

BBC Learning English – Ask About Britain

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Farming in the UK 农场营作

Helen: Hello. Welcome to Ask About Britain from BBC Learning English. I'm Helen.

Li: And I'm Li. 欢迎收听英国问答节目，今天我们的问题来自来自山东省的一位朋友。

Helen: Our friend with the internet name Challenge wants to know more about life in the countryside and in particular about farmers.

Li: How do British farmers lead their lives? 英国农民的生活是怎样的？

Helen: We went to the National Farmers' Union to find out if they can help us with the answers.

Li: 我们采访了英国农业联盟的负责人 Terry Jones, 看看他怎么回答这个问题。

Helen: First, what kind of farms can we find in the countryside?

Insert

Well, we've got an awful lot of different sort of types of farming in the UK. We've got arable farming where farms grow wheat, barley and oilseed rape and in the centre of the country, we have a thriving livestock sector.

Li: Terry 说，英国的乡村有各种各样的农场。

Helen: Yes, Terry mentioned a few, for example arable farming is quite important in the UK.

Li: 耕作工业 arable farming, 比如种植小麦 wheat, 大麦 barley 还有油菜籽 rapeseed.

Helen: Also there's a thriving livestock sector. The word thriving means it's successful and growing.

Li: 牲畜 livestock 蓬勃兴旺的 thriving. 要知道英国人对各种肉类产品的需求量很大，所以牲畜和家禽的养殖在英国很红火。

Helen: And what about fruit and vegetables?

Insert

We also have a thriving horticultural sector that produces fruit and vegetables and indeed produces non-edible crops for people's gardens. It's a very diverse system



and so we see very small niche businesses spring up to service the needs of the consumers.

Li: 水果和蔬菜都属于植物种植 **horticultural**. 其中也包括了种一些不能食用的植物。

Helen: **That's right. Non-edible crops, plants that you can't eat; there are lots of keen gardeners in the UK and they all want beautiful plants for their gardens.**

Li: 没错，英国人特别喜欢他们的花园。Terry 还说，英国农场的营作是多样化的 **diverse**.

Helen: **And in recent years, there have been lots of small niche businesses springing up to serve the needs of the consumers.**

Li: **Niche** 专业专营的。近些年来为满足消费者的需求，小型专营业企如雨后春笋般地出现 **spring up**.

Helen: **Farming is a very important part of British life. It's not just about provision of food, it's also about maintaining the countryside. Terry tells us more.**

Insert

Society and the government values the environment that farmers create in terms of hedgerows, ditches, ponds, woods and so they're - increasingly they are seen as producers of food and of fuel and through the provision of countryside.

Li: I see. 在保持英国乡村美丽景色的过程中农场扮演着重要的角色。

Helen: Some of the things Terry mentioned that the farmers look after in the countryside are hedgerows.

Li: Hedgerows 灌木篱墙。

Helen: Ditches.

Li: Ditches 沟渠。

Helen: Ponds.

Li: Ponds 池塘。

Helen: And woods.

Li: **And woods** 林地，树林。我们的传统印象是农民在田间稻地里动手耕作，不过现在的农村已经今非昔比了，耕作农业也是在做一门生意。

Helen: **That's right. Modern day farmers have a lot to think about. So what skills should a farmer have today?**

Insert

The British farmer these days has to be a real all-rounder. He has to be a finance director, a good manager, an engineer, a marketeer, and whilst they love to go out and get their hands dirty, invariably, I would think most modern farming businessmen these days would spend a lot of time in the office.

Li: Wow, that's a lot of skills we don't normally associate with farming. 根据 Terry 的说法, 当代农民需要掌握相当多的技术。

Helen: He needs to be an all-rounder.

Li: 多面手 an all-rounder. 他应该是一个金融主管。

Helen: A finance director.

Li: 是一个不错的经理。

Helen: A good manager.

Li: 还是工程师。

Helen: An engineer.

Li: 又能做市场推销员。

Helen: A marketeer.

Li: 他们虽然也愿意到田里去亲自动手干活。

Helen: To get their hands dirty here means to go out and do physical work.

Li: 不过现在的农民大部分时间都是花在了办公室里。

Helen: Yes they spend a lot of time in their offices. Well, that brings us to the end of our programme today.

Li: 好了, 希望今天我们回答了 Challenge 的问题。大家也别忘了常来我们的网站看看, 我们的网址是 www.bbcchina.com.cn.

Helen: You can also send us your question in an email to chinaelt@bbc.co.uk. See you next time.

Li: 我们下次节目再见。

Glossary

arable farming	耕作农业	livestock	牲畜
non-edible	不能吃的	diverse	多元化的
niche	专营的	spring up	冒出来了
horticultural	植物种植	ditch	沟渠, 坑