МИНИСТЕРСТВО СЕЛЬСКОГО ХОЗЯЙСТВА
И ПРОДОВОЛЬСТВИЯ РЕСПУБЛИКИ БЕЛАРУСЬ

ГЛАВНОЕ УПРАВЛЕНИЕ ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ,
НАУКИ И КАДРОВОЙ ПОЛИТИКИ

Учреждение образования
«БЕЛОРУССКАЯ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННАЯ
ОРДЕНОВ ОКТЯБРЬСКОЙ РЕВОЛЮЦИИ
И ТРУДОВОГО КРАСНОГО ЗНАМЕНИ
СЕЛЬСКОХОЗЯЙСТВЕННАЯ АКАДЕМИЯ»

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АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

ORGANIC FARMING AND AGRITOURISM

Рекомендовано учебно-методическим объединением в сфере высшего образования Республики Беларусь по образованию в области сельского хозяйства в качестве учебно-методического пособия для студентов учреждений образования, обеспечивающих получение общего высшего образования по специальности 6-05-0811-01 Производство продукции растительного происхождения

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Предлагаемое методическое пособие предназначено для студентов, изучающих английский язык в области агрономии. Особое внимание уделяется работе над словарем и профессиональной терминологией.

Для студентов, обучающихся по специальности 6-05-0811-01 «Производство продукции растительного происхождения общего высшего образования».

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ВВЕДЕНИЕ

Данное учебно-методическое пособие предназначено для студентов учреждений образования, обеспечивающих получение общего высшего образования по специальности 6-05-0811-01 Производство продукции растительного происхождения.

Цель учебно-методического пособия – сформировать у студентов профессионально направленную коммуникативную компетенцию по английскому языку в сфере агрономии и растениеводства.

Пособие направлено на формирование языковой компетенции в таких видах речевой деятельности, как чтение, говорение, письмо и развитие следующих умений:

– использование аграрной и биологической терминологии в рамках тематики пособия;

– понимание и интерпретирование научных и технических текстов по агрономии и технологии производства растительной продукции;

– распознавание и использование в речи лексических и грамматических явлений, характерных для профессионального языка;

– накопление общего словарного запаса для чтения литературы по специальности.

Задания и материалы пособия призваны помочь студентам расширить их общий кругозор и профессиональные знания в сфере агрономии, повысить интерес к изучению профессионального английского языка, а также способствовать развитию учебных умений в овладении иностранным языком.

Данное пособие содержит 8 разделов. Структура пособия определяется профессиональными аспектами подготовки будущих специалистов в области производства продукции растительного происхождения. Каждый раздел пособия состоит из тематического словаря, текста для чтения и упражнений для активного усвоения лексического материала. Уделяется внимание повторению правил грамматики.

В конце пособия приведен дополнительный словарь, который обобщает изученную лексику.

Разработанные задания могут использоваться как в аудитории под контролем преподавателя, так и для самостоятельной работы студентов.

Unit 1. WHAT IS AGRITOURISM?

Learning Objective: To define agritourism and distinguish it from other forms of tourism.

Grammar Focus: Present Simple vs. Present Continuous для описания постоянных процессов и текущей деятельности.

Text A

What is Agritourism?

Pre-reading task:

1. How can tourism be a tool for preserving rural communities?
2. What can visitors see and do on a farm?

Vocabulary

Agritourism /ˈægrɪˌtʊərɪzəm/ – агротуризм

Agricultural /ˌægrɪˈkʌltʃərəl ˈtʊərɪzəm/ – сельскохозяйственный

Working farm /ˈwɜːkɪŋ fɑːrm/ – действующая ферма

Sustainable /səˈsteɪnəbl/ – устойчивый, не наносящий ущерба окружающей среде

To educate visitors /tu ˈedʒʊkeɪt ˈvɪzɪtəz/ – обучать посетителей

Education /ˌedʒʊˈkeɪʃən/ – просвещение, образование

To generate extra income /tu ˈdʒenəreɪt ˈekstrə ˈɪnkʌm/ – создавать дополнительный доход

Rural area /ˈrʊərəl ˈeərɪə/ – сельская местность

Countryside /ˈkʌntrisaɪd/ – деревня, сельская глубинка

Rural development /ˈrʊərəl dɪˈveləpmənt/ – развитие сельских территорий

Agritourism is a special type of business that brings visitors to a working farm. It combines agriculture (the work of growing crops and raising animals) with tourism. This means farms open their gates to the public. People leave the city to spend time in the countryside. They come to enjoy nature, learn new things, and have a fun experience.

But agritourism is different from a typical vacation. It is not just about relaxing at a hotel or beach. The most important goal is to offer visitors a real and educational experience. Guests can see how a farm operates.

They learn where their food comes from. Visitors can even help with simple tasks like feeding chickens or picking apples.

Agritourism is very important for farmers. It helps them earn extra money. This is especially helpful when farming alone is not enough. It also supports other local businesses and teaches people about the value of rural life.

In simple terms, agritourism builds a bridge. It connects people from cities to the land. It connects those who eat food to those who grow it. And it combines a good time with valuable learning.

Agritourism is far more than a simple holiday retreat; it is a strategic response to the economic and social challenges facing modern agriculture. At its core, agritourism is a commercial enterprise that merges the traditional workings of a productive farm with the hospitality industry, inviting the public to engage directly with the rural environment. Activities range from hands-on participation in harvests to workshops on artisanal cheese-making, thereby fostering a deeper appreciation for agricultural processes.

For the farmer, the benefits are multifaceted. Firstly, it diversifies income streams, creating a crucial financial buffer against the volatility of crop yields and market prices. Secondly, it serves as a powerful marketing tool, allowing farmers to sell their value-added products (such as organic jam or farm-bottled wine) directly to consumers effectively shortening the supply chain. Ultimately, agritourism sustains not just individual farms but also revitalizes entire rural communities by creating jobs and preserving cultural heritage.

Agritourism is a business led by a farm that invites the public to visit for enjoyment and education. It connects people with the source of their food and rural life.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Answer the questions.

1. According to the text, what are the reasons for the development of agritourism?
2. Explain the difference between "passive tourism" and the "experiential" nature of agritourism.
3. How does agritourism function as a marketing tool for farmers?
4. What activities can a visitor do on an agritourism farm?
5. What two industries does agritourism combine?
6. Why is agritourism important for farmers?

Exercise 2. True or False? Correct the false statements.

1. Agritourism is only about relaxing in the countryside.
2. A working farm means it is a model for display only.
3. Generating extra income is a key benefit for farmers.
4. Agritourism has no connection to sustainable tourism.
5. Educating visitors is a fundamental part of the agritourism experience.

Exercise 3. Match the words with their definitions.

1. Agriculture	a) Related to the countryside, not the city
2. Public	b) The science or practice of farming
3. Countryside	c) To make money
4. Generate income	d) The people in general
5. Rural	e) Land outside of towns and cities
6. Educational	f) Providing knowledge or learning.

Text B

The History of Agritourism

Pre-reading task:

What words do you associate with "hospitality in the countryside"?

Vocabulary

A tradition dating back /ˌtrəˈdɪʃən ˈdeɪtɪŋ bæk/ – традиция, уходящая корнями в...

Rural hospitality /ˈrʊərəl ˌhɒspɪˈtæləti/ – сельское гостеприимство

A form of accommodation /ə fɔːm əv əˌkɒməˈdeɪʃən/ – форма размещения

Urbanization /ˌɜːbənaɪˈzeɪʃən/ – урбанизация

To escape the city /tu ɪˈskeɪp ðə ˈsɪti/ – сбежать из города

A revenue stream /ə ˈrevənjuː striːm/ – источник дохода

To formalize into a business /tu ˈfɔːməlaɪz ˈɪntu ə ˈbɪznəs/ – оформиться в бизнес

The post-war era /ðə ˌpəʊstˈwɔːr ˈɪərə/ – послевоенная эпоха

A strategic diversification /ə strəˈtiːdʒɪk daɪˌvɜːsɪfɪˈkeɪʃən/ – стратегическая диверсификация

A thriving industry /ə ˈθraɪvɪŋ ˈɪndəstri/ – процветающая отрасль

The story of agritourism is not a modern invention. It is a tradition dating back centuries, rooted in the fundamental principle of rural hospitality. Long before it had a name, offering shelter and food to a weary traveler was a common practice across the world. For pilgrims walking ancient trails, merchants transporting goods along trade routes, or simply people moving between villages, finding a form of accommodation meant relying on the kindness of strangers. This was not a commercial transaction but a moral duty and a vital part of rural communities. Payment, if offered, was often a helping hand with chores, a share of food, or a simple thank you.

