

The Golden Age of Agriculture 1850 - 1875

Why was there a 'Golden Age of Agriculture'?

1. The _____ in 1846 forced British farmers to become more efficient as they now faced foreign competition.
2. There was a growing demand for _____. The population was still increasing. There was a rise in the standard of living among industrial workers who had more _____ to spend.
3. The rapid growth of the _____ in the 1840s had a huge impact on British farming. Farmers could reach a wider market and therefore sell more produce. Farmers could receive artificial fertilisers, feedstuffs and machinery from the _____.
4. Foreign countries which might have exported their _____ to Britain needed the surplus for themselves. Hence it was largely home grown grain which was being sold in Britain.
5. New machinery and new _____ made it easier to carry out changes quickly and on a big scale.
6. Most of the land in Britain had been _____ by the end of the 1840s.

Many farmers during this period of _____ Farming invested money in agricultural improvements in order make their farms more _____. There were many new farming ideas which were actively encourage and explained by various new organisations.

Selective Breeding

Selective breeding was further improved in this period. There were signs that _____ farming was becoming more important than arable farming. There were new breeds such as the _____ sheep produced by Bakewell, Aberdeen _____ beef cattle, and the Suffolk _____ (huge work horses).

Model Farms

Farmers invested money in improving and reorganising farm buildings in order to improve _____; e.g. tramways ran alongside the cattle sheds leading to the feedstuffs at one end and the manure house at the other. Animals were stall fed so that they quickly put on _____.

Mechanisation

Steam Powered Machinery

Machines now became popular on farms. Machinery could be produced easily and cheaply by the new _____ industry. Steam engines were now used in farming and drove many machines such as _____, chaff cutters, turnip _____, ploughs and water _____. These machines speeded up work, saved _____ costs and therefore increased the yield. These machines were owned by _____ and hired out to farmers. Specialist firms made these machines e.g. _____ of Ipswich and Howard's of _____.

Bedford	pastoral	Lincoln	contractors	Angus
labour	Punch	slicers	efficiency	threshers
		weight	Iron	