

MEDIEVAL JOBS: FARMER

Farming was the most popular occupation of the Medieval Ages as it was an essential element to survival. A local lord or master would grant portions of his land to commoners and serfs and in exchange the people would till, cultivate and maintain the property to produce crops. What was grown was eventually sold at local markets at which the peasants were allowed to keep a share. Most revenue went to the local lord however through taxes and levies.

In the society of the Middle Ages, a man's status was based on how much land and livestock he owned. As both of these elements were critical for revenue, a private farmer who owned his own land could become quite rich.

Crops were varied and depended greatly on how fertile the plot of farmed land was.

Most towns had market days once or twice weekly. On market days, farmers came to town and exchanged their goods with those of the townspeople. Market days were the highlight of the week. By 1300, farmers were traveling longer distances to attend the most popular markets. For example, a peasant woman might travel 10 to 15 miles (16 to 25 kilometers) from her village to a market town, carrying eggs and surplus produce to sell from her vegetable garden.

Adapted from:

Carnegie, Julie L. "Medieval Europe: 814–1350: Social Class System and the Economy." *UXL World Eras*, vol. 8: Medieval Europe: 814–1350, UXL, 2016, pp. 45-66. *Gale In Context: Middle School*, link.gale.com/apps/doc/CX3629700115/MSIC?u=mcps&sid=bookmark-MSIC&xid=688cf364. Accessed 9 Nov. 2021.