

## Glossary of Agricultural Words

**Acid soil:** refers to any soil with a pH below 7. The lower the number the more acid the soil.

**Aggregate Fruit:** a clustered fruit composed of numerous fruitlets each with its own seed, (e.g. strawberry).

**Agri-business:** the group of industries dealing with agricultural produce and services to agriculture.

**Agriculture:** anything having to do with farming (raising crops or livestock for food, fibre or fur; or the industry which includes marketing, processing and trade in these products).

**Animal Rights:** seeks to establish the same privileges and rights for animals as people have.

**Animal Welfare:** the proper care of animals.

**Annual:** a plant that grows one season and produces seed for next year, (e.g. peas).

**Antibiotics:** products used to kill bacteria, especially those which cause infectious diseases.

**Artificial Insemination:** the introduction of male reproductive cells into the female reproductive tract by artificial means, commonly abbreviated AI.

**Auctioneer:** a person who solicits bids for and conducts a public sale for such things as farm animals and equipment.

**Avian:** relating to birds.

**Beta-carotene:** orange pigment in plants that is a form of vitamin A.

**Bacteria:** microscopic, unicellular organisms found almost everywhere, appearing singly or in chains. Some cause disease and some are beneficial.

**Baler:** a machine used to compact and package roughage such as hay or straw.

**Barley:** a grain used primarily for animal feed.

**Barn:** a building used to shelter animals or store hay.

**Bee:** an insect which collects nectar from flowers and produces honey. As it collects nectar, it carries pollen from one flower to another. Bees are housed in hives from which honey and beeswax are collected.

**Beef Farm:** a farm where cattle are kept for the production of beef.

**Bin:** a box or enclosed place for grain or feed storage.

**Bio-diversity:** biological diversity; a measure of the variety of species of plants animals or other organisms in an ecosystem.

**Biological Control:** the use of living organisms such as bacteria, fungi, or insects to control harmful weeds or insects which infest crops; this type of control excludes the use of chemical substances and relies mainly on natural sources.

**Biotechnology:** the use of all or part of an organism to perform a task, function, or produce a product.

**Bovine:** family of animals including cattle and buffalo.

**Brassica:** cruciferous plants with tap roots and erect branched stems, including cabbage, brussel sprouts, mustard, canola, cauliflower, and kale.

**Breeder Operation:** an operation in which poultry are bred to produce fertilized eggs.

**Bread:** a food baked from wheat and/or other grains.

**Broiler:** a chicken or turkey raised for meat and slaughtered at less than half mature weight.

**Brood hen:** a hen that is used to keep eggs warm for hatching.

**Brooder:** a heated house for chicks, piglets, etc.

**Bull:** an adult, male bovine used primarily for breeding.

**Butter:** a solid, yellow substance of fat, air and water made by churning milk or cream.

**By-product:** a substance which is produced in addition (secondary) to the main product (e.g. glue is made from animal hooves).

**Calf:** a baby cow or bull.

**Calve:** to give birth to a calf.

**Canola:** a crop whose seeds are used for making cooking oil; also, its meal is used as a livestock feed.

**Care:** providing the necessities for living things (e.g. animals: food, water and shelter).

**Cash Crop:** any crop that is considered easily marketable, as wheat; a crop for direct sale in a market, as distinguished from a crop for use as livestock feed or for other purposes.

**Castrated Animal:** an animal that has had its testicles removed.

**Cattle:** more than one bovine animal (bulls and/or cows); general term for all sexes.

**Cellulose:** a carbohydrate that is in the cell wall of plant cells.

**Cereal:** refers to crops from the grass family grown for grain (e.g. oats, wheat, barley, rye, corn); also a processed form of breakfast food.

**Chaff:** the empty pods or scale-like seed covers which are separated from the grain in the threshing and cleaning operation.

**Cheese:** a food product made from milk solids.

**Chick:** a baby chicken.

**Chicken:** a small, domestic bird (colour varies) kept for its eggs and/or meat.

**Churning:** strongly stirring or agitating to combine or to separate a mixture (e.g. cream to butter).

**Cleaned Seed:** seed which has been screened to remove weeds, seeds and chaff.

**Clerk:** a person who works in a food store, bank, office or any setting where products or services are exchanged.

**Coat:** the external covering of an animal (e.g. mammals have skin and hair for a coat).

**Colostrum:** the first secretion from the mammary glands after giving birth. This thick yellow milk contains antibodies that are passed on to the young to protect them from disease.

