

Flash back

- What was preindustrial society like before the Agricultural Revolution?
- How did the cottage system change the life of peasants?

The Agricultural Revolution and the Enclosure Movement

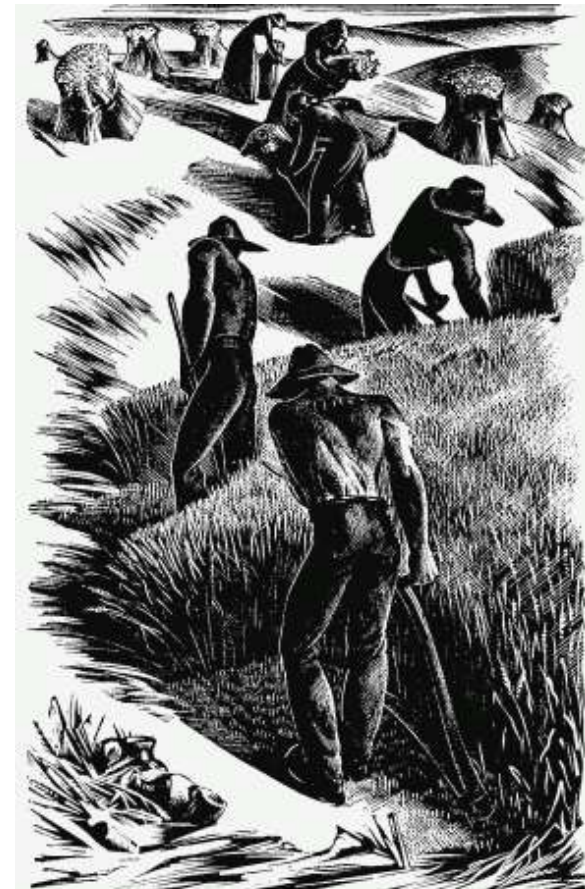


- ▶ The agricultural revolution begun long before the eighteenth century
- ▶ One important aspect was the acceptance of new crops such as corn or the potato, introduced from South America in the sixteenth century
- ▶ Potatoes yielded two to three times more food per acre than did the wheat, rye, and oats they replaced



OPEN-FIELD SYSTEM

- ▶ The land in each village was divided in 3 or 4 open (unfenced) fields.
- ▶ Fields subdivided in strips
- ▶ Villagers held number of strips around open fields
- ▶ Food grown on these strips
- ▶ Common and waste land were used for grazing animals and as a source of wood



- ▶ Turnips, legumes, and clover did not deplete the soil and could be fed to cattle, which were sources of milk and meat
- ▶ Manure from cattle in turn fertilized the soil for other crops



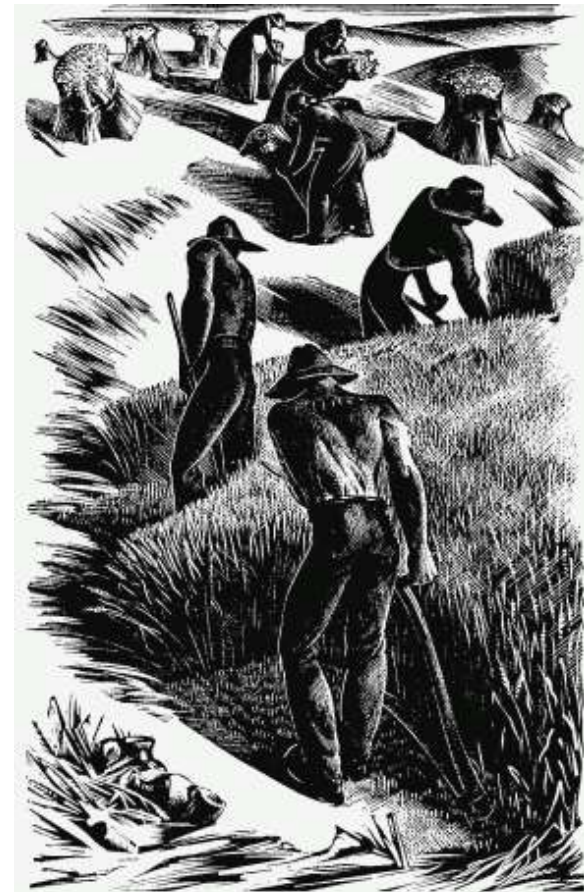
Turnips



Clover

OPEN-FIELD SYSTEM

- ▶ the security of small-scale tenant farmers and sharecroppers depended on traditional methods and rural customs such as:
 - collecting plants left over in the fields after harvest,
 - Feeding animals, and
 - gathering firewood in common woods



OPEN-FIELD SYSTEM

Disadvantages:

- ▶ Land between strips remained unploughed (wasted).
 - ▶ Drainage inefficient because of strip division.
 - ▶ crop rotation to restore the land
 - ➡ one of the 3 fields left fallow each year
 - ➡ little winter fodder for animals which had to be slaughtered in autumn.
 - ▶ No hedges around the fields
 - ➡ animals caused damage to crops
 - ➡ no development of special breeds
 - ➡ animal diseases spread rapidly
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Land Enclosure

- ▶ Only prosperous landowners could afford trying new methods & crops
- ▶ Rich landowners therefore “enclosed” the land and got Parliament to give them title to the commons that in the past were open to all



Enclosure

By 1700, only about half of the farmland in England still used the Open-Field System. The rest had been **enclosed** by acts of parliament.

