



RHET

The Royal Highland Education Trust

Patron HRH The Princess Royal

Farming through History

- The main changes in farming in 75 years
- Pictures – old v new
- Environmental Impact
- Problems with Modern Methods
- Questions

Main changes in farming over 75 years

After World War II the government launched a campaign to increase agricultural production to try and solve the problems of food shortages and eliminate the need for rationing that had occurred during the war.

Main changes in farming over 75 years

1. **Farm Size** - farming has become large scale and there are less small family farms and more farm businesses who own/manage many farms.
2. **Field Size** - hedgerows have been removed to increase field size and production and also to enable machinery such as tractors, combine harvesters etc. to be used more efficiently.
3. **Mechanisation** – Vast changes have taken place in the machines that are used in modern farming. This has changed the way farming is now carried out.

Main changes in farming over 75 years

4. **Buildings** - specialised buildings are now constructed, including temperature controlled storage sheds for drying grain and keeping harvested crops at optimum temperatures.
5. **Science & Technology** – advancements in both have meant that farming has changed dramatically. Farmers now have tractors that can drive themselves, can control shed temperature by the their mobile phones and have seeds that have been bred to resist disease.
6. **People** – in the past agriculture was very labour intensive (lots of people needed) and every farm had several workers. School holidays were used for children to help work the land – pick soft fruit (summer) or harvest potatoes (October).

We are now going to look at some photos.

We will look at how the work used to be carried out and how it is carried out now.

RHET



Sheep shearing
with hand shears

RHET



Sheep shearing
with electric
clippers.

The value of the
wool is low.



Rolling the wool which was very valuable with a good price being paid to farmers.

RHET



Wool rolling –
present day

RHET



1 furrow
plough pulled
by Clydesdale
Horses

RHET



6 furrow plough
pulled by Ford
Tractor.



Tractor pulling
plough and
furrow press



SOWING THE SEED AT LILLIESLEAP, CLAPPERTON, SELKIRK, PHOTO.

Sowing seeds by hand – harrowed afterwards by horse-pulled harrows.



Tractor pulling a
'One Pass'
which will sow
the seed, plant
fertiliser,
harrow the soil
all in one pass.



Lifting
neeps/swedes
by hand and
transported by
horse and cart.

RHET



Lifting carrots
with a carrot
harvester



Cutting (horse power) and gathering (by hand) the sheaths of oats to be collected, then thrashed.



The thrasher
which separated
the grain from
the stalks.



Very early
combine
harvester which
cut and thrashed
the crops.

RHET



More advanced combine harvester with a bigger engine enabling it to cut/thrash more quickly.



Modern day
combine
harvester –
increased
engine and
header size.



Cutting grass
for winter feed
by scythe.



Raking the hay after it is cut to ensure it is dry enough to stack.



Making stacks to store the hay for use over the winter months.

RHET



Cutting grass to make silage for winter feeding with 2 x mowers to increase speed/efficiency.



Large square
baler used to
make silage
bales for
winter feed.



Silage pit used today to store cut grass for winter feeding.



Bales are now wrapped in plastic so they can be stored outside for winter feeding.

1. Almost 50% of the UK's hedgerows were removed between 1945-1990 resulting in the removal of important habitats, resulting in a decline in farm bird populations such as the skylark and corn bunting.
2. Removal of the hedgerows has also resulted in increased soil erosion as there are no longer hedgerows to act as windbreaks.
3. The increase in use of pesticides and herbicides has increased water pollution as they are washed from the fields in runoff and leaching.



Fields have increased in size to allow access to large machines.

- Machinery costs a lot of money and farmers are getting less for their produce than they did in the past (compared to inflation).
- All well until a machine stops working and machines need a lot of work to maintain them.
- Can be more complicated to sort– often it is now a computer fault.
- Heavy machinery can make a big mess of a field – heavy tracks can be difficult to remove.

RHET



www.profi.co.uk





A black and white cow head is mounted on a wall in a room with wooden paneling and a blue cabinet. A yellow speech bubble is drawn over the cow's face, containing the text "Any questions?".

Any
questions?

Want to know more?

Visit www.rhet.org.uk for more information