Practical Farming Skills





This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

Topic	Skill	Main Seasons			
	These are some of the common practical skills that farm volunteers might use, without machines	This may vary in different regions and climates of Europe			and
		Winter	Spring	Summer	Autumn
Bees	Siting a hive		1		
Bees	Capturing a swarm		1		
Bees	Hiving a swarm		1		
Bees	Adding and removing supers		1	1	
Bees	Clearing supers		1	1	
Bees	Inspecting hives		1	1	1
Bees	Recognising queen, drones and workers		1	1	1
Bees	Killing queen cells		1	1	
Bees	Recognising diseases and ill-health		1	1	1
Bees	Making wax			1	1
Bees	Extracting honey			1	1
Bees	Bottling honey			1	1
Cattle	Handling cattle	1	1	1	1
Cattle	Managing slurry	1	1	1	1
Cattle	Feeding cattle – rations	1	1	1	1

Cattle	Milking cows – by hand and machine	1	1	1	1
Cattle	Drying off cows			1	
Cattle	Bulling cows			1	1
Cattle	Calving	1	1		
Cattle	Suckling calves		1		
Cattle	Weaning calves			1	
Cattle	Introducing to pasture		1		
Cattle	Recognising age				
Cattle	Recognising breeds	1	1	1	1
Cattle	Recognising health – on heat, due to calve			1	
Cattle	Handling milk		1	1	1
Cattle	Recognising pests and diseases	1	1	1	1
Goats	Feeding – rations	1			1
Goats	Kidding	1	1		
Goats	Milking – by hand and machine		1	1	
Goats	Recognising age				
Goats	Recognising health – on heat, due to kid	1			
Goats	Recognising breeds	1	1	1	1
Goats	Recognising ill health, diseases	1	1	1	1
Goats	Tethering			1	
Goats	Trimming hooves			1	
Goats	Handling	1	1	1	1
Goats	Cleaning housing	1			1
Dairy	Setting, operating machines		1	1	
Dairy	Cleaning equipment	1		1	1
Dairy	Making butter		1	1	
Dairy	Making cream		1	1	
Dairy	Making hard, soft cheese		1	1	1
Dairy	Making ice cream		1	1	
Dairy	Making yoghurt		1	1	
Working horses	Handling	1	1	1	1
Working horses	Feeding – bait, rations	1	1	1	1
Working horses	Watering	1	1	1	1
Working horses	Grooming, filing molars	1	1	1	1

Working horses	Removing shoes				
Working horses	Training for work with implements		1	1	
Working horses	Leading and backing				
Working horses	Mucking out stables	1	1	1	1
Working horses	Harnessing				
Working horses	Cleaning tackle			1	
Working horses	Recognising health	1	1	1	1
Pigs	Cleaning sty	1	1		
Pigs	Fencing – electric, posts	1	1		
Pigs	Feeding – for breeding, fattening		1	1	1
Pigs	Handling and moving	1	1	1	1
Pigs	Feeding – swill, mash		1	1	1
Pigs	Breeding			1	
Pigs	Farrowing			1	
Pigs	Weaning piglets	1			1
Pigs	Housing - for breeding, fattening			1	1
Pigs	Preparing carcass – scalding, scrapping	1	1		
Pigs	Butchering – skinning, gutting, jointing	1	1		
Pigs	Preserving and curing meat				
Poultry	Feeding – grain, grit, mash, pellets, scraps	1	1	1	1
Poultry	Cleaning poultry house	1	1	1	1
Poultry	Handling – disinfecting, whitewashing				
Poultry	Recognising layers				
Poultry	Handling poultry manure				
Poultry	Incubating – setting up, checking		1		
Poultry	Candling eggs		1		
Poultry	Housing, feeding hatchlings		1	1	
Poultry	Recognising sexes	1	1	1	1
Poultry	Killing poultry	1	1	1	1
Poultry	Plucking, gutting, preparing	1	1	1	1
Poultry	Preserving eggs				1
Poultry	Protecting from predators	1	1	1	1
Poultry	Recognising ill-health, diseases	1	1	1	1
Poultry	Recognising breeds	1	1	1	1
Poultry	Recognising health	1	1	1	1

