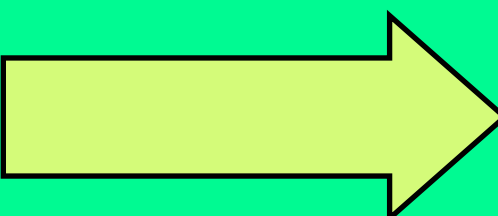


At the Farm

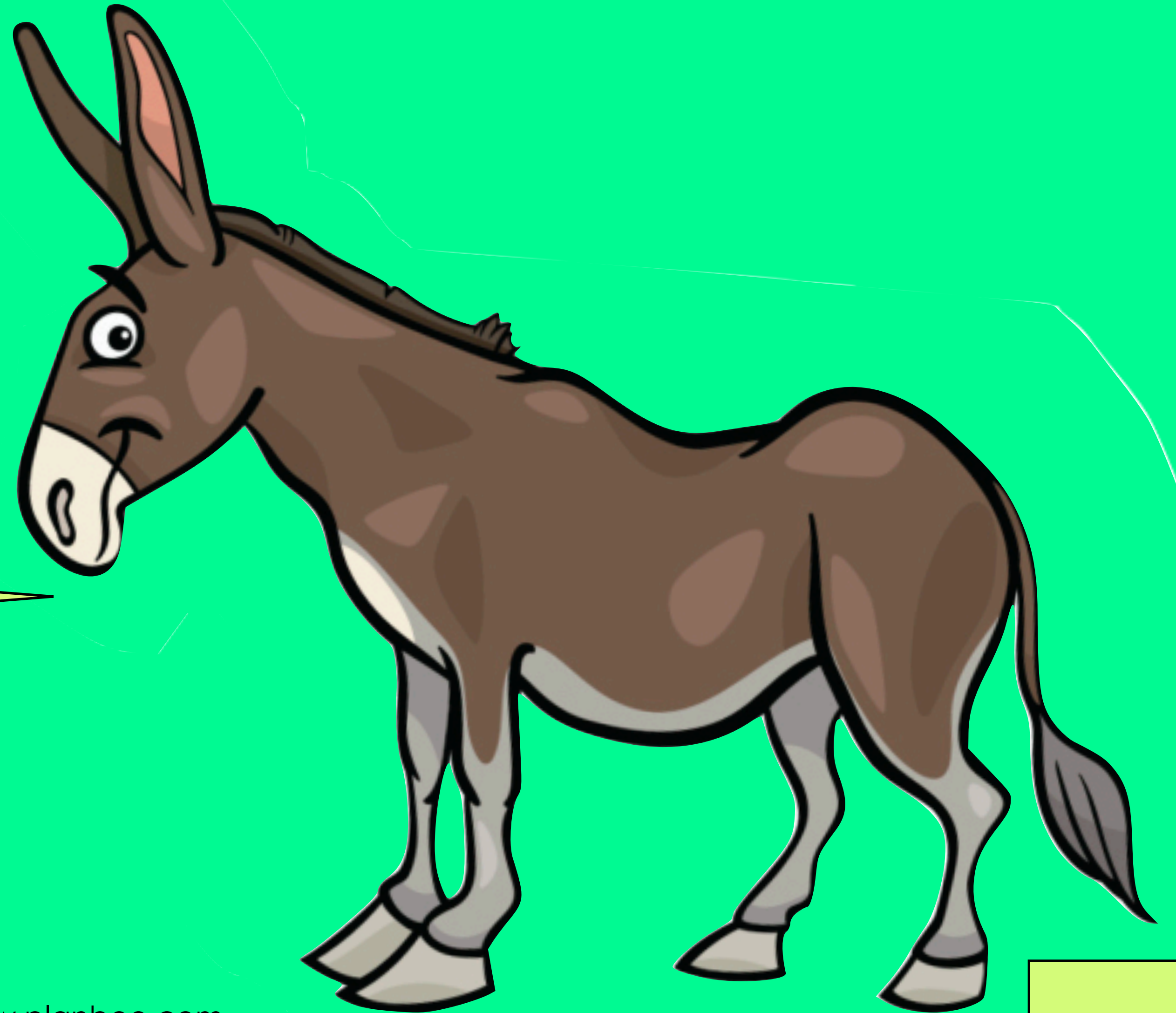
Today we will be...