The shift from informal hospitality to a more structured form of leisure began with the changes brought about by the Industrial Revolution and rapid urbanization in the 18th and 19th centuries. As people moved from villages to crowded, smoky, and fast-paced cities to work in factories, a new sentiment emerged among the growing middle and upper classes: a romanticized nostalgia for the countryside they had left behind. Wealthy citizens started to view rural areas not as a place of hard labor, but as an idyllic retreat – a place to escape the city for fresh air, peace, quiet, and a connection to a simpler way of life. They would often spend summers in the countryside.

The true birth of agritourism as we recognize it today occurred in the second half of the 20th century. The post-war era in Europe and North America brought unprecedented economic growth, increased leisure time. Improved infrastructure and mobility meant the countryside was now accessible to more than just the wealthy. Simultaneously, the agricultural sector began to face pressures from globalization and industrialization. Farmers, seeking a strategic diversification, began to actively market their farm vacations. They transitioned from passive hosts to active entrepreneurs, creating structured activities like fruit picking, animal feeding to attract urban families eager for an authentic and educational experience.

What began as a necessary act of kindness and evolved into a seasonal holiday for city dwellers has now blossomed into a thriving global industry. Modern agritourism is a sophisticated tool for rural development, environmental education, and cultural preservation. It offers a deeper understanding of where our food comes from, successfully bridging the gap between the urban and the rural.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Answer the questions.

1. Is agritourism a modern invention?

2. What were the reasons for travel in ancient times mentioned in the text?

3. How did the Industrial Revolution change people's perception of the countryside?

4. Why was the post-war era a "perfect storm" for the development of agritourism?

5. What is the difference between historical rural hospitality and modern agritourism?

6. The text says modern agritourism helps bridge the gap between the urban and the rural. Do you agree?

Exercise 2. Decide if the following statements are True (T), False (F), or the information is Not Stated (NS).

1. Payment from travelers in the past was always expected in the form of money.

2. Urbanization created a demand for countryside holidays.

3. Only very rich people could travel to the countryside after the Industrial Revolution.

4. The development of better public transport was key to the growth of agritourism.

5. The main goal of modern agritourism is to provide cheap accommodation.

6. Farmers started agritourism businesses primarily for cultural exchange.

Exercise 3. Research & Presentation Project.

1. **A Local History:** Investigate the history of agritourism in a specific rural region of your country. When did it start and why?

2. **Case Study:** Profile a specific agritourism business (anywhere in the world). What does it offer? How does it blend tradition with modern business practices?

Text C

An Interview with Farmer Anna

Reporter: Anna, thank you for your time. First, can you tell us what you do?

Farmer Anna: Of course. I am a farmer, but my business is special. I run an agritourism farm. That means I don't just grow food I also welcome visitors to my farm.

Reporter: So, is it like a hotel on a farm?

Farmer Anna: Not exactly! A hotel is just for sleeping. Agritourism is about the experience. Visitors come to learn and participate. They help feed the animals, collect eggs, or pick vegetables. They see the real work of a working farm.

Reporter: Why is this important for you?

Farmer Anna: It helps me generate extra income. Farming is unpredictable. But visitors come all year. They pay for tours, meals, and activities. This money helps me sustain my farm. Also, I love to educate people. They leave knowing more about rural life and where their food comes from.

Reporter: So, is it more than a vacation?

Farmer Anna: Yes, it is. A vacation is for rest. Agritourism is for connection. It connects city people with the countryside. It's fun, but it's also educational. That's the best part.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Answer the questions.

1. What is the main difference between a hotel and an agritourism farm, according to Anna?
2. Name two activities that visitors can do on Anna's farm.
3. What are two reasons why agritourism is important for Anna?
4. What does Anna say agritourism "connects"?

Exercise 2. Find the words in the interview that match these definitions.

1. A farm that is actively used for growing food and raising animals.
2. To make additional money.
3. Related to the areas outside of cities and towns.
4. The act of teaching people about something.

Exercise 3. Write True, False or Not Stated next to each sentence.

1. Anna's farm is only a hotel for people who want to sleep in the countryside.
2. Visitors on Anna's farm can take part in daily activities.
3. Anna says that farming is an easy and predictable business.
4. Visitors pay for the tours and meals on the farm.
5. Anna believes agritourism helps city people understand rural life.

Exercise 4. Discuss these questions in groups.

1. What would be the most challenging part of running an agritourism business? And the most rewarding?
2. If you had a farm, what three unique activities would you offer to tourists? (e.g., "midnight vegetable picking," "goat yoga," "beekeeping workshop").
3. Do you think agritourism is just a temporary trend, or is it the future of rural tourism?

Grammar Focus: Present Simple Tense

We use the Present Simple to talk about facts, habits, and things that are generally true.

Examples:

✓ Farmers **grow** food. (fact)
✓ Visitors **learn** about life on the farm. (general truth)
✓ The sun **rises** in the east. (fact)

We use the Present Continuous to talk about actions happening now, at the moment of speaking, or around now for a limited period of time.

✓ Look! The farmer **is feeding** the chickens. (action happening now)
✓ They **are staying** on a farm this week. (action around now for a limited time)
✓ More and more tourists **are choosing** agritourism holidays. (changing situation)

Exercise 1. Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verb:

1. Agritourism _____ (help) farmers make extra money.
2. Many people _____ (visit) farms in summer.
3. She _____ (teach) visitors how to make cheese.
4. Agritourism (combine) agriculture and tourism.
5. Farmers _____ (work) very hard.
6. Visitors _____ (learn) about rural life.
7. This book _____ (explain) agritourism.
8. John _____(run) a farm.
9. She _____ (welcome) visitors to her farm.
10. Ann _____ (learn) about rural life.
11. I _____ (pick) vegetables every day in July.

Exercise 2. Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verb in Present Continuous.

1. Be quiet, please! The guide _____ (explain) how milk is produced.
2. Look! The children _____ (help) the farmer to collect the eggs.
3. I _____ (pick) strawberries in the greenhouse at the moment.
4. We _____ (stay) on a dairy farm for our vacation this year.
5. She _____ (feed) the livestock right now.
6. They _____ (learn) about organic cultivation methods this season.
7. He _____ (work) as a volunteer on the farm this summer.
8. The tourists _____ (take) a workshop on cheese-making now.
9. The farmer _____ (show) the visitors around the orchard at the moment.
10. These days our farm _____ (generate) more income thanks to agritourism.

Exercise 3. Choose the correct form: Present Simple or Present Continuous.

1. Farmers usually **work / are working** very early in the morning.
2. I **stay / am staying** on a farm stay this week, and it's a fantastic experience!
3. The sun **rises / is rising** in the east. Look, it **rises / is rising** now!
4. She normally **teaches / is teaching** biology, but this month she **volunteers / is volunteering** on a farm.
5. Our farm **hosts / is hosting** a big group of students for a workshop today.
6. Agritourism **helps / is helping** to support rural development in many countries.
7. Don't make noise – the baby lambs **sleep / are sleeping**.
8. We **harvest / are harvesting** the apples in our orchard every autumn.

Exercise 4. Complete the text about a typical day on a farm. Use the correct form of the verbs in the brackets.

Right now it's 10 AM on Saturday. Farmer Anna _____ (show) a group of tourists around her farm. She often _____ (do) this on weekends. Look! The tourists _____ (feed) the lambs. Anna usually _____ (feed) them at 8 AM, but today the visitors _____ (help). One man _____ (take) photos. Anna says visitors always _____ (take) lots of photos. After this they _____ (go) to the orchard to pick apples. Anna's farm _____ (grow) the best apples in the region.

Unit 2. TYPES OF AGRITOURISM FARMS

Learning Objective: To identify and describe different types of agrotourism farms, key people (host, guest, farmer).

Grammar Focus: Nouns as Adjectives (e.g., *farm experience, harvest time, crop rotation system, soil quality management*).

Text A

Types of Agritourism Farms

Pre-reading task:

1. What agronomic skills are you most curious about learning?
2. How can direct participation in farm work change a tourist's perspective on food production?