**Colt:** a more specific term for a male foal.

**Combine:** a machine which moves down the grain field removing the seeds from the stems of ripe plants of grains.

**Commodity:** raw materials or semi-finished goods rather than goods in general (e.g. milk, beef, vegetables, etc.).

**Compost:** a combination of organic matter, soil, nutrients, moisture, and lime in a state of partial decay.

**Conservation:** the management and preservation of natural resources for present and future uses.

**Corn:** a crop grown for human food, and as a livestock feed.

**Corral:** a fenced-in area for animals.

**Cow:** mature female bovine; some used for milk and some for meat.

**Cover crop:** a crop grown to cover and protect soil from erosion by wind and water, especially in winter.

**Cream:** the yellowish part of milk containing 18 to 20% butterfat that is usually removed from the milk during processing.

**Crop:** the yield of produce at harvest.

**Crop Rotation:** planting different crops in fields than were there previously. Used as a

crop, soil management and conservation method.

**Cross-pollinate:** the passing of pollen from the male part of one plant to the female part of another plant of the same species.

**Cud:** a mouthful of previously swallowed food, regurgitated from the first stomach of ruminants. The cud is then chewed again further breaking it down for digestion.

**Cultivar:** a plant variety produced by cultivation that keeps its characteristics even when reproduced.

**Cultivating:** preparing the land for the raising of crops.

**Cultivator:** an implement that digs into the soil. It is used for breaking up land and ripping out weeds.

**Cultural Practices:** techniques used in growing plants that include planting disease resistant varieties, rotating crops, spacing and pruning methods, providing good drainage and irrigation.

**Curing:** to preserve meat, fruit, or hides by salting, drying, etc.

**Cutting:** any part of a plant that can be severed from the plant and grow into a new plant.

**Dairy Farm:** a farm where cows or goats are kept for the production of milk.

**Dessicate:** remove the moisture from anything.

**Dioecious:** having male and female reproductive parts on separate plants.

**Donkey:** an animal similar to the horse but has much larger ears and is smaller in size. They have recently become popular as a protector of sheep against coyotes.

**Dressed Weight:** the weight of an animal after slaughter, defeathering, or skinning and evisceration.

**Dwarfing Rootstock:** a rootstock that limits the size of the plant that is grafted onto it.

**Ear:** the entire head of corn including the cob, husk and silks.

**Ecology:** the study of relationships between the environment and organisms.

**Egg:** a roundish, hard-shelled body which can be used for reproduction (birds and most reptiles) or consumed as food.

**Elevator:** a building or terminal where grain is elevated and transferred to an alternate mode of transportation (e.g. truck to rail, rail to ship).

**Embryo Transfer:** the procedure where a female with desirable characteristics is induced to superovulate. The eggs are fertilized, and the resulting embryos transferred to other females.

**Entomologist:** a specialist in the study of the forms and behaviour of insects

**Environment:** the immediate surroundings of a plant or animal which influence its well-being.

**Equipment:** any material or apparatus used in farm production and operation (e.g. machines, gas tanks).

**Estrus:** a recurring period of sexual receptivity in many female animals.

**Eviscerate:** remove internal contents.

**Ewe:** an adult female sheep.

**Farm:** an establishment or plot of land, usually with a house, barn, silo, etc., where food is produced by growing crops or raising livestock.

**Farmer:** a person who operates a farm.

**Farmer's Market:** a place where farmers or producers sell their products directly to the consumer.

**Farm Gate Value:** the cash value of a product when it leaves the farm.

**Farmstead:** an area that includes the human dwelling and other building which are often part of the farm.

**Farrier:** a person who trims, cuts, and fixes the hooves of horses and cattle; a blacksmith.

**Feed Conversion Rate:** the rate at which feed is converted into weight gain.

**Fertile:** a) of soil; capable of producing an abundance of crops, b) of animals; able to reproduce.

**Fertilizer:** a substance added to soil to make it more fertile.

**Fertilization:** the joining of male and female to produce offspring.

**Filly:** a more specific term for a female foal.

**Flora and Fauna:** plant and animal.

**Flour:** cracked or powdered grain used in baking.

**Foal:** a general term for a baby horse (noun); to give birth to a baby horse (verb).

**Food Processing:** operations which are done to prepare food for storage or sale (e.g. canning, freezing, pickling, drying, etc.).

