



HIBERNORSE WIRRAL

Farming

Farming in ancient times was a very laborious process. Maintaining land for crops and hay that could be used to feed families and animals.

Fields next to the vikings homesteads was usually where the best hay was grown. This hay was protected by the animals in the outer fields. Grasses and hay played an essential role in animal husbandry crops. Plants, cultivated for many uses included a variety of plants, vegetables, herbs, medicinal plants and dye plants.

Ground had to be prepared for planting seeds. Sometimes the edge of the field would be enclosed in fences or hurdles. Wooden spades, hand shovels, hoes and tilling tools were used to prepare the ground for sowing. Stones and roots removed by hand to give the best surface as possible to sow into. Seeds, kept dry over the winter would be planted carefully, held in small bags or in folds in tunics. We do not know of ancient watering devices so assume buckets, bowls or cups were used to water the seedlings. Careful, constant monitoring would allow the plants to grow. The plants and crops would eventually be harvested using sickles and scythes and the crops processed so they could be maintained to last as long as possible.

Grasses cut and dried for hay would be stacked onto hay heaps and dried, the kale preserved in whey and the herbs stacked to dry in rafters.. Some crops required further processing. Barley and rye, would need to be separated from the straw and husks, the grains would have to be ground into flour and utility crops would need to be processed into fibres for processing.