

Sayings About Farm Life (Part 2)

(Story words: tool, dry)

Farmers plant seeds, and this is called sowing. Once plants grow and ripen, farmers harvest the crop, and this is called reaping. When people say, “You reap what you sow,” they mean people often deserve what happens to them later because of their past deeds. Let’s say that a person cheated others in past deals and now was being excluded from a new deal. Then, someone might say, “Well, you reap what you sow.” Today, people might say, “What goes around, comes around,” to express a similar idea.

Before planting seeds, farmers have to prepare the ground and turn over the dirt so that the ground is fit for new crops to grow. They will plant the seeds in neat rows so that it will be clear where the new plants are. They use a tool called a hoe which chops the hard ground with a blade. Some ground is much harder to chop than other ground. When people say, “That looks like a hard row to hoe,” they

are expressing the idea that a particular plan or effort will be tough to accomplish.

Farmers harvest hay when it is dry outside. If you gather hay that is damp or wet, the hay rots and becomes useless. The saying, "Make hay while the sun shines," expresses the idea that people should be active and work hard when times are promising because these are the best times for making progress on goals.

For people who lived on farms, the farm was a thing of extreme value. Thus, when someone says, "You can bet the farm on that," they are expressing complete faith in something. In contrast, if people say, "I would not bet the farm on that," they are saying that they do not have that faith.