**Forage:** grass and legume crops used for livestock feeds.

**Fowl:** any kind of bird.

**Free Trade:** international trade left to its natural course without tariffs, quotas, or other restrictions.

**Free Trade Agreement:** an agreement between countries of a particular region to allow certain goods and services to be traded among them without tariffs, quotas, or other restrictions.

**Fresh:** produce which has not undergone processing, such as freezing or canning.

**Fructose:** a simple sugar found in honey and fruits.

**Fruit:** the edible, mature, seed-bearing product of a plant.

**Fungicide:** a substance that kills fungus.

**Genetically Modified Organism (GMO):** an organism that has been developed by insertion of a gene from a source other than that species, through recombinant DNA technology. (There is increasing recognition that this term is misleading, as any organism that is modified by evolution, traditional plant breeding or mutation is "genetically modified").

**Germination:** the point at which a dormant seed begins to sprout, forming a new plant.

**Gestation:** the process of carrying in the womb during the period from conception to delivery.

**Gizzard:** the second part of a bird's stomach, used for grinding food.

**Goat:** a small mammal used for milk, meat and, in some cases, fiber.

**Goose:** a long-necked water bird; feathers used for stuffing in pillows, quilts, jackets, etc.

**Goslings:** baby geese.

**Grafting:** a method of plant propagation (reproduction) in which a piece of a desired plant (usually stems, buds or rootstock) is inserted into another plant so they unite and grow as one plant.

**Grain:** the edible, hard seed or kernel from cereal plants such as wheat, barley, corn, oats and rye.

**Grain Auger:** a machine used to move or elevate grain from one place to another (e.g. from a truck to a bin).

**Grass:** a narrow-leafed plant with seed-like grains grown for lawns and also used for pasture or grazing material for animals.

**Green manure:** a growing crop plowed under and mixed with the soil to provide organic matter and fertility.

**Grit:** hard particles such as sand or stone.

**Growth:** the development and maturing of a plant or animal.

**Habitat:** a place where the needs for food, water, and shelter of an organism are met.

**Harden Off:** acclimatize a plant to a change in its environment by gradually increasing exposure to the new environment.

**Harrow:** an implement used for light, shallow loosening of the soil, for preparing seed beds and for killing weeds.

**Harrowing:** loosening the top soil to prepare it for seeds and to get rid of weeds.

**Harvesting:** the collecting of produce from a crop.

**Hatch:** the emerging of the baby chick from the incubated egg.

**Hatchery:** a building that has specialized equipment for incubating and hatching eggs.

**Hay:** grasses and legumes grown to be harvested prior to maturity and stored as dried roughage.

**Head:** the portion of a plant which contains the seed (as in grain or grass).

**Heat:** the receptive period of the sexual cycle, especially in female animals.

**Heifer:** a young cow that has not borne any previous calves. She remains a heifer until her first calf is born.

**Hen:** a female chicken.

**Herbaceous Perennial:** a soft stemmed plant that lives from year to year by dying down to ground level at the end of each growing season.

**Herbicide:** a substance that kills plants.

**Herd:** a large group of cattle, sheep, goats or other animals.

**Honey:** a sweet liquid made in the hive by bees, and it can be used for human or animal feed.

**Hooves:** hard, horny feet on some animals (e.g. horses, cattle, goats, sheep).

**Horn:** a hard bony projection from the head of an animal (e.g. cattle, goats).

**Horse:** an animal which is used for riding or farm work; farm work includes stock handling and, in the past, pulling loads (draft).

**Horticulture:** the science and art of growing fruits, vegetables, ornamental trees, shrubs and flowers.

**Hydro-cool:** immerse in ice water to chill.

**Hybrid:** the offspring of two animals or plants of different breeds, varieties, species, or genera (especially as produced through human manipulation for specific genetic characteristics).