Exploring how the seasons affect life on a farm.



Farms are busy places all year round but different things happen on a farm during different seasons.

Do you know what the four seasons of the year are?





The four seasons are spring, summer, autumn and winter.



Spring



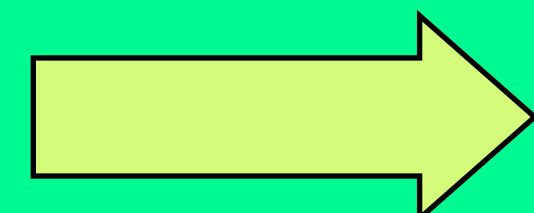
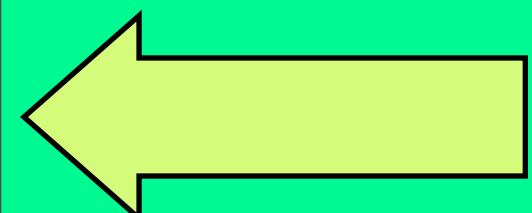
Summer



Autumn

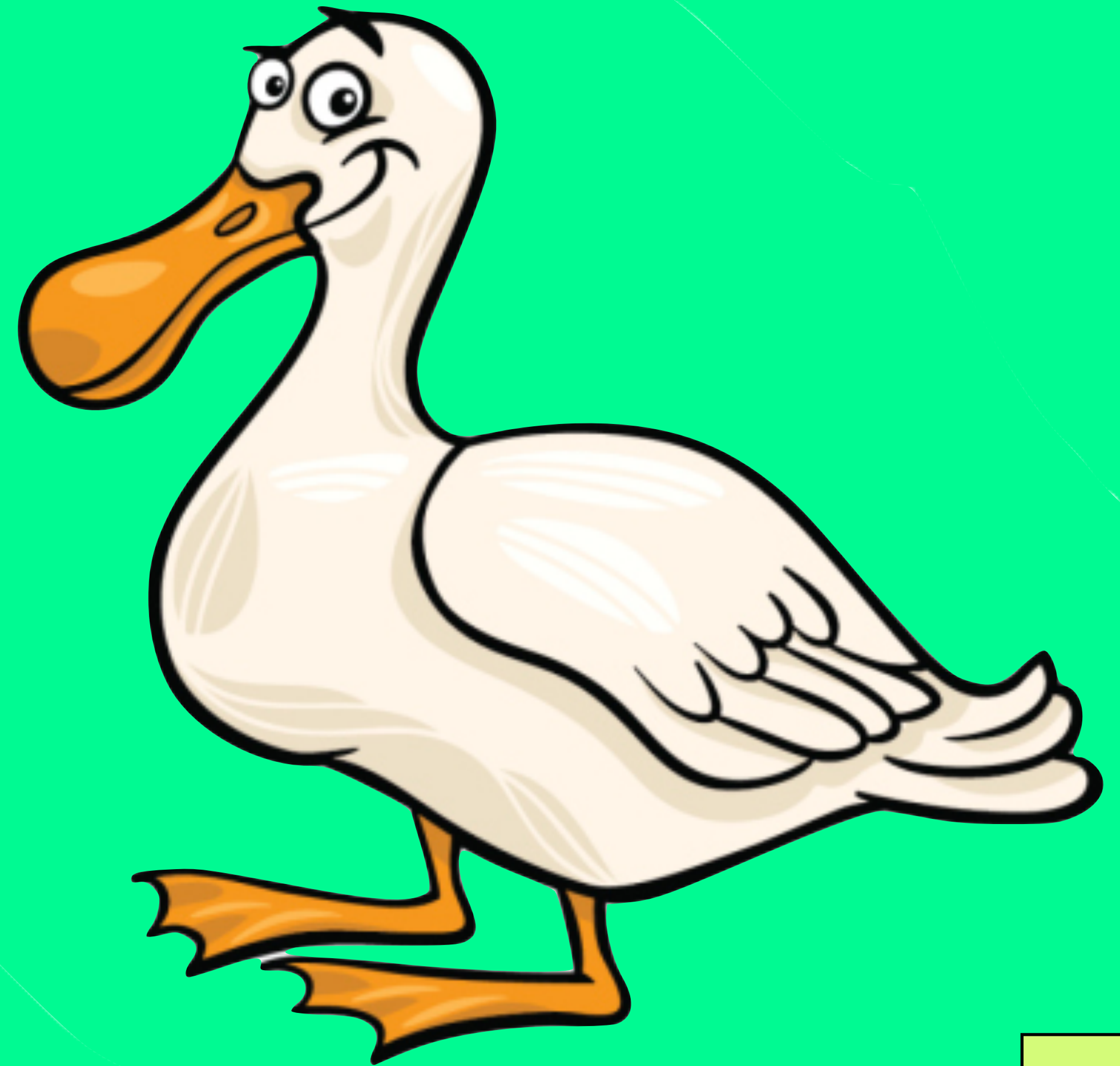


Winter



Winter is the coldest season of the year. There is often frost on the ground in the mornings and there is