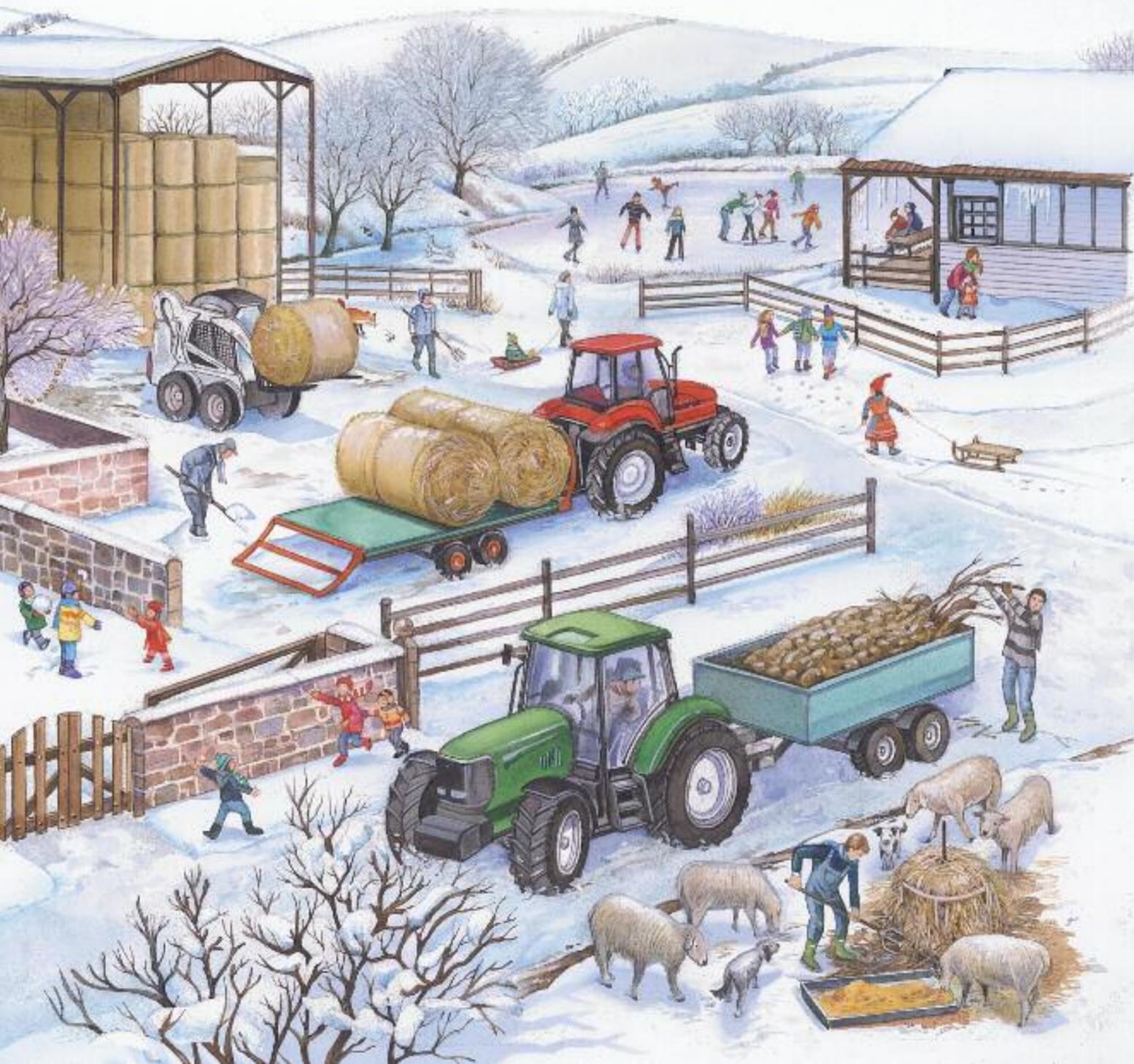


JANUARY

Snow lies thick on the ground. While the children build a snowman, throw snowballs or go skating on the ice, the farmyard is a buzz of activity. Some men load the trailer with bales of straw. They will be delivered to the cowshed, to help keep the cows warm in the bitter cold. Others feed sugar beet and hay to the hungry sheep. Others feed sugar beet and hay to the hungry sheep.

