

Part 2

4.

Track 16

I didn't get into farming by the normal route, I have to say! Most of my farming friends have parents who are farmers, or they didn't do very well at school, so they went to farming college because they wanted to do something practical. There aren't many of my colleagues who got top grades in their exams like I did. But I've learnt that when it comes to farming, exam grades mean nothing. I'm an average farmer at best!

So after leaving school, I went to university of course, and the work was quite hard. A lot of the students felt the stress of the work, they were up until two in the morning doing their essays... I wasn't really as hard-working as most students. I attended my lectures and did enough work to pass my exams, but I didn't excel, like I had done at secondary school. But I graduated with a reasonable grade. I thought that having a degree would guarantee me an interesting job, but that's not the case at all. I applied for lots of interesting jobs, but there were always so many candidates that I never had a chance. I got an office job pretty soon, because of course I had to earn money. I couldn't just refuse to work because none of the jobs were interesting enough... if only!

Oh, but the work was really dull. I don't know what's worse: a stressful job or a boring job. At least stressful jobs are interesting, but I did the same thing every day. It drove me crazy! I was actually quite pleased when the boss announced that the company was closing down because it had run out of money, and we were all out of work!

That's when I started working on the farm. It was summer you see, and I fancied a job working outdoors, where I could enjoy the sunshine instead of being inside an office all day. So I went to a farm and picked strawberries. In the autumn, I stayed on, doing jobs around the farm. Now, I'm employed here full-time.

I'm happy here, I have to say. I don't miss office work at all. I love working with my hands and seeing things grow, even though the work has no connection to my qualifications at all! So I'm not planning on leaving, far from it. I'm going to stay on and learn as much as I can about farming while I'm here. Eventually, I might hire my own land and machinery and see what I can produce on my own.