a farm.	
feed	food given to animals.	
fertilize	to add a natural or chemical substance to soil in order to help plants grow.	
fibre crop	crops grown for their fibres in order to make paper, cloth, or rope, for example cotton.	
fleet	a group of vehicles, planes, boats, or trains, especially when they are owned by one organization or person.	
fodder	food for farm animals such as cows and horses.	
forage	food for farm animals, especially crops grown for horses and cows.	
fungicide	a substance used for killing a fungus.	
genetic modification	the practice or science of changing the genes of a living thing, usually so that it will develop a particular quality. For example, a crop can be changed so that it produces substances that fight disease.	
globalization	the idea that the world is developing a single economy and culture as a result of improved communications and the influence of large companies that operate all over the world.	
GM	genetically modified: used for describing crops whose genes have been artificially changed, or for describing foods made from these crops.	
goat	an animal similar to a sheep but with longer legs and a thinner coat.	
grain	a seed or the seeds from cereal plants such as wheat, rice, or barley that are used for food, or the plants that they grow on.	
granary	a building where grain is kept.	
grazing land	land on which animals eat grass.	
growing season	the time of year during which plants grow and develop, especially farm crops.	

harvest	the activity of collecting a crop, or the time when crops are collected.	
hay	long grass that has been cut and dried so that it can be used for feeding farm animals.	
hedge	a line of bushes or small trees growing close together around a garden or field.	
heifer	a young cow that has not given birth to a calf.	
hen	a female chicken.	
herbicide	a chemical used for killing weeds and other plants that are not wanted.	
herd	a large group of animals of the same type that live and move about together.	
herring	a long thin silver sea fish.	
horticulture	the activity of growing and studying garden plants.	
husbandry	the activity of farming and caring for animals.	
infertile	infertile land is not very good for growing crops.	
input	something that is needed for farming or industrial production to operate effectively, for example soil, rain, machines, or labour.	
insecticide	a chemical used for killing insects.	
irrigate	to bring water to land through a system of pipes, ditches etc in order to make plants grow.	
labour	the workers in a particular country, industry, or company considered as a group.	
lamb	a young sheep.	
LEDC	less economically developed countries.	
legume	a seed such as a pea or bean that grows in a pod.	
lift	to dig vegetables or other plants out of the ground.	
livestock	animals such as cows, sheep, and pigs that are kept on farms.	
loam	a type of soil that is extremely good for plants to grow in. It is a mixture of sand, silt, clay, and humus.	
logging	the act of cutting down trees for wood, usually in order to sell it at a profit.	
maize	a tall plant that produces yellow seeds that are called sweet corn or corn when cooked and eaten.	
manure	solid waste from farm animals, often mixed with other substances and used on crops to help them to grow.	
market garden	a small farm where fruit and vegetables are grown to be sold.	
MEDC	more economically developed countries	
mill	to crush grain into flour.	
millet	a type of grain grown as food and for use as fodder.	
mixed farming	a system of farming that combines growing crops and keeping animals.	
muck	dirt, or an unpleasant substance.	
mulch	decaying leaves or other plant material used for protecting the roots of plants and improving the soil.	
nitrify	to improve the quality of soil by adding compounds of nitrogen to it.	
nursery	a place where young trees and other plants are grown.	

oat	a type of grain that people and animals eat.	
organic	used for describing methods of farming and food production that do not use artificial chemicals.	
overgrazing	a situation in which land is damaged because the cows or other animals in it have been allowed to eat too much of the grass there, or have been allowed to feed on it for too long.	
paddock	a small field, especially for keeping horses in.	
paddy field	a field of rice growing in water.	
pasteurized	if a liquid such as milk is pasteurized, it has been heated to a temperature that kills all the harmful bacteria.	
pasture	land covered with grass where sheep, cows etc are kept.	
pest	an insect or other small animal that damages plants or supplies of food.	
pesticide	a chemical used for killing insects that damage crops.	
plantation	a large farm where crops such as tea, cotton, and sugar cane are grown.	
plough	a piece of equipment that farmers use for turning over the soil before putting seeds into it.	
pottery	the activity of making pottery (=objects such as plates and cups that are made out of clay and baked in an oven so that they become hard).	
propagate	to make a plant produce more plants.	
quota	an amount of something that someone is officially allowed to have or do.	
ranch	a very large farm where cows, horses, or sheep are kept.	
root crop	a crop that is grown so that its roots can be used for food, for example sugar beets or carrots.	
rye	a crop that produces grain that is used for making bread and whisky.	
seed	a usually small, hard part produced by a plant, that can grow into a new plant of the same type. A seed is an ovule that has been fertilized and contains the plant embryo and its food.	
shear	to cut the wool from a sheep.	
shifting calculation	a method of farming used in tropical regions, in which an area of land is cleared and crops are grown on it until the soil is no longer good enough for growing them. The area is then not used until the soil has become good enough again.	
silage	grass and plants that are preserved and used for feeding farm animals.	
silo	a tall round tower on a farm used for storing things such as grain, crops, and food for animals.	
slash and burn	slash and burn farming involves cutting down and burning trees and old plants in order to plant new crops.	
storage	the act of storing something.	
straw	the yellow stems of dried crops such as wheat.	

stubble	the ends of plants that are left above ground after a farmer cuts a crop such as wheat or barley.	
subsistence farming	the activity of growing just enough food to live on, but not enough to sell.	
sugar beet	a vegetable that grows under the ground and is used for producing sugar.	
sugar cane	a tall tropical plant with thick stems that is used for producing sugar.	
sunflower	a very tall plant that has large yellow flowers with a round brown centre. Sunflowers produce seeds that are used for making cooking oil.	
tenant farmer	a farmer who rents land from someone else.	
terracing	land divided into layers that look like steps, often so that they can be used for farming or for making a garden.	
tobacco	the plant that produces leaves that are dried to make tobacco (=a substance that people smoke in cigarettes).	
topsoil	the layer of soil that is near the surface of the ground.	
trawler	a boat used for fishing by pulling a large net through the water.	
udder	the part under the body of a cow and some other female animals, shaped like a small bag, in which milk is produced.	
uncultivated	uncultivated land has not been used for growing crops or has not been changed in order to make it suitable for farming.	
vineyard	a farm that grows grapes and produces wine.	
viticulture	the activity or science of growing grapes for making wine.	
wheat	a tall plant that produces grain for making bread and other foods.	
wool	thick hair that grows on sheep and some other animals.	