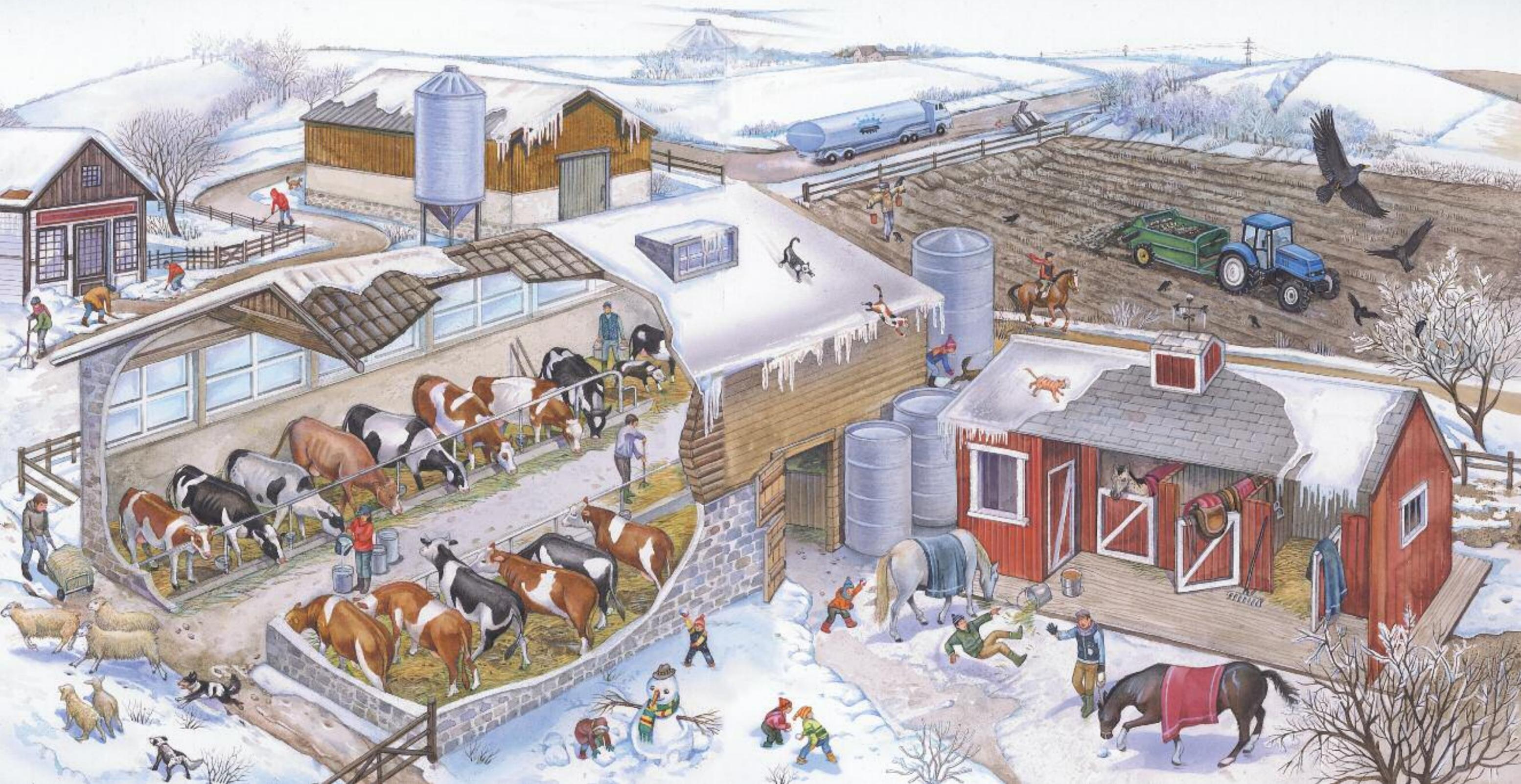


JANUARY

Inside the cowshed, the air is filled with loud mooing noises. The cows have just been milked and are now feeding. The fresh milk is kept in the tanks beside the shed. After picking up milk from the farm, a milk tanker drives off down the lane.

FEBRUARY

At the stables, the horses are given fresh water. They wear coats through the winter to keep them warm. Meanwhile a tractor is spreading slurry, a mixture of manure and water, on the fields. This will help to make the soil more fertile.