Vocabulary

Farm stay /ˈfɑːrm ˌsteɪ/ – проживание на ферме
Volunteer /ˌvɒlənˈtɪər/ – волонтёр; работать волонтёром
Harvest /ˈhɑːvɪst/ – урожай; собирать урожай
Cultivation /ˌkʌltɪˈveɪʃən/ – возделывание, выращивание (растений)
Dairy farm /ˈdeəri fɑːm/ – молочная ферма
Orchard /ˈɔːʧəd/ – фруктовый сад
Greenhouse /ˈgriːnhaʊs/ – теплица
Workshop /ˈwɜːkʃɒp/ – мастер-класс, практическое занятие

Farm Stay/B&B: Overnight accommodation on a farm. *U-Pick Farms: Visitors pick their own fruit, vegetables, or flowers.* *Dairy Farms: Tours showing milking processes, cheese-making workshops.*

Lead-in Activity: Match the Farm to its Product

1. Dairy Farm	a) Milk, cheese, yogurt
2. Orchard	b) Fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce (grown without synthetic pesticides)
3. Apiary	c) Wool, meat, livestock breeding
4. Sheep Farm	d) Apples, cherries, peaches
5. Organic Farm	e) Honey, beeswax, pollination services

Agritourism is for those who want to get their hands dirty and truly understand the cultivation process. It is deeply educational and active.

It is designed for educational experiences, appealing particularly to those with a genuine interest in agricultural science and practice, such as aspiring agronomists, students, and conscientious consumers. It moves beyond observation to active participation, making it a powerful tool for knowledge transfer and cultural exchange.

World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms represents a global movement connecting volunteers with organic farms. The exchange is built on mutual benefit: volunteers contribute 4-6 hours of daily labour in exchange for accommodation, meals, and, most importantly, knowledge. Volunteers don't just weed vegetable beds; they learn the principles of organic cultivation, such as the science behind creating nutrient-rich compost from farm waste, the techniques of companion planting to deter pests naturally, and the methods for building and maintaining soil health through organic matter incorporation and minimal tillage. They might participate in animal husbandry tasks, learning about breeding programs, ethical living conditions, and the intricacies of a balanced feed ration for different livestock. This hands-on approach provides an unparalleled understanding of the challenges and rewards of sustainable agriculture.

Educational Tours on working farms are structured learning experiences, often curated for university agriculture students. These tours are led by the farmer or a specialist agronomist guide who can explain the ongoing process. A tour of a crop farm becomes a masterclass in applied agronomy. Visitors might analyze soil samples to understand pH and nutrient levels, learn to identify common crop diseases and beneficial insects as part of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and study the engineering and water-saving benefits of a drip irrigation system. On a dairy farm, the focus shifts to animal science: understanding the genetic selection of herds for milk yield, the nutrition science behind formulating feed, and the technology involved in modern milking parlors and milk quality control. The goal is to translate theoretical agronomic concepts into tangible, real-world practices.

Volunteer Programs are often seasonal and task-specific, attracting individuals who want to contribute to a clear agricultural objective. These programs are crucial for farms during labor-intensive periods. Participants might join the annual grape harvest, where they learn about sugar level testing and the importance of harvest timing for grape. Other programs could focus on apple thinning in an orchard to improve fruit size, planting cover crops to prevent soil erosion, or assisting with a sheep shearing operation.

These programs offer a burst of intense, focused learning about a specific agronomic technique and its critical role in the overall farm lifecycle.

The core of this venture is knowledge-based participation. The tourist is a volunteer and an agronomy student. The farmer is a teacher, mentor, and practicing agronomist.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Match the terms with their definitions.

1. Cultivation 2. Harvest 3. Volunteer 4. Nutritient 5. Orchard	a) The process of gathering ripe crops from the fields. b) The practice of preparing and using the soil to grow plants/crops. c) A piece of land planted with fruit trees d) A person who does work without being paid, often to gain experience. e) A substance that provides nourishment essential for life

Exercise 2. Complete the sentences with the correct words from the list: *soil health, irrigation, organic, cultivation.*

1. _____ farming avoids the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers.
2. Good _____ is essential for strong root development and high yields.
3. The _____ system on this farm uses drip lines to conserve water.
4. The _____ of delicate berries requires careful manual labor and knowledge of plant biology.

Exercise 3. Answer the questions.

1. Who is agritourism for?
2. Is agritourism more about watching or doing?
3. How many hours per day do volunteers usually work?
4. What do volunteers receive from the farm?
5. Name one thing volunteers learn about organic farming.
6. Do volunteers sometimes work with animals?
7. Who leads the tours on a working farm?
8. What can visitors learn on a crop farm tour?
9. On a dairy farm tour, what is the main subject?
10. What is one example of a seasonal job for volunteers?

Text B

Recreational Agritourism

Pre-reading task:

1. How can a farm create an educational experience which is still connected to agriculture?

Leisure Farms focus on providing guests with relaxation and enjoyment in a rural setting, with less emphasis on manual labor and more on observation and leisure. This model masterfully blends hospitality with agriculture, offering a passive yet authentic rural experience. It caters to guests seeking relaxation, scenic beauty, and a gentle introduction to farm life without the commitment of manual labor.

A Farm Stay or Bed & Breakfast (B&B) provides overnight accommodation directly on a working farm, often in a beautifully converted guesthouse or barn. The appeal is the atmosphere and authenticity. Guests experience the tranquil rhythm of rural life: waking up to the sound of farm animals, having breakfast made from farm-produced food (fresh eggs, homemade yogurt, jam from the orchard), and breathing in the fresh country air. The agricultural connection is constant but observational. Guests might watch the daily milking process, see tractors heading out to the fields at dawn, or observe the progress of the harvest from the comfort of their balcony. Here, the farmer's expertise in animal welfare and crop management ensures a picturesque and productive landscape for guests to enjoy, making the farm itself the main attraction.

U-Pick (Pick-Your-Own) Operations: This is a quintessential agritourism activity that beautifully connects consumers to the source of their food. Guests enjoy a leisurely stroll through rows of strawberry plants, blueberry bushes, or apple trees, filling their baskets with sun-ripened fruit. They experience the satisfaction of harvesting their own food without the burden of the hard, repetitive labor that defines a commercial harvest. For the farm, it reduces harvesting costs and ensures product freshness and direct sales.

The experience highlights the direct link between agronomic practices and the final product's quality. A tour of the vineyard, led by a knowledgeable guide, delves into the concept of terroir – how the specific combination of soil type, microclimate, and topography influences the grape's character. Visitors learn about the science behind harvest timing.

Other activities can include guided nature walks along farm trails that explain the local ecosystem, farm-to-table dinners featuring the farm's pro-

duce prepared by a chef, horseback riding through pastures, or simple picnics with a panoramic view of the cultivated fields and grazing livestock. The activities are designed to be relaxing and enjoyable while framing agriculture as a beautiful and essential part of life.

The core of this venture is scenic observation and relaxed recreation. The tourist is a guest and a consumer. The farmer is a host, hospitality provider, and curator of a rural experience.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Choose the correct option to complete the sentences based on the text.

1. The main goal of a **Leisure Farm** is to provide...
a) intensive agricultural work experience.
b) relaxation and a gentle introduction to farm life.
c) professional training in animal husbandry.
2. At a **Farm Stay**, the connection to agriculture is mostly...
a) hands-on and physically demanding.
b) observational and atmospheric.
c) scientific and research-based.
3. A key economic benefit for a farm with a **U-Pick operation** is...
a) charging high prices for guided tours.
b) reducing harvesting costs and selling produce directly.
c) selling farming equipment to visitors.

Exercise 2. Read the statements and mark them as True (T) or False (F). Correct the false statements.

1. On a Leisure Farm, guests are expected to participate in hard manual labor.

2. The agricultural setting on a Leisure Farm is just a background and has no connection to the activities or food offered.

3. At a Farm Stay, guests might observe farm activities like milking from a comfortable distance.

4. The text suggests that the farmer's main role in these models is that of a hospitality provider and experience curator.

Exercise 3. Fill in the blanks with the correct words or phrases from the text.