sometimes snow and ice. In winter, the days are short and the nights are very long.

What do you think happens on a farm in winter?





In winter, most animals are brought inside which means they have to eat hay instead of fresh grass in the fields.

Lots of farmers start ploughing their fields in winter to get the soil ready for planting in the spring.





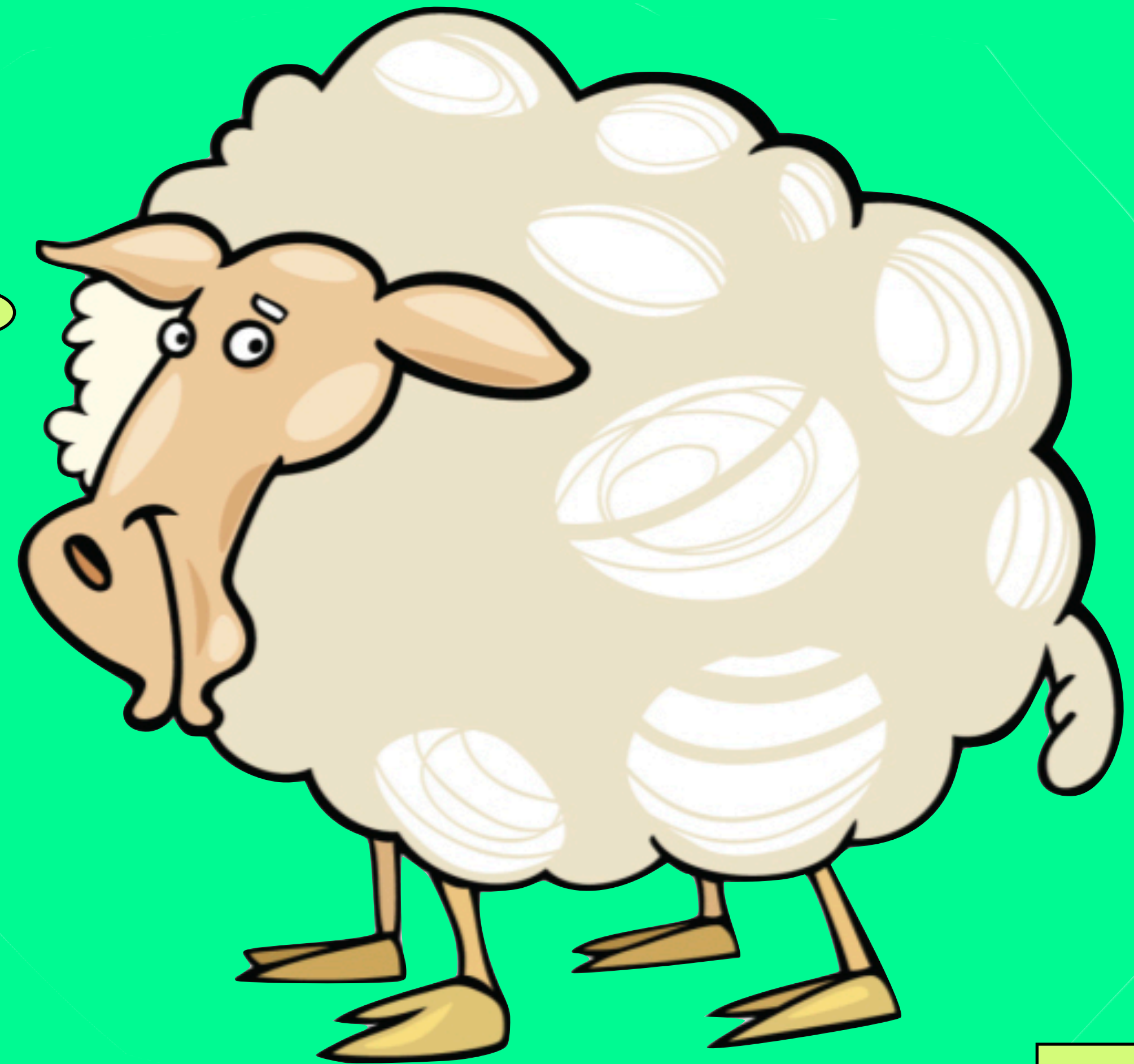
Some crops are hardy enough to grow in winter. Vegetables like Brussels sprouts, cabbages and turnips are in season at this time of year.