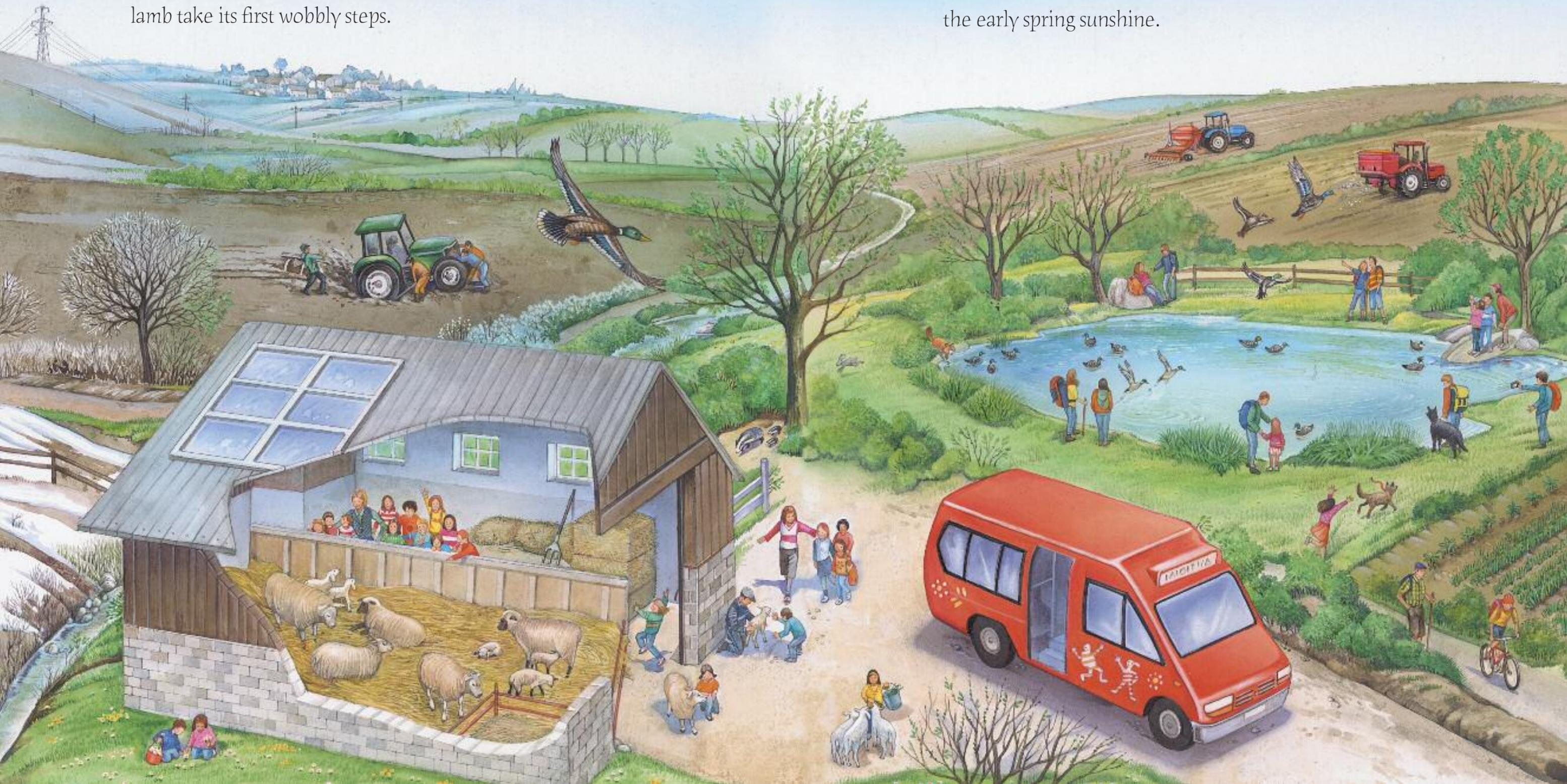


MARCH

Oops! A tractor has got stuck in the muddy fields. It's a little warmer now, and the ground is soft. Inside the lambing shed, some ewes are giving birth to the new season's lambs. A party of schoolchildren look on. They are excited to see a newborn lamb take its first wobbly steps.

MARCH

Spring flowers are blooming and the wild animals around the farm are busy raising their young. A badger and her newborn cubs venture out of their burrow for the first time. Tractors drive slowly up and down the fields spraying fertilizer on to the crops, which are now starting to grow in the early spring sunshine.



