



HIBERNO ⊕ NORSE ⊕ WIRRAL

animal husbandry

The knowledge of animal husbandry, the care and value of animals was of great importance to the Hiberno Norse.

The type of animals that would live on a farm depended upon the location and climate in which they were reared. Each animal served a particular purpose

These animals could include cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses and even oxen. The animals provided meat, milk, wool and hides for making into clothing and other items. On the salt marshes of Wirral or the plains of Bog Myrtle the animals lived in quite harsh conditions. The local farmers would also fish to supplement their diet as well as grow crops and collect berries and other items for food.

Special selective breeding would be developed locally in order to maximise the health and wellbeing of their animals. Sheep for example were especially important for their wool so pasture grazing would be employed to make sure the animals had the best grazing they could have.

Horses and oxen could also be used to cultivate land. Cattle provided meat, milk, hides for clothing and were a symbol of a wealthy farm. Sheep were the main source of wool for clothing. Their secondary use was for milk and meat.

Goats offered a good source of meat and milk, and their hides could be used for water skins. Pigs were used for meat production. Horses were vital for transportation and farm work. If you owned a horse it was also classed like oxen as a status symbol.