Can you see the Brussels sprouts on this plant?

Spring is the season after winter when the weather starts getting warmer, days start getting longer and nights start getting shorter.

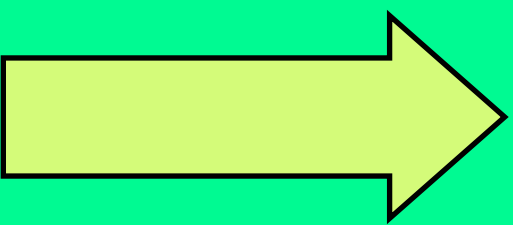
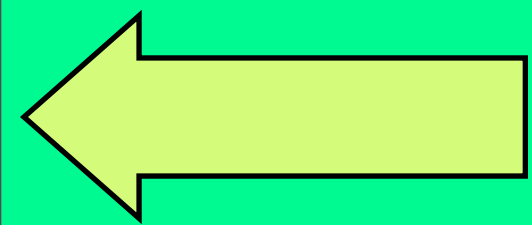
What do you think happens on a farm in spring?



Lots of baby animals are born in springtime. Lambs, chicks, calves, ducklings and fowls are all born in spring.



Animals that have been kept inside are now able to go outside and eat the fresh grass again.

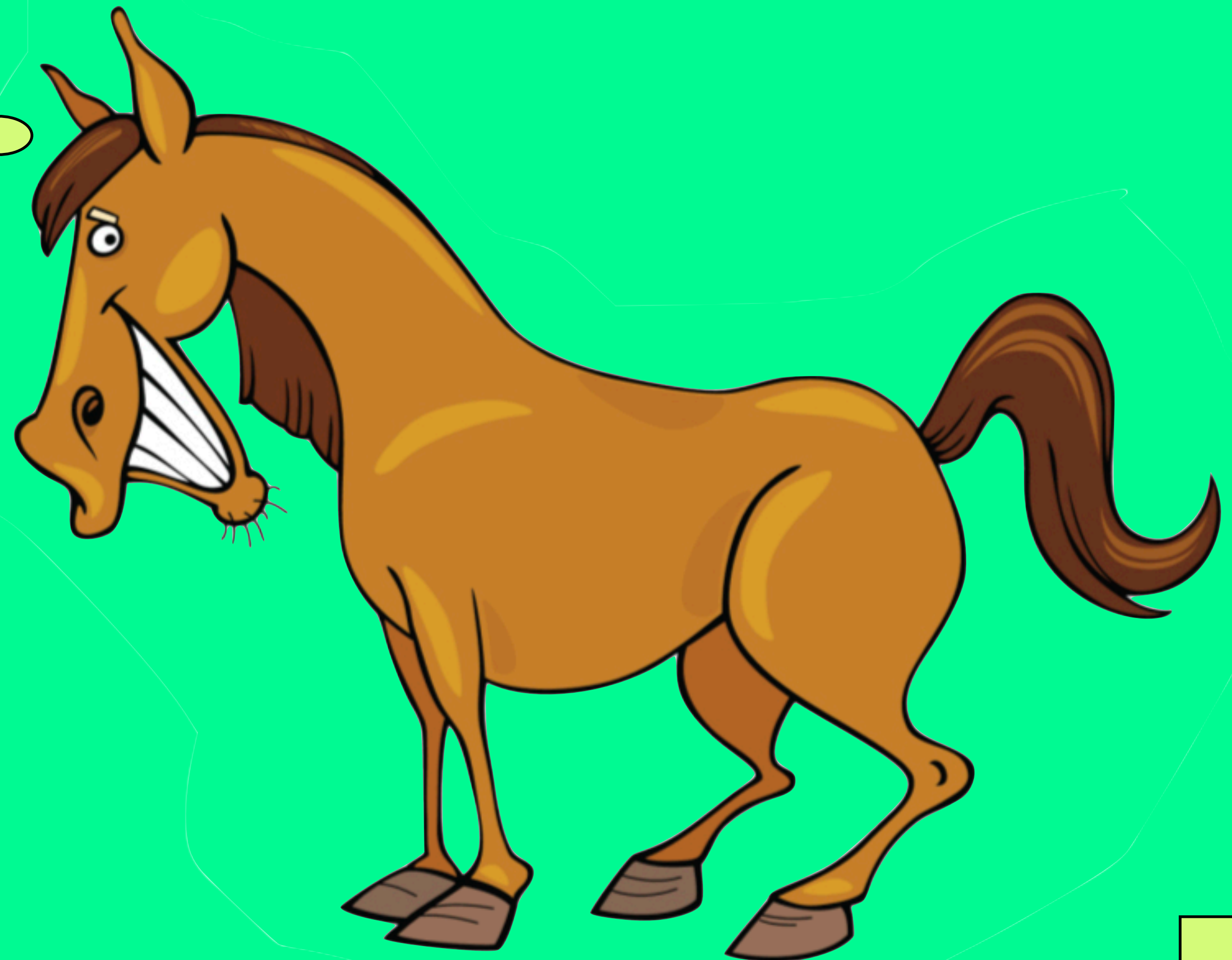




Fruit trees, such as apple and cherry trees, grow blossom.

Summer is the season after spring. Summer is the warmest season of the year. The days are long and the nights are short.

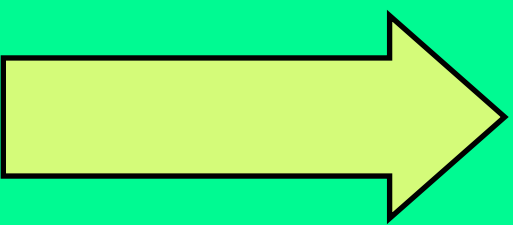
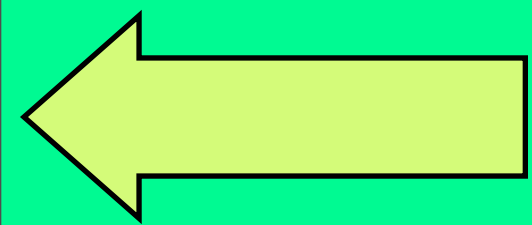
What do you think happens on a farm in summer?



