

PAT JESS

Today only one of the sons, William, farms. Despite fewer people being employed in agriculture, it's still the main economic activity in rural areas. But more than that, farming is a way of life which influences social and political as well as economic activity.

What else do you do on the farm?

WILLIAM FULLER

That's mainly, mainly sheep.

PAT JESS

Yes.

WILLIAM FULLER

And do a bit of cattle and...

PAT JESS

Do you grow anything?

WILLIAM FULLER

No, not really just maybe a small crop of potatoes but not much.

PAT JESS

Is that more or less for your own use?

WILLIAM FULLER

For my own use yes, that's all.

PAT JESS

And how many acres of hay would you do or silage?

WILLIAM FULLER

Do about 30 acres, 25, 30 acres.

PAT JESS

And you're storing that in...

WILLIAM FULLER

Some of it's stored in there.

PAT JESS

Do you store all of it undercover?

WILLIAM FULLER

Oh yeah, all of it.

PAT JESS

Because of the weather.

WILLIAM FULLER

Because of the weather, because of the weather, that's right.

PAT JESS

So that's about 30 acres of hay. Is that?

WILLIAM FULLER

About 25, 30 acres usually...

PAT JESS

Is that all around this farm or do you have land all over the place?

WILLIAM FULLER

Well the land's sort of scattered. It's not all on this farm; down at home, over beyond over there and then up behind.

PAT JESS

William's farm, although fragmented, is larger than most and he's quite progressive. He has taken advantage of advice and grants available under modernisation schemes from the government and the EEC. Yet many small farmers seem satisfied with little more than subsistence and are not involved in the modernisation programmes.

[End of recording]