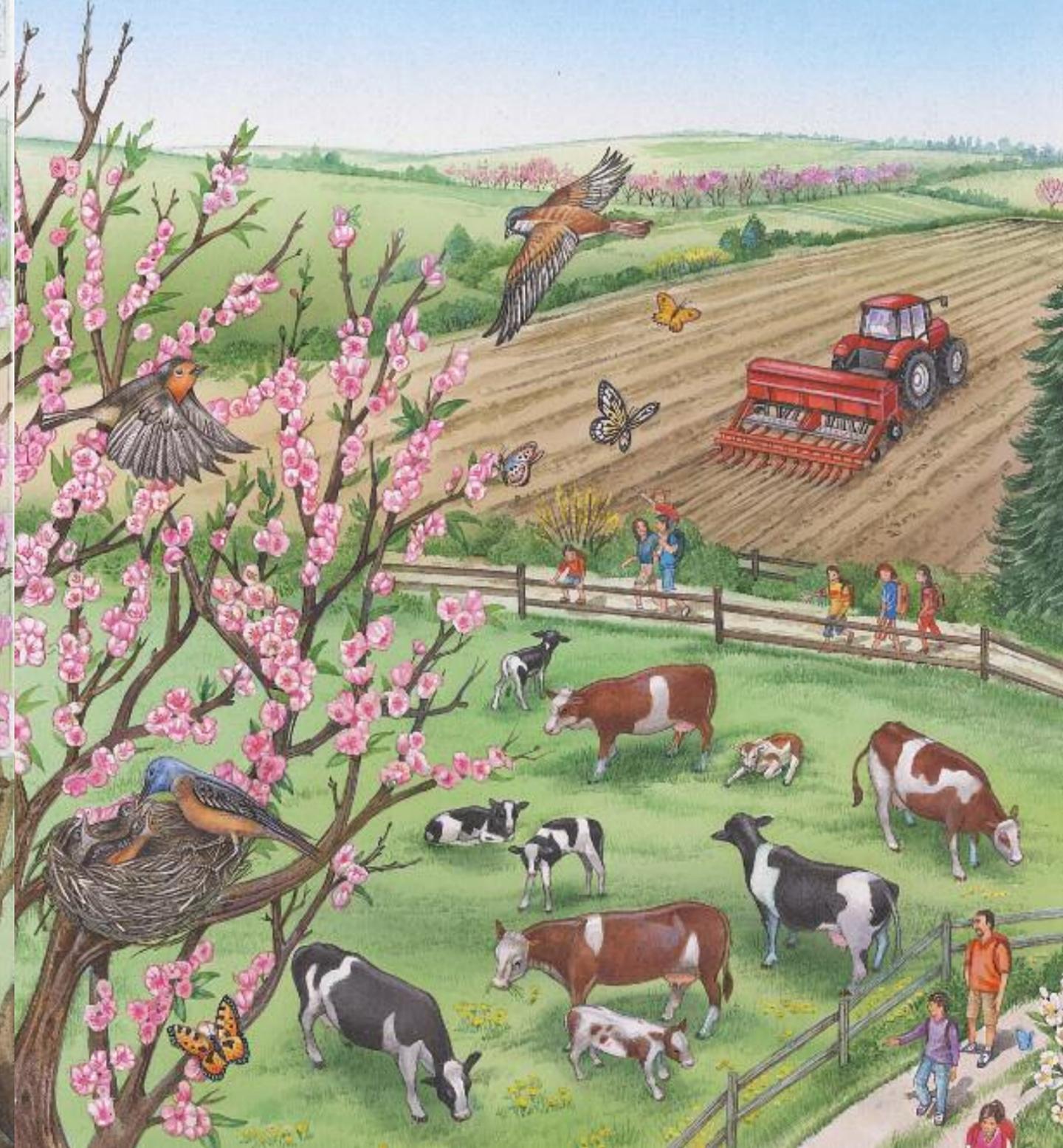
APRIL

The lambs, a few weeks' old now, run and jump about in the fields, under the watchful eye of their mothers. The farmer goes to check that they are all fit and well. High in the treetops, fledgling birds crowd their nests, waiting for their parents to bring them grubs to eat. Bees sip nectar from the tree blossom.



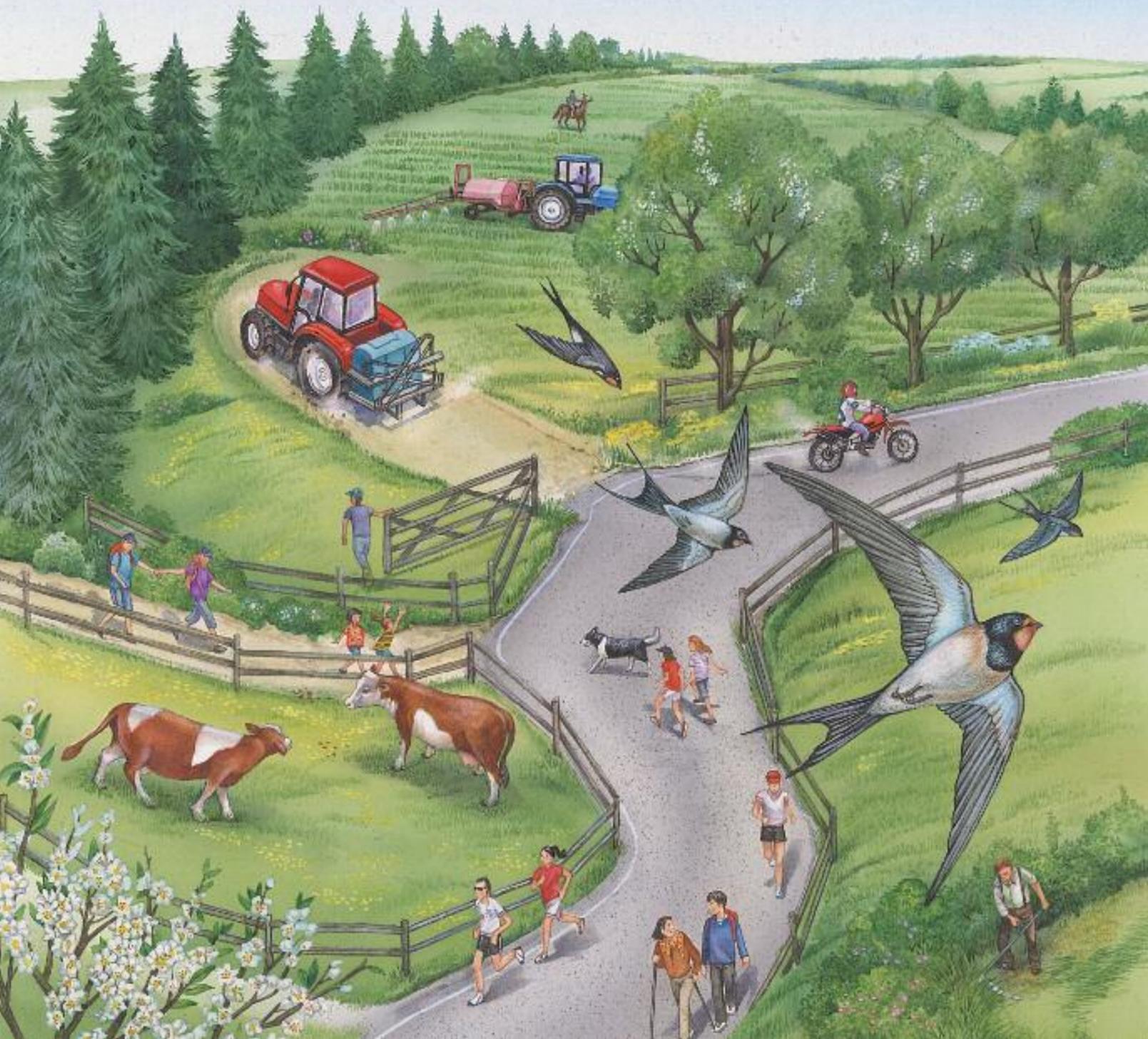
APRIL

In the spring sunshine, cows and their new calves are grazing in the fields. Birds swoop overhead, while butterflies flit from flower to flower. A tractor drives up and down the field, towing a seed drill behind it. The drill scratches shallow grooves in the earth, while seeds are poured into them.