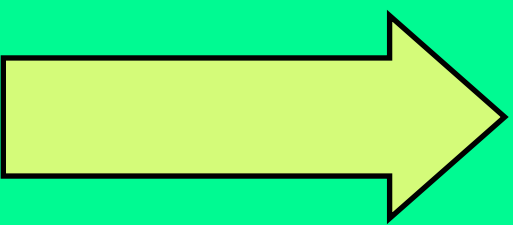
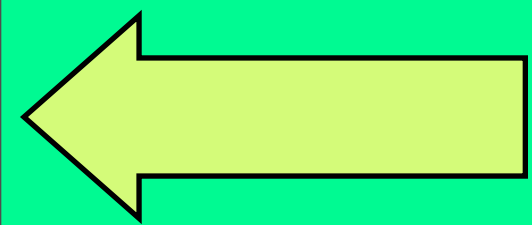
Long grass is cut, dried and make into hay bales. Hay is used as feed and bedding for lots of animals, including animals that don't live on farms.



Lots of crops grow and ripen over the summer, such as wheat. Many berries, fruits and vegetables are already fully ripe and ready to be picked and eaten.

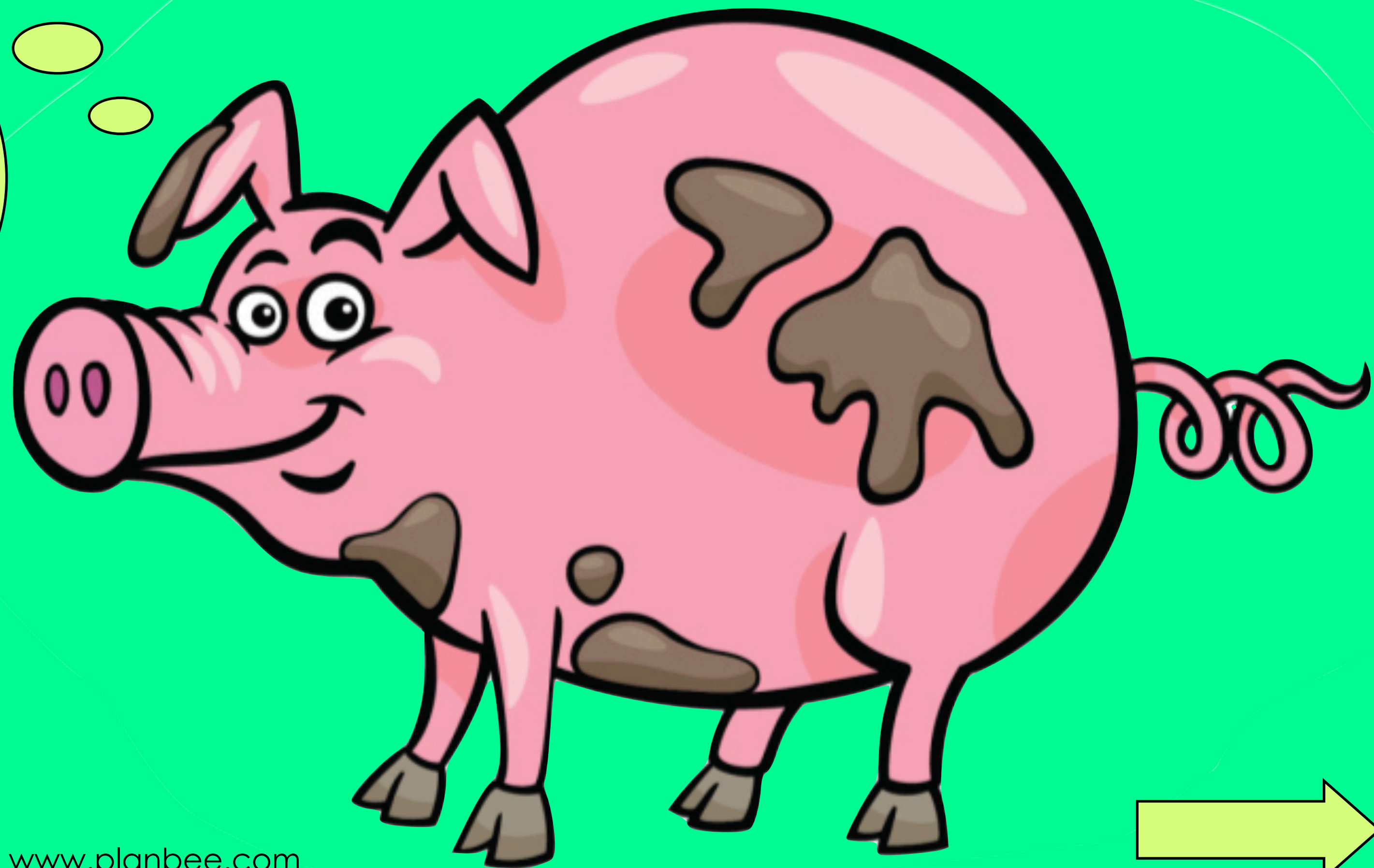


Sheep are sheared in the summer. This means that their thick, woollen coats are shaved off. The wool is then packed and sold to be used for making clothes, carpets and other things.

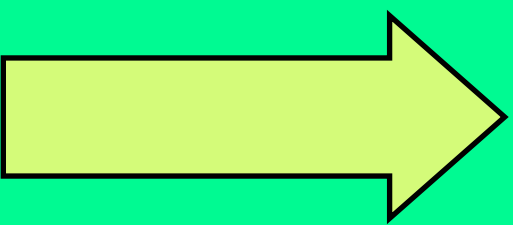
