

FARMING

Enormous fields are very convenient to work on, but lead to loss of topsoil and to erosion.

Furthermore, monoculture makes crops dangerously vulnerable to pests and diseases. Should this country and southern England replant hedges?

One very seldom sees animals grazing in this country, although this is usual practice in the UK. Discuss differences.

Should the needs of farm animals be considered? Do we really want to eat meat from miserable creatures raised in overcrowded, unhygienic and often cruel conditions?

Do we need to eat meat at all? All adult food requirements can be met with plants, so why are people so fond of flesh?

Over the past 50 years in GB, farmers have poisoned people with pesticides, killed over a fifth of the rivers with runoff, added hormones to the meat without telling the consumers, and altered the face of the countryside with gigantic fields. Can we still trust them?

Talk about your personal experience of working on a farm or on the land.

What kinds of crops are grown in this country and what animals are bred on farms?

What are the chief crops in GB / the USA / the EU?

What typical activities have to be done on a farm throughout the year?

Some animals such as birds, e.g. crows and feral pigeons, can cause nuisance to farmers. To what extent should farmers be allowed to control pest birds?

In recent years, it has become possible to alter existing plants and animals by means of genetic modification. Does the Czech Republic have legislation controlling the keeping or release of such genetically modified organisms?

Is there / should there be penalty for the introduction of species which are not ordinarily found in this country?