Sheep	Handling, Casting	1	1	1	1
Sheep	Dipping				
Sheep	Drenching				
Sheep	Trimming feet		1		1
Sheep	Recognising health, age	1	1	1	1
Sheep	Recognising ill health – footrot, strike, scab			1	
Sheep	Recognising breeds	1	1	1	1
Sheep	Lambing	1			
Sheep	Fitting sire harness			1	
Sheep	Switching lambs		1		
Sheep	Weaning lambs		1		
Sheep	Milking ewes		1	1	
Sheep	Shearing – hand, electric		1		1
Sheep	Making bundles - fleece	1			
Sheep	Teasing, carding	1			
Sheep	Spinning, dyeing	1			
Grassland	Fencing – electric	1	1	1	1
Grassland	Fencing – wood, wire, tape, netting	1	1		
Grassland	Walling – dry stone	1			
Grassland	Hedgelaying	1			
Grassland	Recognising timing of use				
Grassland	Recognising pasture esp. poisonous plants			1	1
Grassland	Grazing – strip, rotational, block and back fencing	1			1
Grassland	Clearing scrubland, nettles				
Grassland	Scything for hay			1	
Grassland	Preserving hay – Stooking, haylage, organic silage			1	
Grassland	Carting hay bales			1	
Grassland	Stacking hay bales			1	
Hand Tools	Using axe	1			1
Hand Tools	Using billhook	1			1
Hand Tools	Using bowsaw	1			1
Hand Tools	Using slasher	1			1
Hand Tools	Using sickle			1	
Hand Tools	Using scythe			1	

Hand Tools	Using pruners, loppers	1			1
Hand Tools	Using secateurs	1			1
Hand Tools	Using garden shears				
Hand Tools	Using pitchfork	1	1	1	1
Hand Tools	Using fork	1	1	1	1
Hand Tools	Using trowel	1	1	1	1
Hand Tools	Using spade – digging	1	1	1	1
Hand Tools	Using shovel	1	1	1	1
Hand Tools	Using hoe – draw, push		1	1	
Hand Tools	Using rake	1	1	1	1
Hand Tools	Using wheel hoe		1	1	
Hand Tools	Sowing seeds – rows, broadcast		1		
Hand Tools	Planting out		1	1	
Hand Tools	Using post rammer	1			1
Hand Tools	Using yard brush	1	1	1	1
Hand Tools	Using kitchen knives	1	1	1	1
Hand Tools	Sharpening, maintaining hand tools	1			
Soil and Compost	Building a compost frame	1			1
Soil and Compost	Making compost	1	1	1	1
Soil and Compost	Adding to compost	1	1	1	1
Soil and Compost	Making a soil stack	1	1	1	1
Soil and Compost	Making, sieving wood compost	1			1
Soil and Compost	Spreading compost	1	1		
Soil and Compost	Recognising compost organisms	1	1		
Soil and Compost	Recognising health				
Soil and Compost	Sterilising soil	1			
Soil and Compost	Making seed and potting compost	1	1		
Soil and Compost	Using mulches – wood chips, straw		1	1	1
Soil and Compost	Making compost additives				
Soil and Compost	Composting manure	1			1
Soil and Compost	Testing soil structure, fertility	1	1		
Soil and Compost	Liming soil				
Processing	Milling grains – hand				
Processing	Making bread				
Processing	Bottling fruit, veg			1	1

