

CEREAL CROPS

The main cereal crops grown in Scotland are Wheat, Barley, Oats and Oilseed Rape. The farming year for cereal crops usually starts in September when the land is cultivated.



DID YOU KNOW...

that each grain of wheat contains about 20,000 particles of flour?

Some crops are grown for livestock feed to ensure they get a healthy balanced diet to produce our meat, eggs and dairy products.



In October the farmer conducts a process called drilling, which is the sowing of seeds into rows in the soil.



The crops are sprayed to control weeds and pests, which is usually done in the spring. The plants can also be treated with fertilisers to help them grow.



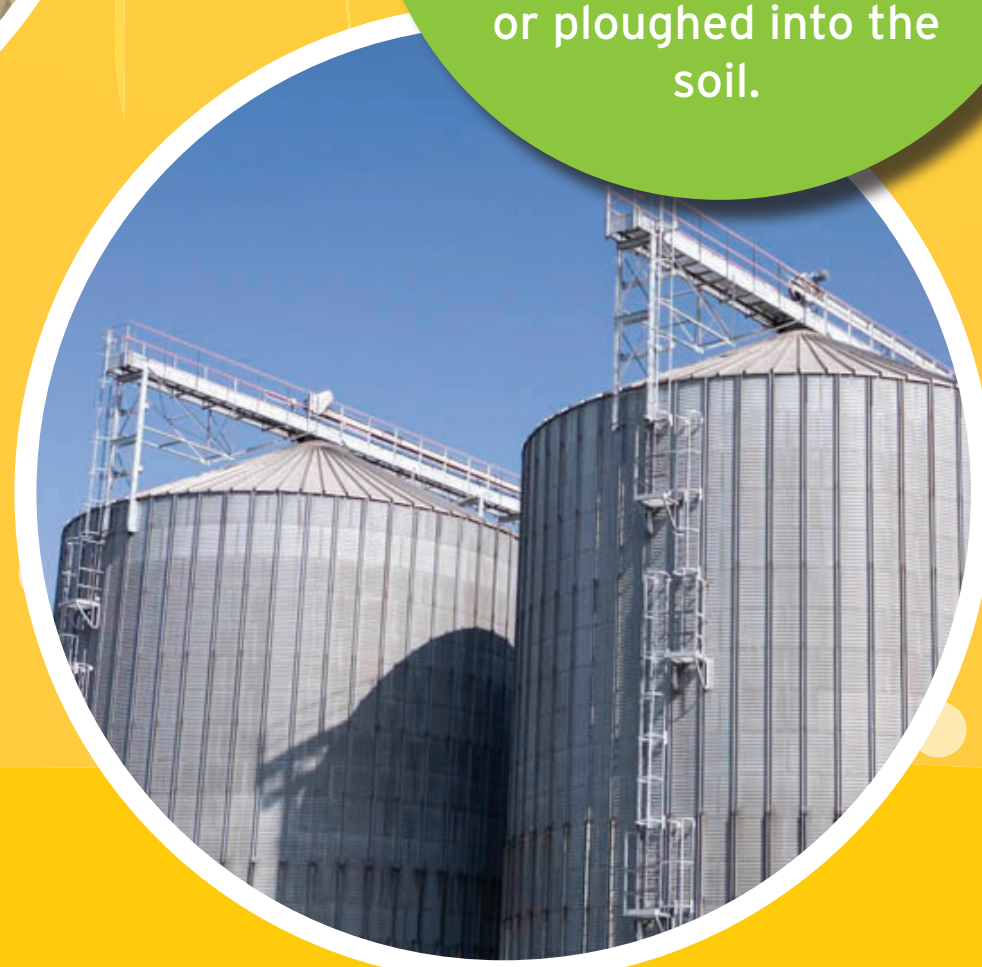
Oats are often processed for breakfast cereals. Oats are first milled to remove the straw and outer shell and then softened by steam before they are flaked or rolled. Oats are used in cereals such as muesli and porridge.



In Scotland, barley is primarily used in the brewing of beer and distilling whisky. The barley is malted, which is a process of wetting the grain to start germination before drying in a kiln. Barley can also be used in foods such as sweets, biscuits and bread.



The separated grain is then dried and stored in the grain store until it is needed. The stalks, called straw, can be made into bales and used for animal bedding, or ploughed into the soil.



The final process the farmer undertakes is the harvesting of the crops. This is usually done in July and August with a large piece of equipment called a combine harvester, which separates the grain from the stalks. Harvest is always the busiest time of the year for arable farmers.



The grain from wheat can be sent to the mill and made into flour, which is then used to make bread. As part of the milling process the wheat is cleaned and then conditioned using large rollers. The wheat is then sent through sieves and rolled again.