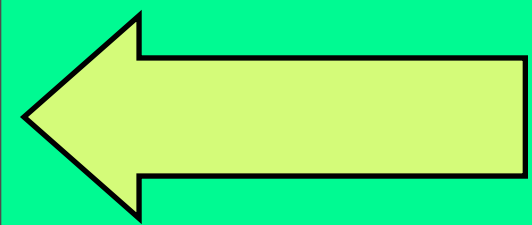


Autumn is the season after summer and before winter. The weather starts getting colder, the days get shorter and the nights start getting longer.

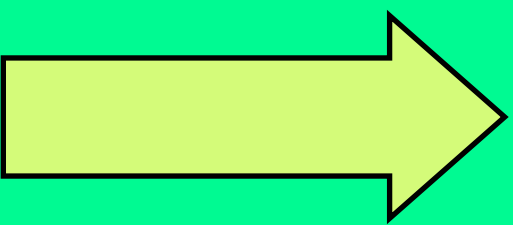
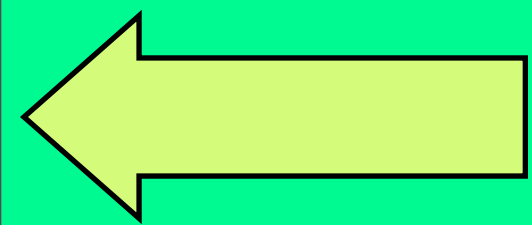
What do you think happens on a farm in autumn?



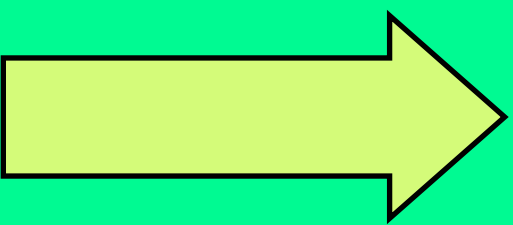
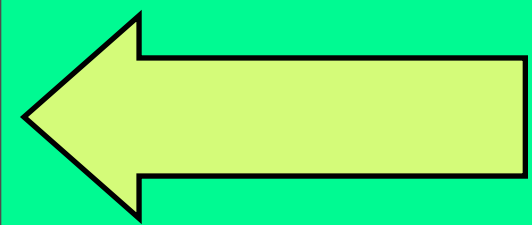
By autumn, most of the crops are ready to be harvested (if they haven't already been). Farmers harvest wheat and other cereal crops, as well as vegetables like carrots, squashes and potatoes, and fruits like apples, pears and rhubarb.