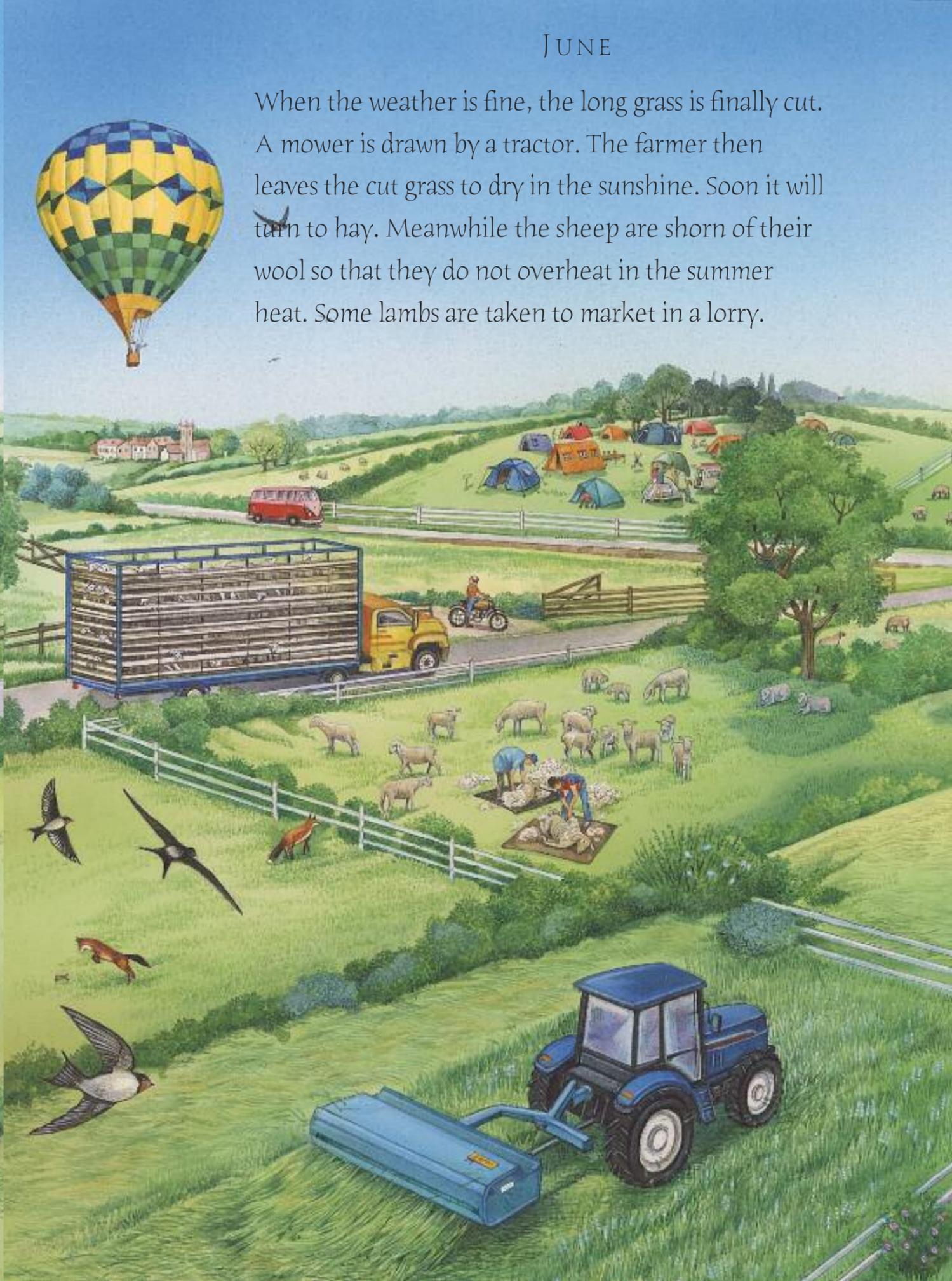
MAY

During the warm weather, greenfly have hatched out on the wheat. The farmer decides to spray the crop with pesticide before it is damaged by the insects eating it. The sprayer is fitted to the back of the tractor with its long boom arms folded. These are unfolded when spraying begins.



JUNE

When the weather is fine, the long grass is finally cut. A mower is drawn by a tractor. The farmer then leaves the cut grass to dry in the sunshine. Soon it will turn to hay. Meanwhile the sheep are shorn of their wool so that they do not overheat in the summer heat. Some lambs are taken to market in a lorry.



JUNE

The tractor tows a baling machine across the field. It collects the hay and squashes it together into square blocks, called bales. The bales are then pushed out on to the ground behind the machine. Another tractor has a fork-like attachment, called a bale mover, fitted to its front. This picks up the bales and loads them on to a trailer.