Enclosure meant that the common land and the three fields were reorganized and redistributed. A farmer's land was now all in one area and he could enclose his fields with fences and hedges.



Each farmer could choose which crops to grow, try new crops and ideas and control **selective breeding**. Farming became more efficient and more productive.

What were the benefits of enclosure?



The effects of enclosure

Enclosure increased the efficiency of farming in England, but it wasn't good news for everyone who lived in the countryside.

What type of farmland was lost during enclosure?

How might this have made life more difficult for some villagers?

Many poorer people relied on common land to supplement their tiny incomes. After enclosure, they could no longer graze a few animals, collect tinder or pick berries.



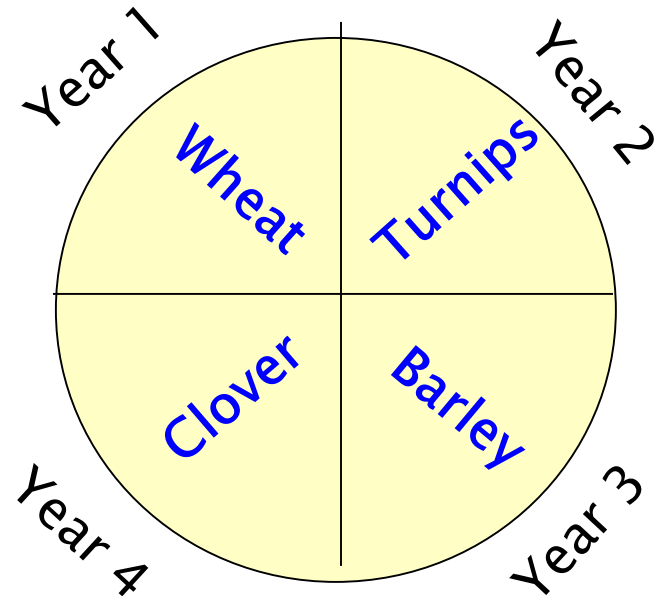
Crops – what changed?

Many farmers sought to improve their **crop yields**: they improved the soil by muck spreading, adding lime or planting crops which put nitrogen back into the ground.

Fodder crops, such as turnips and clover, were grown. These helped restore the soil's fertility

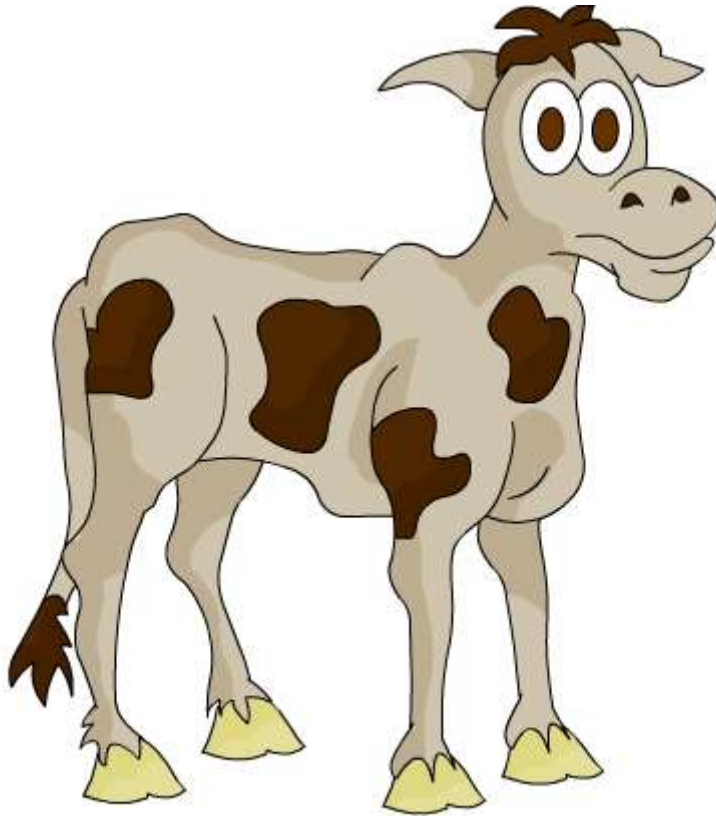
➡ No need to leave the land **fallow**.