The Leisure Farm model masterfully blends 1) _____ with agriculture. It caters to guests who want 2) _____ and a gentle introduction to

farm life. At a Farm Stay, the agricultural connection is constant but 3) _____. For example, a U-Pick operation allows guests to enjoy 4) _____ their own fruit without the burden of commercial labor. In all these models, the farmer acts as a 5) _____ and a host.

Text C

The Organic Farm: Learning About Soil and Plants

Pre-reading task:

1. What does "organic food" mean?
2. Why is healthy soil important for plants?

Vocabulary

Organic – органический, натуральный
Soil – почва
Healthy – здоровый
Compost – компост (удобрение)
Natural – натуральный, естественный
Insect – насекомое
To feed – кормить
To protect – защищать

An organic farm is a special farm. It does not use synthetic chemicals. It uses natural ways to grow plants. This is good for the soil, plants, and people. Visitors come here to learn about healthy food.

On an organic farm, the soil is very important. The farmer is like a doctor for the soil. Farmers feed the soil with compost. Compost is made from old plants and food. It is a natural food for the soil. Healthy soil helps plants grow strong. Strong plants do not get sick easily.

Organic farmers protect their plants in a natural way. They plant different crops together. This is called companion planting. Some plants help other plants. For example, some flowers can protect vegetables from bad insects. Not all insects are bad. Organic farms have many good insects. These good insects eat the bad insects. This is natural pest control.

Visitors can see and do simple things. They can learn how to make compost from farm waste. They can look for good insects in the garden. They can taste fresh vegetables from the organic garden. The food is very tasty and healthy.

The tourist is a learner. The farmer is an organic expert. Everyone learns how to grow food in a natural way.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Match the words with their definitions.

1. Organic	a) A small animal with six legs (e.g., a bee).
2. Soil	b) The top layer of the earth where plants grow.
3. Compost	c) Made by nature, not by people.
4. Natural	d) A natural food for soil, made from old plants.
5. Insect	e) Grown or made without synthetic chemicals.

Exercise 2. Complete the sentences with the correct words from the box. (healthy, compost, natural, organic, soil)

1. An … farm does not use synthetic pesticides.
2. Farmers use … to feed the soil.
3. Good … is very important for strong plants.
4. Organic farms use … ways to protect plants.
5. The food from an organic farm is very …

Exercise 3. Mark the statements as True (T) or False (F).

1. Organic farms use a lot of synthetic chemicals.
2. Compost helps to make the soil healthy.
3. All insects are bad for plants.
4. On an organic farm, the farmer knows a lot about natural growing.

Exercise 4. Answer the questions.

- What is a natural way to feed the soil on an organic farm?
- Why are some insects good for an organic farm?

Grammar Focus: Nouns as Adjectives

In English we often use one noun to describe another noun. The first noun acts like an adjective.

Examples:

- ✓ soil sample analysis (analysis of a sample of soil)
- ✓ harvest timing decision (a decision about the timing of the harvest)
- ✓ animal welfare standards (standards for the welfare of animals)
- ✓ farm experience (an experience related to a farm)

Exercise 1. Create compound nouns by combining a noun from List A with a noun from List B:

Example: soil + science = soil science

List A: farm, crop, soil, pest, food, harvest, irrigation, country

List B: management, production, time, system control, science, quality, tour, road

Unit 3. CORE ACTIVITIES ON A FARM

Learning Objective: To identify and describe core farm activities and infrastructure

Grammar Focus: Modal verbs (must, have to, should). Giving advice.

Text A

Farm Essentials

Vocabulary

Basic crops /ˈbeɪsɪk krɒps/ – Основные сельскохозяйственные культуры

Cereals /ˈsɪəriəlz/ – Зерновые культуры

Vegetables /ˈvɛʤtəblz/ – Овощи

Greenhouse /ˈgriːnhaʊs/ – Теплица

Fruit /fruːt/ – Фрукты

Livestock /ˈlaɪvstɒk/ – Сельскохозяйственные животные

Poultry /ˈpəʊltri/ – Домашняя птица

Cattle /ˈkætl/ – Крупный рогатый скот

Sheep /ʃiːp/ – Овцы

Tools and machinery /tuːlz ənd məˈʃiːnəri/ – Инструменты и техника

Tractor /ˈtræktə/ – Трактор

Harvester /ˈhɑːvɪstə/ – Комбайн

A farm is a complex system where plants and animals are raised for food, fiber, and other products. Understanding its core components is the first step to appreciating farm life. The foundation of any farm lies in its **basic crops** and **livestock**.

The most common **crops** are divided into several groups. **Cereals**, such as wheat, barley, and oats, are grasses cultivated for their edible grains.

They are the cornerstone of global agriculture. **Vegetables**, including potatoes, carrots, and cabbages, are grown in fields or specialized **greenhouses** to ensure a fresh supply. **Fruit** trees and bushes, like apple trees or strawberry plants, provide essential vitamins and can be a highlight for agritourism visitors.

Equally important is **livestock**, which refers to domesticated animals raised on a farm. **Poultry**, such as chickens and ducks, are kept for their meat and eggs. **Cattle**, like cows, are primarily raised for milk and beef, while **sheep** provide wool and meat. Managing livestock requires daily attention to their feeding, health, and living conditions.

To work the land and care for the animals, farmers rely on various **tools and machinery**. A **tractor** is the most universal machine; it is used for pulling equipment, plowing fields, and transporting goods. For harvesting grains, a **combine harvester** (or simply **harvester**) is essential—it reaps, threshes, and cleans the crop in one single operation. Smaller tools, like shovels, rakes, and watering cans, are indispensable for daily tasks in the **kitchen garden** and with the animals.

Understanding these essentials – the crops in the field, the animals in the barn, and the machines in the shed – provides a clear picture of the farm's core productive elements.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Answer the questions.

1. What are the three main groups of crops mentioned in the text?
2. What is the primary purpose of a tractor on a farm?
3. Name two products that farmers can get from poultry.
4. Why is a harvester a very efficient machine?

Exercise 2. Match the words to their definitions.

1. Field	a) A vehicle used for pulling farm equipment
2. Tractor	b) An area of open land planted with crops
3. Cereals	c) A building with transparent walls for growing plants.
4. Greenhouse	e) Grasses grown for their edible grains
5. Harvest	d) Gathering crops

Text B. Core Activities on a Farm

Vocabulary

Core activities /kɔːr ækˈtɪvətiz/ – Основные виды деятельности
Plowing /ˈplaʊɪŋ/ – Вспашка
Sowing /ˈsəʊɪŋ/ – Посев
Irrigation /ˌɪrɪˈgeɪʃən/ – Орошение
Crop maintenance /krɒp ˈmeɪntənəns/ – Уход за посевами
Harvest /ˈhɑːvɪst/ – Уборка урожая
Animal husbandry /ˈænɪməl ˈhʌzbəndri/ – Животноводство
Feeding /ˈfiːdɪŋ/ – Кормление
Fodder /ˈfɒdə/ – Фураж, корм для животных

Life on a farm is governed by a cycle of essential tasks that ensure the health of the crops and animals. These core activities require knowledge, diligence, and often, specific machinery.

A fundamental activity is plowing, which turns over the upper layer of soil, bringing fresh nutrients to the surface and preparing the seedbed. After plowing, sowing takes place, where seeds are planted in the soil. Once the crops are established, irrigation is crucial, especially in dry periods, to provide water for growth. Protecting plants from weeds and pests is an ongoing task known as crop maintenance.

The culmination of the growing season is the harvest, the process of gathering mature crops from the fields. This is a critical and often busy time. For grains, this is done with a harvester, while many fruits and vegetables are still harvested by hand to prevent damage.

Animal husbandry involves a different set of routines. The most regular task is feeding the animals a balanced diet, which often includes fodder like hay or specially prepared feed. Ensuring a constant supply of clean water is equally important. For dairy farms, milking is a daily, non-negotiable activity that must be performed at regular intervals to maintain the animals' health and milk production. Furthermore, farmers have to maintain clean barns and shelters to prevent disease.

For anyone working on a farm, safety is paramount. You should always be aware of moving machinery and animals. When using tools, you must wear appropriate gloves and footwear. It is also advised that you should listen carefully to the farmer's instructions, as they know the

specific risks and routines of their farm. Following these rules is not just about efficiency; it is a matter of well-being for both people and the farm's inhabitants.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Complete the sentences with must, have to, or should.