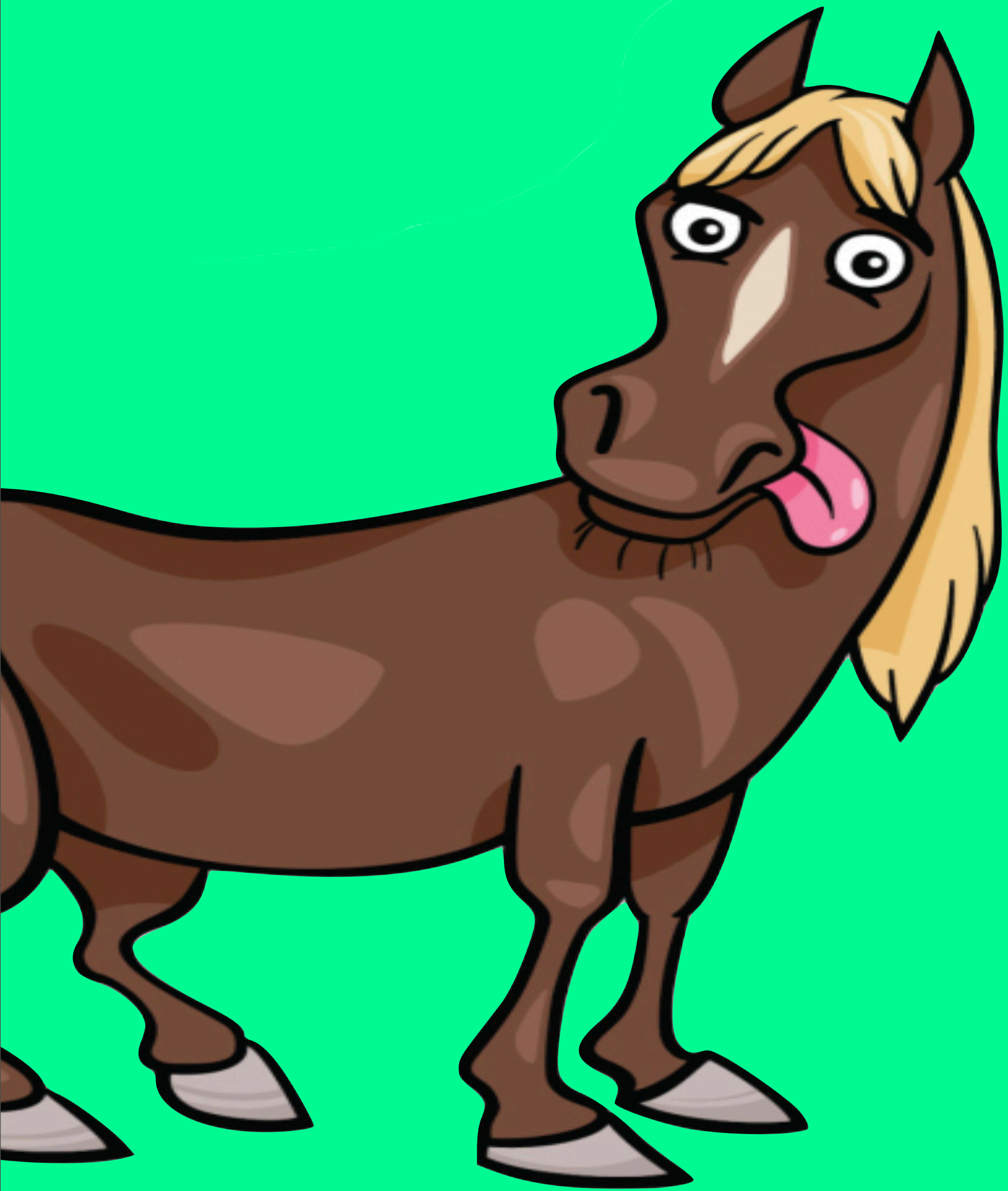


Fields are ploughed and fertilised so that the new winter crops can be sown.



When the temperature starts getting colder, grass stops growing as much so there isn't as much for the animals to eat. Farmers give the animals extra food called silage which is grass that has been dried and compacted so that it can be used during the cold months.





During which season would you most like to visit a farm? Why?