**Hydroponics:** the growing of plants in nutrient solutions with or without an inert medium to provide mechanical support.

**Intensive Cereal Management (ICM):** close monitoring of cereal crops enabling application of inputs at the most critical points for optimal and economical yields.

**Incubator:** an apparatus used to keep eggs warm while they are being hatched artificially.

**Inoculation:** using a needle to give a plant or an animal a substance which can aide in the prevention or curing of disease.

**Inspector:** a person who evaluates a farming operation or product according to standard guidelines.

**Integrated Pest Management (IPM):** close monitoring of pest (insect, disease, weed) populations and weather, and use of natural predators and selective pesticides to control the problem.

**Insecticide:** a substance that kills insects.

**Irrigation:** providing extra water in order to grow crops in a dry area.

**Kernels:** the individual seeds from stalks of grain.

**Kid:** a young goat.

**Lactation Period in cows:** the time from when a cow calves to the time when it is dried off to calve again; the period during which the cow is milked (approximately 305 days).

**Lamb:** a baby sheep (noun); to give birth to a lamb (verb).

**Laying Hen:** a hen which is specifically raised to produce eggs. (Also layer).

**Legumes:** a group of plants that have pods containing seeds and the ability to fix nitrogen from the air. Used for food and forage (e.g. beans, peas, clover, alfalfa).

**Litter:** straw, hay, wood shavings, or other materials used for bedding animals.

**Living Modified Organism (LMO):** any organism that is the result of biotechnology and is capable of metabolizing and reproducing.

**Mare:** an adult female horse.

**Mechanization:** the use and development of machines to replace hand and animal labour.

**Milking Machine:** an apparatus that attaches to a cow's or goat's teats and by vacuum draws the milk into a holding tank.

**Milking Parlour:** a place separate from the barn where cows or goats are milked.

**Moisture:** (for germination) the water required by a seed to sprout and later, to sustain life.

**Mulch:** a layer of material (bark, hay or plastic) put over the soil surface to protect the plants from erosion, crusting, drying, freezing or weed competition.

**Mule:** the sterile offspring of a horse and a donkey that is usually smaller in size and makes a different sound than a horse.

**NAFTA:** North America Free Trade Agreement, signed in 1993 to establish free trade guidelines between Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

**Neutering:** the removal of testicles from male animals; done for many reasons such as to prevent fighting and increase weight gain. (Castration).

**Oats:** a grain used primarily for animal feed and also as a cereal.

**Organic:** grown without the use of synthetic chemicals.

**Oxen:** adult, neutered, male bovines used for draft purposes; important in pioneer days.

**Pasture:** an area of grassy land where farm animals range and feed.

**Pasteurized:** the process of heating to partially sterilize a food to kill bacteria.

**Pathologist:** a specialist who deals with the nature of disease, especially the structural and functional changes caused by disease.

**Pen:** a stall for an animal.

**Perennial:** a plant that lives for more than two years.

**Pesticides:** manufactured chemicals, naturally occurring organisms, chemicals or devices which are used by the farmer to control plant, insect and disease pests that destroy crops or livestock. Pesticide use is carefully regulated to ensure safety to the environment, the food supply and the user.

**Pet:** an animal kept for the pleasure of its owner.

**Pig:** a short-legged, hoofed mammal with bristly hair and a flexible snout that is raised mainly for meat.

**Piglet:** a baby pig.

**Pheromones:** a chemical substance secreted and released by an animal for detection and response by another, especially for a member of its own species.

**Physiologist:** an expert who deals with the function and vital processes of living organisms.

**Plant:** (1) a living, multicellular organism that usually has no locomotion, has roots, cellulose, cell walls, and has capacity for indefinite growth (noun).  
(2) to place seeds in the soil to produce plants (verb).

**Pod:** the container for seeds on a legume plant.

**Pollinate:** the transfer of pollen from the male part of the flower to the female part of a flower to produce a fertilized egg that will develop into a seed.