Processing	Making jams, jellies			1	1
Processing	Preserving fruit, veg in oil			1	1
Processing	Drying fruit – leathers, butters			1	1
Processing	Pickling veg			1	1
Processing	Making chutney			1	1
Processing	Making fruit juices			1	1
Processing	Making cider				1
Processing	Making beer – brewing				1
Processing	Making fruit wines				1
Processing	Distilling alcohol				1
Processing	Skinning meat				
Processing	Gutting, Jointing meat, fish				
Processing	Salting meat, fish				
Processing	Smoking meat, fish				
Processing	Drying herbs			1	1
Processing	Making plant essential oils			1	1
Growing veg, fruit	Crop rotation				
Growing veg, fruit	Sowing seed – rows, broadcast		1	1	
Growing veg, fruit	Saving seed				1
Growing veg, fruit	Storing seed	1			1
Growing veg, fruit	Stratifying seed	1			
Growing veg, fruit	Protecting seedlings – cloches	1	1		
Growing veg, fruit	Erecting polytunnel	1	1		
Growing veg, fruit	Pricking out, potting on		1		
Growing veg, fruit	Hardening off seedlings		1		
Growing veg, fruit	Making, using a cold frame		1		
Growing veg, fruit	Making a raised bed				
Growing veg, fruit	Making, using a hot bed		1		
Growing veg, fruit	Measuring weather – temp, rainfall, humidity	1	1	1	1
Growing veg, fruit	Watering, irrigating		1	1	
Growing veg, fruit	Taking cuttings – root, stem	1			1
Growing veg, fruit	Taking cuttings – hardwood, softwood	1			1
Growing veg, fruit	Grafting – fruit trees	1			
Growing veg, fruit	Pruning - fruit trees and shrubs	1			
Growing veg, fruit	Layering – runners, stools	1			
Growing veg, fruit	Recognising ill health – virus, water				

Growing veg, fruit	Making using a propagating frame	1	1		
Growing veg, fruit	Making, using a propagating frame Growing Artichokes		ı		
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Growing veg, fruit	Growing Aubergines				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Beetroot				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Beans				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Cabbages				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Potatoes				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Carrots				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Tomatoes				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Turnips, Swedes				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Celery				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Salad leaves				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Onions				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Leeks				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Garlic				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Marrows, Courgettes				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Squashes, Pumpkins				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Melons				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Parsnips				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Peas				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Chilli peppers				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Peppers				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Maize				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Culinary herbs				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Medicinal herbs				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Apples				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Pears				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Apricots, Peaches				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Plums				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Cherries				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Currants – black, red, white				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Figs				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Grapes				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Gooseberries				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Raspberries				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Strawberries				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Hazelnuts – cobs				
Crowning veg, muit	Croming Huzomuto Cops			<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Growing veg, fruit	Growing Sweet Chestnuts				
Growing veg, fruit	Growing Walnuts				
Eco-Building	Building a compost toilet				
Eco-Building	Building with straw bales				
Eco-Building	Building with rammed earth				
Eco-Building	Building with timber				
Eco-Building	Building a cob oven				
Eco-Building	Building with stone				
Eco-Building	Building a green roof				
Eco-Building	Building with greenwood				
Eco-Building	Building with scrap wood – pallets				
Eco-Building	Monitoring solar thermal, PV panels				
Eco-Building	Managing biomass boilers, woodburners				
Trees	Building hurdles				
Trees	Making, using a pole lathe				
Trees	Working with greenwood				
Trees	Making simple furniture				
Trees	Making baskets				
Trees	Making simple hand tools				
Trees	Coppicing trees	1			1
Trees	Pollarding trees	1			1
Trees	Felling trees	1			1
Trees	Taking tree cuttings				1
Trees	Sowing tree seed				1
Trees	Preparing timber				
Trees	Planting trees	1			1
Working with people	Working safely	1	1	1	1
Working with people	Working fairly	1	1	1	1
	Living with a farm family				
Working with people	Helping others learn				
Working with people	Working in a team				
Cropland	Recognising weeds		1	1	
Cropland	Recognising grain crops				

Cropland	Recognising other crops			
Cropland	Drying and storing grains		1	
Cropland	Growing grain crops			
Cropland	Harvesting grain crops			
Cropland	Roguing weeds	1	1	
Cropland	Recognising pests and diseases			
Cropland	Recognising weather patterns			
Cropland	Terracing			
Cropland	Irrigating			
Cropland	Estimating land areas, mapping			