These new crops could be fed to livestock



How did the farmers produce more meat?

As a result, cattle more than doubled in weight and sheep more than tripled between 1710 and 1795.



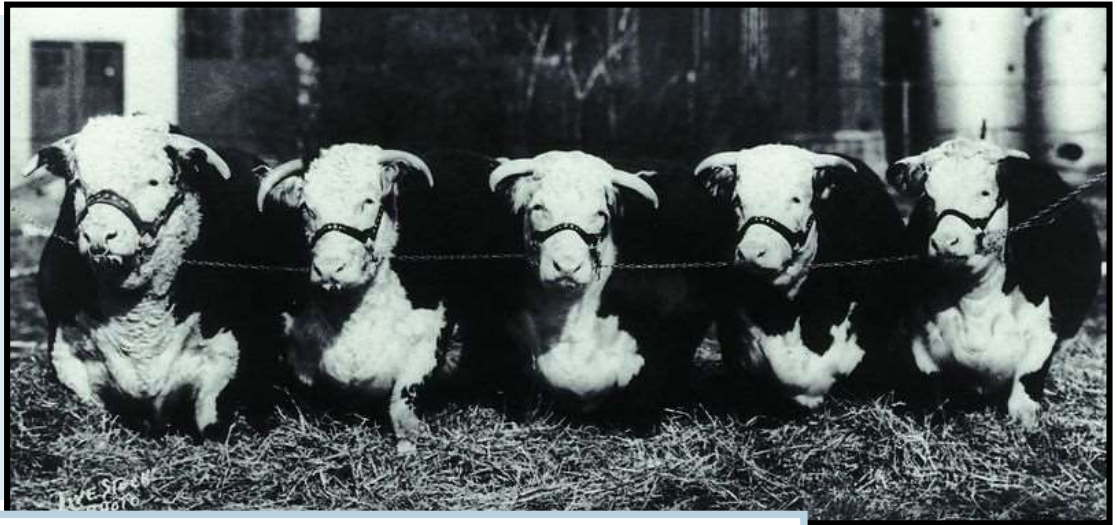
Enclosure also prevented the **spread of disease** from one herd to another.



How did the farmers produce more meat?

Enclosure allowed farmers to control the breeding of their livestock because the animals could be separated into different fields.

The farmer could then **select** the best individuals to breed to produce the biggest, healthiest offspring.



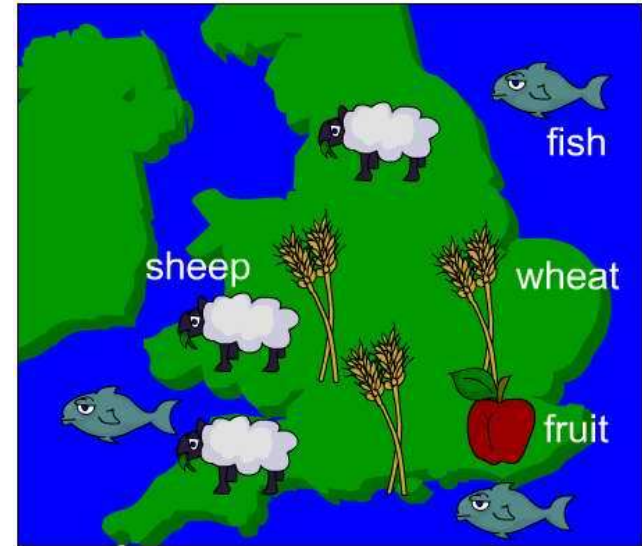
This is known as **selective breeding**.



Specialization

Before 1750, most people were **subsistence farmers**: produced only what they needed to survive. Families grew a little corn, some root vegetables and kept a few animals.

After enclosure farmers could **specialize** in crops or animals best suited to their local climate, soil and terrain.



Farming became far more productive.

Farmers became experts in their specialist produce.



New machinery

Before 1750, farming was done by hand, with horses pulling ploughs and carts.



With the growth of the iron industry, new duty tools could be **mass produced**.



Horse power



Horses were usually a farmers most valuable possession in 1750, as they were the only alternative to hand-power.



Horse power



During the 19th century, machinery was designed that could do the work of several men, but was often still horse-powered.



Effects of the Agricultural Revolution

Life in the countryside changed dramatically during the Agricultural Revolution.

Without access to common land, those who had very small farms, or no land at all, faced financial difficulties.

Yield improvement meant that fewer labourers were needed.



- ➡ Many people in the countryside found themselves out of work and left to find work in the new industrial towns.
- ➡ Rich landowners increased production through innovative techniques



Let's Sum Up

Q1 – How did the cottage Industry serve as a transition from a rural to an industrial economy?

Two concepts

- ➡ wage labor, cloth production, tools and machines,
- ➡ a market to buy and sell raw materials (cotton) and finished products (clothes).