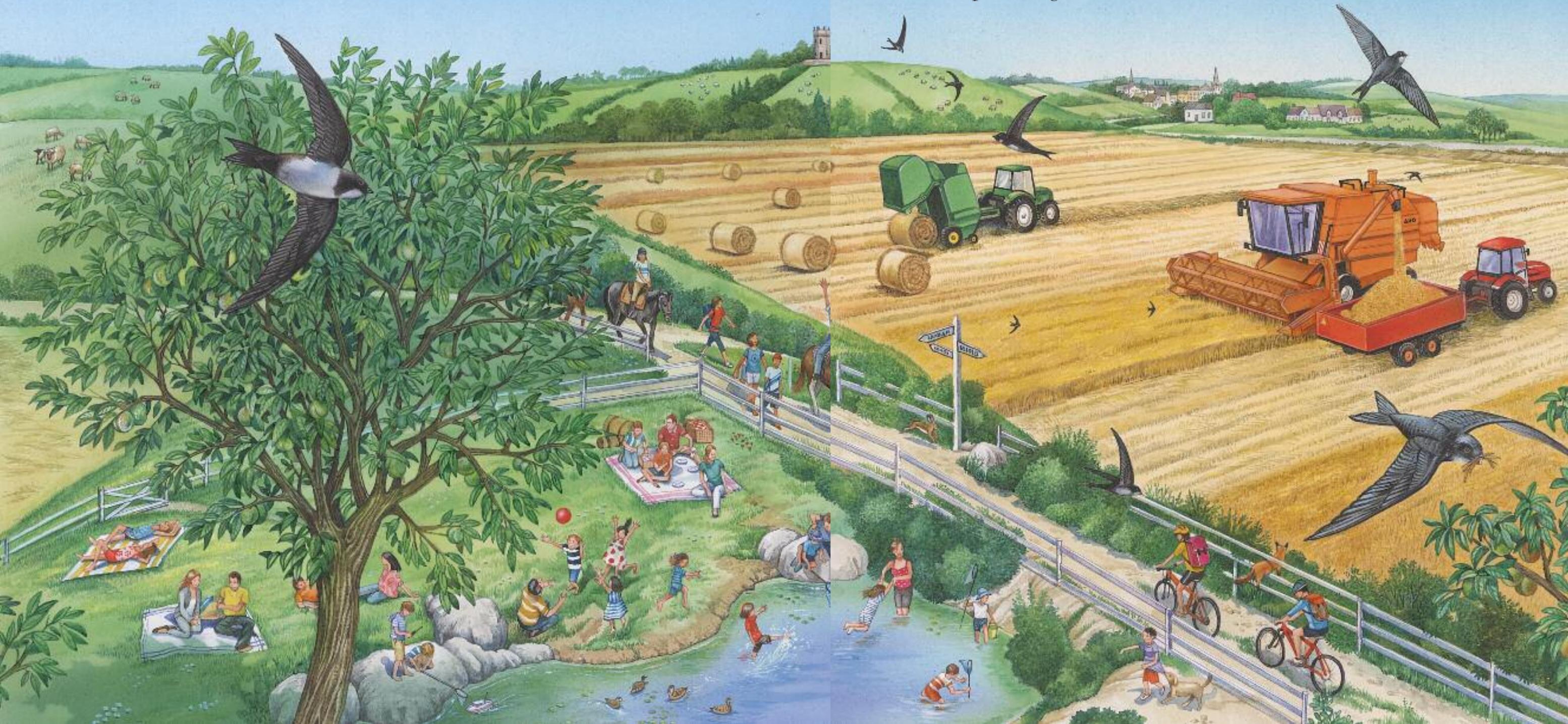


JULY

It's midsummer. People spending a relaxing day in the countryside enjoy a picnic or bask in the hot sunshine. Children play by a pond. Riders and their horses trot down the lanes. The trees are in full leaf with their fruits ripening. The wheat is turning yellow in the fields. The crop will soon be ready for harvesting.