1. You _____ wear sturdy boots when working in the field; it's a safety rule.
2. If you want to have a good yield, you _____ water your vegetables during a drought.
3. You _____ ask the farmer before you feed any animals; it's a good idea.
4. To get to the farm on time, we _____ wake up at 5 a.m. tomorrow.
5. Visitors _____ listen to the safety briefing before the tour begins.

Exercise 2. Answer the questions.

1. What is the purpose of plowing?
2. Why is irrigation important?
3. List two daily tasks involved in animal husbandry.

Exercise 3. Choose an activity from the text (e.g., harvesting, plowing). Write 4-5 sentences describing the process. Use at least one sentence with must or have to and one with should.

Example: During the apple harvest, workers have to be very careful not to bruise the fruit. They should pick the apples by hand and place them gently in baskets...

Text C

Farm Infrastructure for Agritourism Operations

Pre-Reading Task:

1. What types of facilities do you think are essential for a working farm?
2. What modifications might be needed to adapt farm facilities for agritourism?

Vocabulary

Barn /bɑːrn/ – амбар, хлев
Greenhouse /ˈgriːnhaʊs/ – теплица
Storage facility /ˈstɔːrɪdʒ fəˈsɪləti/ – складское помещение
Processing area /ˈprəʊsesɪŋ ˈeərɪə/ – зона переработки
Tractor /ˈtræktə/ – трактор
Plow /plaʊ/ – плуг
Seeder /ˈsiːdə/ – сеялка
Irrigation system /ˌɪrɪˈgeɪʃən ˈsɪstəm/ – система орошения
Milking machine /ˈmɪlkɪŋ məˈʃiːn/ – доильный аппарат
Signage /ˈsaɪnɪdʒ/ – указатели
Pathway /ˈpɑːθweɪ/ – дорожка
Viewing platform /ˈvjuːɪŋ ˈplætfɔːm/ – смотровая площадка
Demonstration area /ˌdemənˈstreɪʃən ˈeərɪə/ – демонстрационная зона

Modern farms require specialized facilities and equipment to operate efficiently while ensuring safety for both workers and visitors. Understanding this infrastructure is crucial for successful agritourism management.

The backbone of any agricultural operation includes several key structures. A barn serves as a multi-purpose building for animal shelter, equipment storage, and sometimes processing activities. Stables provide specialized housing for horses and other large animals, while greenhouses extend growing seasons and protect delicate plants. Storage facilities safeguard harvests, tools, and supplies from weather and pests, and processing areas enable value-added activities like cheese making or jam production. Farmers must maintain these structures in good repair to ensure operational safety and efficiency. Regular inspections have to be conducted to identify potential hazards like structural weaknesses or electrical problems.

Modern farming relies on various machinery and tools. Tractors provide power for numerous tasks from plowing to transportation, while plows and seeders prepare soil and plant crops efficiently. Irrigation systems ensure consistent water delivery to crops, and milking machines automate dairy operations and maintain hygiene standards. When visitors are present, operators must implement strict safety protocols. Dangerous equipment should be clearly marked, and access must be restricted to authorized personnel only. Demonstration areas with disabled or replica equipment can provide educational experiences without safety risks.

Agritourism requires additional infrastructure to accommodate guests. Parking lots need to be well-maintained and clearly marked,

and restrooms must meet health and sanitation standards. Pathways should provide safe access to different farm areas, and viewing platforms offer protected observation points. Demonstration areas allow hands-on learning under supervision. Farm owners have to ensure all public areas comply with accessibility regulations. Clear signage should guide visitors and warn of potential dangers. Emergency equipment like first aid kits must be readily available throughout the facility.

Proper maintenance is essential for both operational and visitor safety. Equipment should be serviced regularly according to manufacturer guidelines, and structural repairs must be completed promptly to prevent accidents. Electrical systems have to meet all code requirements, and fire safety equipment must be installed and maintained. Farmers should develop comprehensive safety plans that address both routine operations and emergency situations. Staff must receive proper training in equipment operation and safety procedures.

Traditional farm infrastructure often requires modification for tourism. Existing buildings might need renovation to accommodate visitors, and additional lighting should be installed along public pathways. Safety barriers must be placed around hazardous areas, and educational displays should be created to enhance visitor experience. Operators have to balance operational needs with visitor accessibility. While working farms cannot eliminate all risks, they must identify and mitigate potential dangers to create a safe, educational environment for guests.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Answer the questions:

1. What are essential structures found on most working farms?
2. How can farmers make dangerous equipment safe when visitors are present?
3. What additional facilities are needed when a farm opens to agritourism visitors?
4. Why is regular maintenance crucial for farm infrastructure?

Exercise 2. Complete the sentences with correct modal verbs:

1. Farmers _____ maintain all structures in good repair for safety.
2. Visitors _____ approach dangerous equipment without supervision.
3. Farm operators _____ provide clear signage for visitor guidance.

4. Staff _____ receive proper training in equipment operation.
5. Electrical systems _____ meet all code requirements.

Exercise 3. Match the terms:

1. Barn	a) System for watering crops
2. Irrigation	b) Protective equipment for workers
3. Safety gear	c) Multi-purpose farm building
4. Seeder	d) Machine for planting crops
5. Pathway	e) Designated walking route for visitors

Exercise 4. True or False:

1. Traditional farm facilities usually need no modification for agritourism.
2. Demonstration areas can provide safe educational experiences.
3. Maintenance is only important for equipment used in front of visitors.
4. Emergency equipment should be readily available throughout the farm.

Grammar Focus: Modal Verbs

Must	Выражает строгую необходимость, обязанность или правило.	Milking **must** be performed at regular intervals.
Have to	Выражает необходимость, обусловленную внешними обстоятельствами.	Farmers **have to** maintain clean barns.
Should	Выражает совет или рекомендацию.	You **should** be aware of moving machinery.

Exercise 1. Complete the sentences.

1. All visitors _____ follow safety rules on the farm.
a) should b) must c) have to
2. If you want to grow good tomatoes, you _____ water them regularly.
a) must b) should c) have to
3. We ___ get up early tomorrow to harvest vegetables before the heat.
a) have to b) should c) must
4. You _____ touch farm machinery without permission.
a) mustn't b) shouldn't c) don't have to
5. They _____ wear special clothing for milking - it's optional.
a) mustn't b) don't have to c) shouldn't

Exercise 2. Paraphrase the sentences.

1. It is necessary to check the animals twice a day. (have to)
→ We _____ check the animals twice a day.
2. I recommend wearing boots in the field. (should)
→ You _____ boots in the field.
3. It is prohibited to enter this area. (mustn't)
→ You _____ this area.
4. It isn't necessary to come on Sunday. (don't have to)
→ You _____ on Sunday.
5. It is very important to lock the gates at night. (must)
→ We _____ the gates at night.

Exercise 3. Correct the mistakes.

1. You must to clean the stables every morning.
2. They don't must feed the animals after 6 PM.
3. She shoulds wear gloves when gardening.
4. We have not to hurry – we have plenty of time.
5. He mustn't help us today – it's not obligatory.

Exercise 4. Farm Safety Rules. Complete the sentences with must, have to, or should.

1. You _____ always wash your hands after working with animals.
2. Visitors _____ walk behind tractors when they're moving.
3. We _____ wear special masks when spraying pesticides.
4. You _____ feed the animals without asking the farmer first.
5. They _____ work today if they're tired – it's optional.
6. I _____ check the weather forecast before planting.
7. You _____ touch electrical equipment with wet hands.
8. We _____ water the plants today – it’s going to rain.

Unit 4. THE AGRONOMIC BACKBONE OF AGRITOURISM

Learning Objective: To describe core agricultural activities
Grammar Focus: Countable/Uncountable nouns (e.g., much water, many seeds), articles (a, an, the).

Text A

Core Activities on an Organic Farm

Pre-reading task:

1. What work do you think farmers do every day on a farm?

Vocabulary

Crop cultivation /krɒp ˌkʌltɪˈveɪʃən/ – выращивание сельскохозяйственных культур

Livestock breeding /ˈlaɪvstɒk ˈbriːdɪŋ/ – разведение домашнего скота

A working farm has two main activities: crop cultivation and livestock breeding. These activities are the backbone of agritourism.