**Pome Fruit:** a firm fleshed fruit in which multiple seeds are protected by a central core, e.g. apple, pear.

**Poultry:** a young fowl; a young turkey.

**Profit Margin:** the profit remaining in a business after all expenses have been deducted.

**Pullet:** a hen less than one year old.

**Quota:** a supply management system in which the amount produced is limited to the demands of the market.

**Ram:** a male sheep.

**Recombinant DNA technology:** genes from one species are introduced into a non-related organism.

**Retail Value:** the cash value of a product sold to the final consumer.

**Ripening:** the process of maturing in plants resulting in seeds that are fully developed and can be used to grow new plants.

**Rooster:** a male chicken.

**ROP:** record of production; keeps track of production in dairy, beef, sheep and hogs (e.g. weight gain, milk weight, amount of milk, amount of backfat, percent of butterfat in milk, etc.).

**Rootstock:** the underground part of a plant including a short portion of the stem onto which a scion can be grafted.

**Rural:** a place, person or thing which is related to the country or sparsely populated area.

**Ruminant:** an animal with four stomachs. Included are cattle, goats, sheep and deer.

**Rye:** a grain crop used for bread flour and for animal feed.

**Scion:** a portion of a stem used for grafting.

**Seed:** the reproductive portion of a plant.

**Seed Drill:** an implement used for planting the seeds in rows along the field.

**Seeding:** the process of putting seed in the ground to grow.

**Sheep:** a very adaptable animal covered in wool which is kept for meat and wool.

**Sheep dog:** a working dog used to herd sheep flocks.

**Sheep Shears:** clippers, usually electric, used to cut the wool from the sheep.

**Shelter:** a building or other structure which is used to protect animals from weather; animals usually go in and out on their own.

**Silage:** Grasses, legumes and corn grown, harvested and stored as a wet roughage feed for cattle.

**Silo:** a storage building or pit in which green hay or high-moisture grains are fermented and stored as animal feed.

**Spraying:** mechanically applying a mixture containing water to prevent/control the development of weeds, insects or diseases.

**Sprout:** the earliest emergence from a seed as it begins to germinate and grow.

**Stalk:** the straw or stem-like part of the plant that supports the seed head.

**Stallion:** an adult male horse used primarily for breeding.

**Steer:** a neutered male bovine used for its meat.

**Stem:** the stalk of a plant.

**Stock:** animals kept on the farm for production purposes.

**Stone Fruit:** a fruit with fleshy pulp that encloses a single seed in a hard shell, (e.g. peach, plum, cherry).

**Supermarket:** a place where food produce and other items are sold to consumers.

**Supply Management:** a distribution system in which the total quantity of a product produced in an industry is controlled, often through quotas. This maintains a level of financial return for the farmers.

**Sustainable Agriculture:** the practice of agriculture that over the long term conserves or enhances environmental quality and the resource base on which agriculture and society depends.

**Swather:** an implement used to cut down grain or grass and place it into rows for the baler or the combine to pick up.

**Taproot:** a tapering root that grows vertically downward in which a plant stores food, (e.g. carrot, turnip).

**Tariff:** a tax or duty to be paid on a particular class of imports or exports.

**Tractor:** a powerful, motor-driven machine used to pull implements and do other work on the farm

**Trough:** a container for drinking water or feed of farm animals.

**Turkey:** a large bird of the pheasant family which is native to North America and kept for its meat.

**Tuber:** a fleshy food-storing swelling of an underground stem, (e.g. potato).

**Vegetable:** any plant whose fruit, seeds, roots, tubers, bulbs, stems, leaves or flower parts are used for food. May be eaten raw or cooked.

**Vegetative Propagation:** ways of increasing plant numbers using leaves, stems, roots or other parts by techniques such as layering, cuttings or grafting.

**Veterinarian:** a person who treats diseases and injuries of animals.

**Watershed:** the entire land surface from which water ultimately drains into a particular stream or river system.

**Wean:** to accustom a young mammal to food other than its mother's milk.

**Weed:** a plant that is not valued where it is growing.

**Weed Control:** the elimination of unwanted vegetation from a crop, thus reducing the competition for nutrients, water, light, etc.

**Wheat:** a grain crop grown mainly for milling into flour.