

Farming in Colonial America:

Farmers in Colonial America had a lot to do. There were fields to be tilled, planted, and weeded. There were livestock to be tended, fences to be mended, and often tools to be fixed or made. They often worked from sun up to sundown with help from everyone in the family, including children.

When the colonists first arrived they had a lot to learn about farming in America. They relied on Native Americans to teach them how to grow crops like corn, beans, and squash. However, they did bring seeds for wheat, barley, and oats. They also brought livestock like pigs, cows, horses, and chickens from Europe. And most importantly they brought tools, which they traded to the Native Americans.

Colonial farmers had many tools, many of which they made themselves. They used yokes and plows, which were hooked to horses or oxen, to make turning up the soil easier. They used hoes to dig and weed and scythes to harvest or cut down crops like wheat. If a tool broke they couldn't go to the store to buy a new one, so they either fixed it or made a new tool.

Depending on the geography, the size of a farm and the crops that it grew varied. In some colonies, it was easier to farm than in others. If farmers lived in the northern colonies, they had to contend with long winters and rocky soil. They often had to hunt and fish to have enough for their families to eat. If they lived in the southern colonies, farming was a bit easier. The winters were shorter and warmer and the soil was better. They often had larger farms, called plantations, and grew crops like tobacco to sell to Europe. These kinds of farms were too much work for a single family so they used the money they earned growing tobacco to buy slaves from Africa. Slaves did much of the work on farms in the South. Overall, working on a colonial farm was no easy job no matter where you lived.

Lexile: 950