

Agriculture

Many of our ancestors worked on the land in various guises. Some might have been land-owning Farmers and others might have been the humble Agricultural Labourer – or Ag Lab. Whatever role they played, without them, the agricultural industry would have ground to a halt.

What did they do?

Here are just a few of the agricultural occupations that you might come across:

Dairyman - A man who was employed in a dairy or sold dairy products.

Farm Bailiff - Collected rents from Tenant Farmers and ensured that the farms were being run correctly. If not, the Bailiff could evict them.

Gamekeeper - Responsible for ensuring that there was enough game available for hunting. Sometimes abbreviated to 'Keeper'.

Grazier - A person who reared or fattened cattle or sheep for market

Horsekeeper - The man who was responsible for the working horses on a farm. Many Shire Horses were used to pull ploughs before mechanisation

Husbandman - A tenant farmer.

Nurseryman - Worked in a nursery, often on the edge of a town.

Shepherd - It was not unusual for the Shepherd to stay out on the land with his sheep, especially at lambing times. Therefore, you may even find your ancestor enumerated in census with their address being 'Caravan, Waltons Field, Ashdon' or similar.

Yeoman - Someone who owned the land that he farmed, rather than being a tenant farmer.

Please be aware that this is just a small list of Agricultural-related occupations and you will probably discover a lot more.

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If you have a question about your Ag Labs or Farmers, we have a forum where you can post those questions. Register for FREE at <http://www.genealogy-specialists.com/> and tell us about the ancestor that you are researching. The members will do their best to help you.

If you would like to discover more about Agricultural Ancestors, or want to know more about their lives, listed below are some products that will certainly help you - and all of them are available from [www.parishchest.com](http://www.parishchest.com). Just pop the reference number in the website search box to see the details:

- My Ancestor was an Agricultural Labourer Ref: SOG-1192x
- The English Village Community Ref: ANG-ARA 16

- The Empty Fields: The Agricultural Strike of 1914 Ref: IHP-4275
- The History of Work and Wages Ref: ANG-ARA 137
- Ploughs, Chaff Cutters and Steam Engines Ref: LHA-20
- English Farming Past and Present Ref: ANG-ARA 393

Many more products are also available from Parish Chest that would be specific to the area that you are researching. Use the website search box and pop in key words such as **Agriculture** and **Farm**. You never know what you might find!