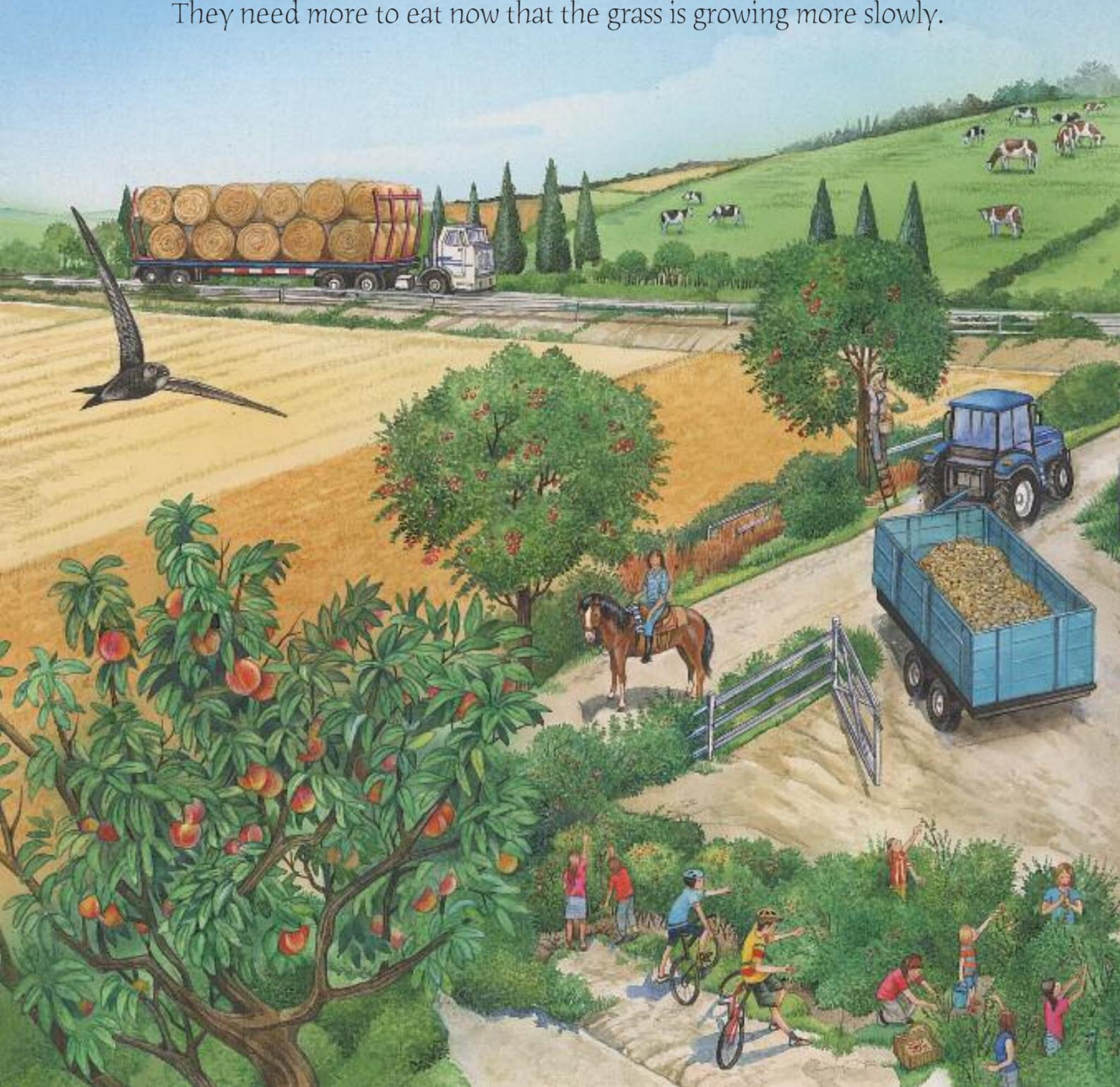
AUGUST

A combine harvester motors across the wheat fields. Long blades whirr at the front, cutting the wheat stalks and drawing them into the machine. Inside, the wheat grain is separated from the stalks and from the husks, the grain's outer covering. The grain is poured out through a long arm into a trailer. A baling machine gathers up the stalks and binds them up into large round bales of straw.



SEPTEMBER

The straw bales are collected up, loaded on to a lorry and taken to a barn, where they will be stored for the winter. The fruits on the trees and bushes have ripened and are ready for picking. In the far fields, a tractor drops extra food, known as fodder crops, for the cows. They need more to eat now that the grass is growing more slowly.



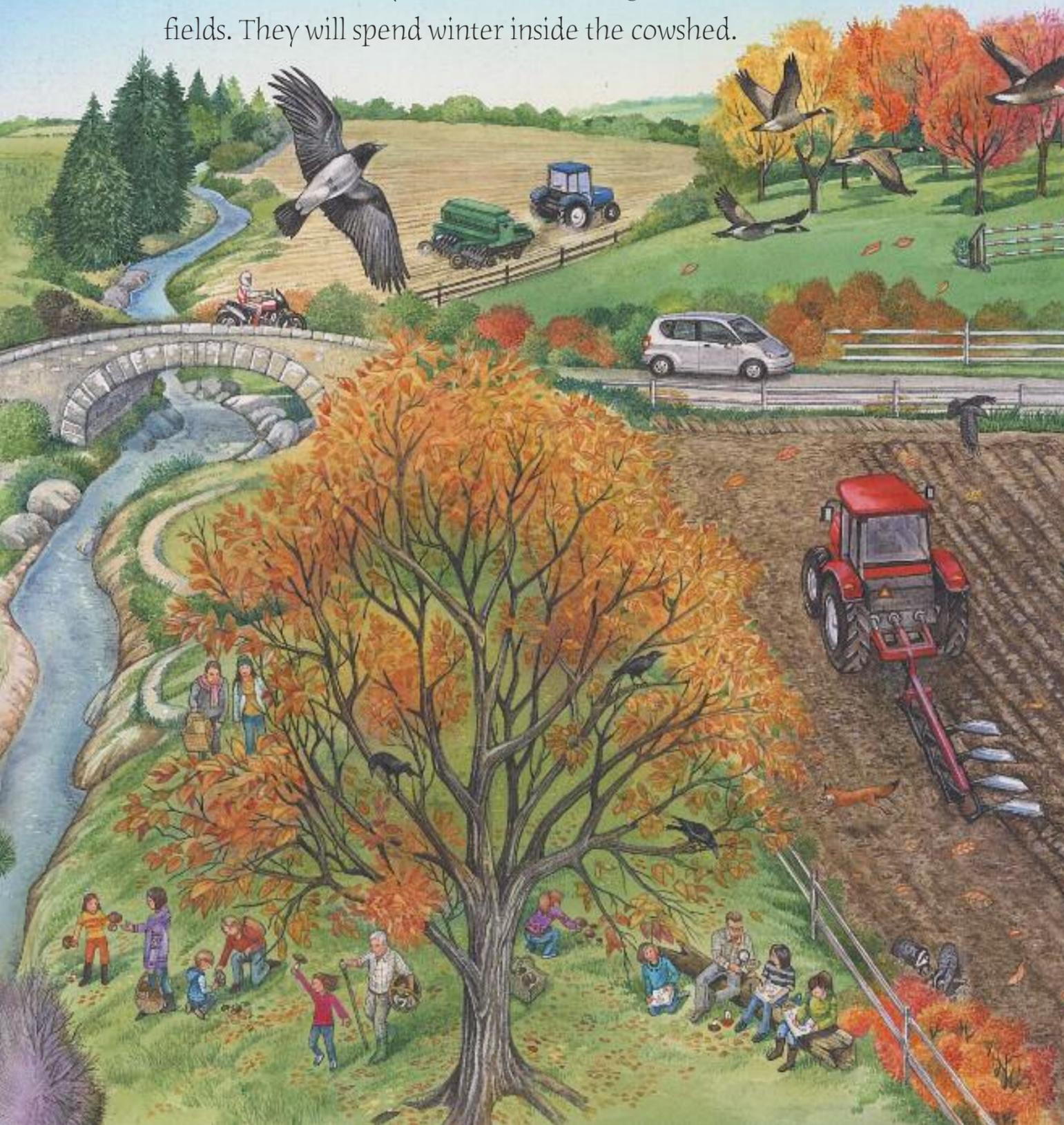
SEPTEMBER

A field of potatoes is now ready for harvest. A potato harvester drives up and down the field, lifting potatoes out of the ground. Inside the machine, the potatoes are separated from soil and stones. The tops of the potato plant are cut off and the potatoes are dropped into a trailer.