Crop Cultivation. Farmers grow a lot of plants. They grow tomatoes, potatoes, apples. Farmers also need a lot of water for irrigation, sunshine for growth and healthy soil. On an organic farm, farmers use compost and manure to improve the soil health. They do not use synthetic pesticides. This is better for the environment and sustainability.

Livestock Breeding. Farmers also raise animals. They have cows, chickens and sheep. The animals need a lot of clean water, fresh air and a lot of space. The animals give us different products: eggs, milk and wool. Organic farmers treat their animals kindly and give them natural food.

The harvest is the result of this hard work. A good harvest gives us a lot of food and products to sell. This is the core of agriculture.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Match the terms with their definitions.

1. Crop cultivation
2. Livestock breeding
3. Harvest
4. Soil health
5. Sustainability

a) The process of gathering ripe crops.
b) Raising animals for products like milk, eggs, or wool.
c) The practice of growing plants for food.
d) Farming in a way that protects the environment for the future.
e) The condition of the soil, which is good for growing plants.

Exercise 2. Countable or Uncountable?

Write (C) for Countable or (U) for Uncountable for the following nouns.

1. apple
2. water
3. cow
4. soil

5. egg
6. manure
7. potato
8. sunshine

Exercise 3. Complete the sentences. Use much or many to complete the sentences.

1. Does an organic farm use _____ compost?
2. Do the farmers have _____ chickens?
3. The crops don't need _____ water.
4. We didn't pick _____ tomatoes yesterday.
5. There is not _____ sunshine in winter.

Exercise 4. Answer the questions.

1.What are the two main activities on a farm?
2.What do plants need?
3.Why is organic farming good for sustainability?

Text B

The Science of Soil and Plant Health

Pre-reading task:

1. Why is soil important?
2. What do you think plants need to be healthy?

Vocabulary

Soil composition /sɔɪl ˌkɒmpəˈzɪʃən/ – состав почвы
Nutrient /ˈnjuːtriənt/ – питательное вещество
Decomposition /ˌdiːkɒmpəˈzɪʃən/ – разложение
Compost tea /ˈkɒmpɒst tiː/ – компостный чай (удобрение)
Soil test /sɔɪl test/ – анализ почвы
Nitrogen /ˈnaɪtrədʒən/ – азот
Phosphorus /ˈfɒsfərəs/ – фосфор
Potassium /pəˈtæsiəm/ – калий

Healthy soil is needed for strong plants. The soil composition includes minerals, water, air, and organic matter.

Organic matter is added to the soil. It is broken down by earthworms and bacteria. This process is called decomposition. Nutrients are released by

this process. These nutrients are food for the plants. Compost tea is often used by organic farmers to add nutrients. Green manure is also planted and then mixed into the soil.

Plants need nutrients. The most important nutrients are Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), and Potassium (K). These macroelements are needed in large amounts. Nitrogen is needed for leaf growth. Phosphorus is important for roots. Potassium helps the whole plant.

Sometimes, a soil test is done. The soil is analyzed in a lab. The pH level is checked. Then, the right amount of organic fertilizer is added by the farmer.

On an organic farm, the soil is protected. The soil is not turned too much. This helps the microbes and keeps the soil healthy.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Choose the correct option.

1. Organic matter in the soil is broken down by...
a) the sun
b) earthworms and bacteria
c) pesticides
2. The NPK macroelements are...
a) Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium
b) Water, Air, Sun
c) Earthworms, Bacteria, Fungi
3. A soil test checks the...
a) colour of the leaves
b) number of worms
c) pH level and nutrients

Exercise 2. Complete the sentences using the passive voice.

1. Organic matter _____ (is added / adds) to the soil.
2. Nutrients _____ (are released / release) by decomposition.
3. The soil _____ (is analyzed / analyzes) in a lab.
4. Compost tea _____ (is used / uses) by organic farmers.

Exercise 3. True or False?

1. Plants need only water and sunshine to grow.
2. Decomposition is a bad process for the soil.
3. Potassium is important for root development.
4. A soil test helps the farmer understand the soil's health.

Text C

From Bloom to Harvest

Pre-reading task:
1. How does a flower become a fruit?
2. What makes a fruit taste sweet?

Vocabulary

Blossom /ˈblɒsəm/ – цветок (плодового дерева)
Pollination /ˌpɒlɪˈneɪʃən/ – опыление
Fruit set /fruːt set/ – завязывание плодов
Photosynthesis /ˌfəʊtəʊˈsɪnθəsɪs/ – фотосинтез
Ripening /ˈraɪpənɪŋ/ – созревание
Heirloom varieties /ˈeəluːm vəˈraɪətiz/ – старинные, местные сорта
Hybrids /ˈhaɪbrɪdz/ – гибриды

The journey from a flower to a fruit is amazing. It starts with a blossom.

First, the flower must be pollinated. Pollen is moved from one flower to another. This is often done by bees. This process is called pollination. After pollination, the ovary of the flower grows. This is the fruit set. It becomes a small fruit.

The small fruit grows. The plant uses photosynthesis to make sugar from sunlight, water, and air. The sugar moves to the fruit. This makes the fruit sweet. The process of ripening changes the colour, texture, and flavour of the fruit. The harvest time is very important. If the fruit is picked too early, it is not sweet. If it is picked too late, it is soft.

Farmers grow different types of plants. Heirloom varieties are traditional types with great flavour. Hybrids are crosses between two plants. They are often made for better disease resistance. Organic farmers choose plants that are good for their local soil and climate.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Put the stages in order (1-4).
... The fruit ripens and becomes sweet.
... A blossom appears on the plant.
... Pollination happens with the help of bees.
... The fruit set occurs, and a small fruit forms.

Exercise 2. Answer the questions.

1. What is the role of bees in food production?
2. What process makes sugar in a plant?
3. Why is harvest timing important?

Exercise 3. Fill in the blanks with these words*: photosynthesis, ripening, pollination, heirloom, hybrids.*

1. _____ is the process that moves pollen between flowers.
2. Plants use _____ to create energy from sunlight.
3. The _____ process makes a fruit ready to eat.
4. _____ varieties are old types of plants.
5. _____ are new types of plants created from two different parents.

Grammar Focus: Countable/Uncountable Nouns

1. **Countable Nouns:** You can count them. They have a singular and a plural form.

- **a** farm, **a** plant, **a** tomato, **a** potato, **a** cow, **a** chicken, **a** product.
- Use **a** or **an** before a singular countable noun. Use **many** with plural countable nouns*:* A farmer doesn't have **many cows**.

2. **Uncountable Nouns:** You cannot count them. They are things like liquids, materials, or concepts. They usually have only one form.

- water, sunshine, soil, air, space, milk, wool, food, compost, manure.
- Do not use **a** or **an** with uncountable nouns. Use **much** with them: Do plants need much water**?**

3. Use **the** when you talk about something specific, or when it is already known*:* "The soil composition includes minerals..." (We are talking about the specific soil on the farm).

4. Affirmative sentences – a lot of
   Negative sentences – much/many
   Questions – much/many

Exercise 1. Categorize the Nouns: **Countable or Uncountable**.

apple, water, cow, soil, potato, sunshine, compost, egg, chicken, milk

Exercise 2. Complete the sentences with much or many.

1. Farmers grow _____ tomatoes.
2. Crops need _____ sunshine.
3. There are _____ animals on the farm.
4. Organic farming uses _____ compost.
5. The harvest gives us _____ products to sell.

Exercise 3. Fill in the blanks with the article: a, **an**, or **the**.

1. This is _____ organic farm.
2. Farmers need _____ water for their crops.
3. _____ soil on this farm is very healthy.
4. He is planting _____ apple tree.
5. They use compost to improve _____ soil health.

Exercise 4. Correct the Mistakes.

1. We need a water for the plants.
2. The farmer has much cows.
3. They use many compost in the garden.
4. This is an healthy soil.
5. Please give me many milk.

Unit 5. PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF ORGANIC FARMING

Learning Objective: To understand and use vocabulary related to the core values of modern agritourism and organic farming, protecting the environment, using renewable resources, reducing waste.

Grammar Focus: Adverbs of manner to describe how things are done (e.g., We farm responsibly. We grow food organically.).

Text A

Comprehensive Overview of Organic Agricultural Systems

Pre-Reading Task:

1. What does "organic farming" mean?
2. Why do you think consumers are increasingly choosing organic products?
3. What challenges might farmers face when transitioning to organic methods?