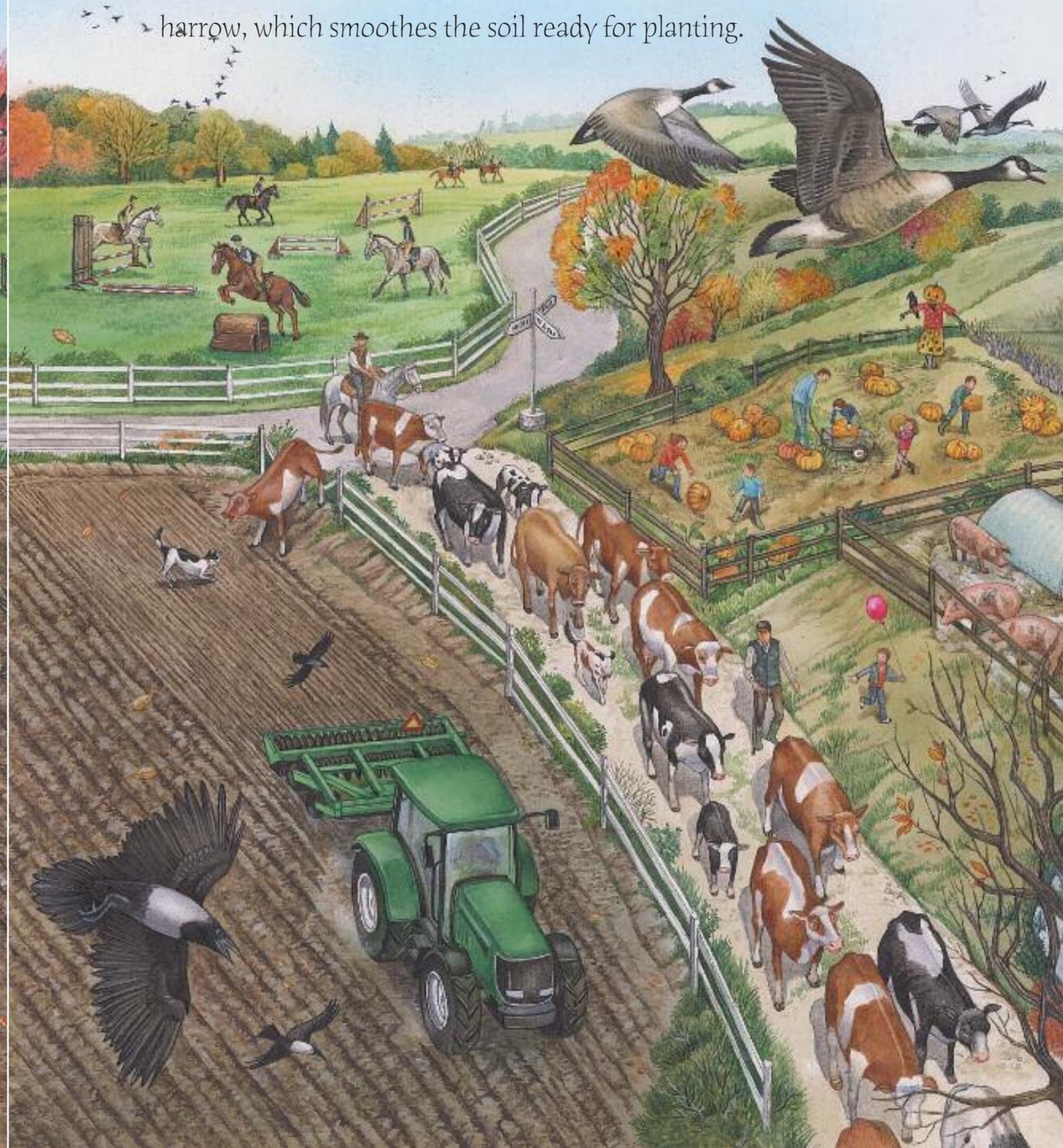
OCTOBER

Autumn is at its height. The leaves in the trees turn red, gold and brown, while mushrooms grow in the soil below. The nights have turned chilly, so the farmer brings the cows in from the fields. They will spend winter inside the cowshed.



OCTOBER

Now it is time to plough the fields, to make them ready for sowing new crops. One tractor pulls a plough: its blades cut deep furrows in the ground and turn over the soil. Another tractor pulls a harrow, which smooths the soil ready for planting.



NOVEMBER

It will soon be winter. The trees shed their leaves and some birds flock together in roosts amongst the branches. On the farm, the hens and pigs are fed by hand. It is also a good time to check the engine of the tractor, replace the oil and carry out any essential repairs.



DECEMBER

Christmas is coming. Everyone helps to decorate the tree and make the farmhouse warm for the arrival of guests. But work does not stop on the farm for long ...