Vocabulary

Organic farming /ɔːrˈgænɪk ˈfɑːrmɪŋ/ – органическое земледелие
Soil fertility /sɔɪl fərˈtɪləti/ – плодородие почвы
Crop rotation /krɒp rəʊˈteɪʃən/ – севооборот
Green manure /griːn məˈnjʊər/ – сидераты
Compost /ˈkɒmpɒst/ – компост

Natural predators /ˈnætʃərəl ˈpredətərz/ – естественные хищники

Biodiversity /ˌbaɪəʊdaɪˈvɜːsəti/ – биоразнообразие

Cover crops /ˈkʌvər krɒps/ – покровные культуры

Vermicompost /ˈvɜːrmɪkɒmpɒst/ – вермикомпост

Biofertilizers /ˌbaɪəʊˈfɜːtɪlaɪzərz/ – биоудобрения

Biocontrol /ˌbaɪəʊkənˈtrəʊl/ – биоконтроль

Integrated pest management /ˈɪntɪgreɪtɪd pest ˈmænɪdʒmənt/ – интегрированная защита растений

Weed management /wiːd ˈmænɪdʒmənt/ – борьба с сорняками

Organic certification /ɔːrˈgænɪk ˌsɜːrtɪfɪˈkeɪʃən/ – органическая сертификация

Quality standards /ˈkwɒləti ˈstændədz/ – стандарты качества

Organic farming represents a scientifically grounded production methodology that emphasizes ecological harmony, biological diversity preservation, and sustainable resource utilization. This agricultural paradigm systematically avoids or substantially limits synthetic interventions – including manufactured fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and genetically engineered organisms – instead leveraging natural processes and cyclical patterns to maintain edaphic productivity and phytosanitary conditions.

The philosophical foundation of organic agriculture rests upon four cardinal principles articulated by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements. The Principle of Health maintains that organic practices should sustain and enhance the vitality of interconnected systems including soil, flora, fauna, humans, and the planetary biosphere. The Principle of Ecology emphasizes working within living ecological systems, emulating natural patterns, and contributing to their perpetuation. The Principle of Fairness advocates for equitable relationships ensuring justice regarding environmental commons and developmental opportunities. The Principle of Care promotes precautionary and responsible management protecting contemporary and future generations alongside environmental integrity.

Pedological management constitutes the fundamental basis of successful organic operations. Strategic implementation includes sophisticated crop rotation regimes that disrupt pathogen lifecycles and enhance soil architecture. Leguminous green manure crops contribute to atmospheric nitrogen fixation and organic matter augmentation. Systematic application of compost and vermicompost stimulates soil biological activity, while continuous cover crops provide erosion control and weed suppression. Conservation tillage techniques preserve soil structure and minimize disturbance to soil biota.

Phytosanitary management in organic systems employs ecological methodologies. Integrated pest management prioritizes prophylactic strategies through ecosystem manipulation. Habitat diversification enhances populations of natural predators, while approved biocontrol agents and botanical pesticides provide targeted interventions. Selection of genetically resistant cultivars coupled with optimal plant nutrition creates inherent defense mechanisms. Cultural practices including intercropping and sanitation disrupt pest reproductive cycles.

The organic certification process mandates rigorous adherence to established protocols during a typically three-year transition period. Producers must maintain comprehensive documentation of all agricultural operations, implement approved organic methodologies, establish protective buffer zones, utilize exclusively permitted inputs from certified sources, and ensure complete supply chain traceability.

Empirical research demonstrates that properly managed organic systems yield significant advantages including enhanced soil fertility and sustained productivity, amplified biodiversity and ecosystem services, reduced environmental contamination from agricultural chemicals, improved economic returns through premium pricing and value-added products, and increased resilience to climatic perturbations.

Notwithstanding these benefits, organic agriculture confronts several challenges: elevated labor requirements for weed and pest control, yield reduction during transition phases, limited availability of organic inputs in certain regions, necessity for specialized knowledge and technical infrastructure, and requirements for market development and consumer education. Future progress will likely focus on refining production efficiency, strengthening supply chain logistics, and expanding research into context-specific organic methodologies suitable for diverse agroecological conditions and cropping systems.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Answer the questions:

1. What are the four main principles of organic farming?
2. How does crop rotation benefit organic farming systems?
3. What documentation is required for organic certification?
4. What are the main economic benefits of organic farming?
5. Analyze the interrelationship between soil management practices and pest control strategies in organic systems.

6. Explain the documentation and procedural requirements essential for successful organic certification.

7. Evaluate the comparative advantages and limitations of organic farming from both production and marketing perspectives.

Exercise 2. True or False:

1. Organic farming allows unlimited use of synthetic pesticides.
2. The transition period for organic certification is typically one year.
3. Biodiversity conservation is an important aspect of organic farming.
4. Organic farming always results in lower profits than conventional farming.
5. Soil management is not important in organic systems.

Exercise 3. Fill in the blanks:

1. The use of living organisms for pest control is called _____.
2. _____ helps maintain soil cover between main crops.
3. Detailed _____ is required for organic certification.
4. _____ involves using earthworms to process organic waste.
5. The _____ principle emphasizes working with ecological systems.

Exercise 4. Match the terms:

1. Green manure 2. Biocontrol 3. Biodiversity 4. Crop rotation	a) Practice of planting different crops in a specific sequence on the same field to improve soil health b) Plants grown specifically for soil improvement c) Using natural enemies to manage pests d) Variety of life in agricultural ecosystems

Exercise 5. Discussion: "Organic farming represents the most sustainable path forward for global agriculture." Discuss this statement considering both the advantages and limitations mentioned in the text.

Text B

Integrated Approaches to Viticulture and Mushroom Cultivation

Pre-Reading Task:

1. What are the main requirements for successful grape growing?
2. How can mushroom cultivation benefit organic farming systems?
3. What connections do you see between viticulture and agritourism?

Vocabulary

Viticulture Terms:

Viticulture /ˈvɪtɪkʌltʃər/ – виноградарство
Vineyard /ˈvɪnjərd/ – виноградник
Trellis system /ˈtrɛlɪs ˈsɪstəm/ – шпалерная система
Canopy management /ˈkænəpi ˈmænɪdʒmənt/ – управление кроной
Grape variety /ɡreɪp vəˈraɪəti/ – сорт винограда
Pruning /ˈpruːnɪŋ/ – обрезка
Harvesting /ˈhɑːrvɪstɪŋ/ – сбор урожая
Yield /jiːld/ – урожайность
Organic certification /ɔːrˈɡænɪk ˌsɜːrtɪfɪˈkeɪʃən/ – органическая сертификация

Mushroom Cultivation Terms:

Mycology /maɪˈkɒlədʒi/ – микология
Substrate /ˈsʌbstreɪt/ – субстрат
Spawn /spɔːn/ – мицелий
Fruiting body /ˈfruːtɪŋ ˈbɒdi/ – плодовое тело
Sterilization /ˌsterəlaɪˈzeɪʃən/ – стерилизация
Inoculation /ɪˌnɒkjʊˈleɪʃən/ – инокуляция
Ventilation /ˌventɪˈleɪʃən/ – вентиляция
Humidity control /hjuːˈmɪdəti kənˈtrəʊl/ – контроль влажности
Oyster mushroom /ˈɔɪstər ˈmʌʃruːm/ – вешенка
Shiitake /ʃɪˈtɑːki/ – шиитаке

Sustainable Viticulture Practices

Modern viticulture has evolved to embrace sustainable and organic practices that prioritize environmental health and product quality. The concept of terroir – the complete natural environment in which a particular wine is produced – becomes particularly important in organic viticulture, with specific vineyard practices that differ significantly from conventional methods.

In vineyard management, canopy management must be precisely timed to ensure optimal sunlight exposure and air circulation. Pruning techniques are carefully selected to balance yield and grape quality, while trellis systems are designed to support vine growth while minimizing disease pressure. Natural pest control methods replace synthetic pesticides, and cover crops between rows prevent soil erosion while enhancing biodiversity.

Organic certification requires a minimum three-year transition period from conventional practices, with prohibition of synthetic fertilizers and

pesticides. The certification mandates use of organic compost and natural soil amendments, with detailed records of all vineyard operations regularly inspected by certification bodies.

Mushroom cultivation represents an efficient method of converting agricultural waste into valuable protein-rich food. The science of mycology has enabled farmers to develop sophisticated cultivation techniques that align perfectly with organic principles. The cultivation process begins with substrate preparation using agricultural by-products, followed by sterilization to eliminate competing microorganisms. Inoculation with selected mushroom spawn leads to incubation under controlled environmental conditions, induction of fruiting body formation, and finally harvesting and post-harvest handling.

Key production factors include ventilation systems to maintain adequate air exchange, humidity control at 80–90 % for most species, temperature management specific to each mushroom variety, light exposure optimization for proper development, and strict sanitation protocols to prevent contamination.

The combination of viticulture and mushroom cultivation creates valuable synergies in sustainable farming. Grape pruning waste serves as substrate for mushroom cultivation, while spent mushroom substrate becomes organic fertilizer for vineyards. Shared infrastructure and complementary seasonal labor requirements further reduce operational costs.

This integrated approach offers significant agritourism opportunities through educational tours of both production systems, wine and mushroom tasting events, hands-on workshops in mushroom cultivation, seasonal harvesting experiences for visitors, and culinary classes featuring paired products. The economic benefits include diversified income streams throughout the year, value-added products from both operations, premium pricing for organic certified products, reduced waste management costs through by-product utilization, and enhanced market appeal through sustainable practices.

However, challenges exist in both viticulture and mushroom cultivation. Viticulture faces climate change impacts on grape development, disease management without synthetic chemicals, market competition from conventional producers, and high initial investment costs. Mushroom cultivation confronts contamination risks during production, precise environmental control requirements, short shelf-life of fresh products, and specialized knowledge requirements.

Integrated solutions include developing climate-resilient grape varieties, implementing biological pest control, investing in controlled environment

agriculture, establishing processing facilities for value-added products, and creating direct marketing channels through agritourism. This integrated approach demonstrates how traditional agricultural practices can be combined with modern scientific knowledge to create sustainable, profitable farming enterprises that contribute to environmental conservation while meeting consumer demand for organic products.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Answer the questions:

1. What are the main requirements for organic certification in viticulture?
2. How can vineyard and mushroom cultivation operations benefit each other?
3. What environmental factors are crucial for successful mushroom production?
4. What agritourism activities can be developed around these two agricultural practices?

Exercise 2. True or False:

1. Terroir refers only to the soil composition in vineyards.
2. Spent mushroom substrate can be used as organic fertilizer.
3. Synthetic pesticides are allowed in organic viticulture.
4. Humidity control is unnecessary in mushroom cultivation.
5. Grape pruning waste has no practical use in integrated systems.

Exercise 3. Fill in the blanks:

1. The science of mushroom cultivation is known as _____.
2. _____ systems support vine growth in vineyards.
3. Mushroom _____ develops into the fruiting body.
4. Organic certification requires a _____-year transition period.
5. _____ management involves controlling vine canopy for optimal growth.

Exercise 4. Match the terms:

1. Terroir	a) Mushroom planting material
2. Spawn	b) Complete growing environment
3. Canopy	c) Vine support structure
4. Trellis	d) Above-ground vine vegetation
5. Mycology	e) Study of fungi

Text C

Sustainable Beekeeping in Modern Agritourism

Pre-Reading Task:

1. What role do bees play in agricultural ecosystems?
2. How can beekeeping be integrated into agritourism activities?
3. What challenges might organic beekeepers face compared to conventional ones?

Vocabulary

Beekeeping /ˈbiːkiːpɪŋ/ – пчеловодство
Apiary /ˈeɪpiəri/ – пасека
Hive /haɪv/ – улей
Honeycomb /ˈhʌnikəʊm/ – пчелиные соты
Nectar /ˈnektər/ – нектар
Pollination /ˌpɒlɪˈneɪʃən/ – опыление
Propolis /ˈprɒpəlɪs/ – прополис
Royal jelly /ˈrɔɪəl ˈdʒeli/ – маточное молочко
Swarm /swɔːrm/ – рой пчёл
Beekeeper's suit /ˈbiːkiːpərz suːt/ – костюм пчеловода
Smoker /ˈsməʊkər/ – дымарь
Frame /freɪm/ – рамка улья
Forage area /ˈfɔːrɪdʒ ˈeriə/ – кормовая территория
Pesticide-free /ˈpestɪsaɪd friː/ – свободный от пестицидов

Beekeeping represents one of the most valuable components in organic farming systems, serving both ecological and economic purposes. In organic agriculture, bees play a crucial role in enhancing biodiversity and ensuring effective pollination of crops. The practice of organic beekeeping requires strict adherence to sustainable methods that prioritize bee health and environmental protection.

The primary ecological benefit of beekeeping lies in pollination. Bees are responsible for pollinating approximately 70 % of the world's most important crops. In organic farming systems, where chemical interventions are prohibited, natural pollination becomes even more critical. A well-managed apiary can significantly increase yields in organic orchards, berry plantations, and vegetable fields.

Organic beekeeping differs substantially from conventional methods. Key requirements include: placement of apiaries in pesticide-free areas, use of natural materials in hive construction, prohibition of synthetic chemical treatments, ensuring adequate natural forage areas and the use of organic feed supplements when necessary

The beekeeper must maintain detailed records of all interventions and hive management practices to obtain organic certification. Regular monitoring of bee health and colony strength is essential, with particular attention to natural disease resistance and swarm prevention.

Beekeeping offers excellent opportunities for agritourism development. Visitors can participate in:

- Educational tours of the apiary
- Honey extraction demonstrations
- Candle making workshops using beeswax
- Tasting sessions of different honey varieties
- Learning about medicinal products like propolis and royal jelly

Safety measures must be strictly observed, with proper protective equipment provided for visitors. The educational aspect should emphasize the importance of bees in ecosystem conservation and sustainable agriculture.

Beyond honey production, organic beekeeping generates income through sale of certified organic honey and related products, educational tours and workshops, pollination services for neighboring farms and sale of queen bees and nucleus colonies to other beekeepers.

The market for organic bee products continues to grow, with increasing consumer awareness about environmental issues and food quality.

Organic beekeepers face several challenges, such as varroa mite control without synthetic chemicals, ensuring adequate forage throughout the season, maintaining colony health through natural methods and meeting certification requirements. Solutions include using organic acids for mite control, planting diverse flowering plants, practicing selective breeding for disease resistance, and implementing integrated pest management strategies.

In conclusion, beekeeping represents a sustainable and profitable enterprise that aligns perfectly with organic farming principles and agritourism development. When properly managed, it contributes to environmental conservation while providing multiple income streams for agricultural enterprises.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Answer the questions:

1. What are the main differences between organic and conventional beekeeping?
2. How does beekeeping contribute to organic farming systems?
3. What safety measures should be implemented when incorporating beekeeping into agritourism?
4. What are the economic benefits of organic beekeeping beyond honey production?

Exercise 2. True or False:

1. Bees pollinate about 70% of the world's most important crops.
2. Synthetic chemical treatments are encouraged in organic beekeeping.
3. Beekeeping cannot be combined with agritourism activities.
4. Organic certification requires detailed record-keeping.
5. Varroa mite control is not a challenge for organic beekeepers.

Exercise 3. Fill in the blanks:

1. The primary ecological benefit of beekeeping lies in _____.
2. Organic beekeeping requires placement of apiaries in _____ areas.
3. Beyond honey production, beekeepers can generate income through _____ services.
4. _____ must be strictly observed during apiary tours for visitors.
5. _____ is used for mite control in organic beekeeping systems.

Exercise 4. Match the terms:

1. Apiary	a) Bee colony searching for new home
2. Propolis	b) Beekeeper's protective clothing
3. Swarm	c) Location where bee hives are kept
4. Beekeeper's sui	d) Substance used to calm bees
5. Smoker	e) Medicinal bee product

Exercise 5. Discussion: Organic beekeeping is more challenging but ultimately more sustainable than conventional methods.

Grammar Focus: Adverbs of Manner

An adverb of manner describes *how* an action is done. It tells us the way or manner in which something happens. Most adverbs of manner are formed by adding **-ly** to an adjective.

- Adjective: organic → Adverb: organically
- Adjective: safe → Adverb: safely

If the adjective ends in -y, change the -y to -i and add -ly.

- Adjective: easy → Adverb: easily
- Adjective: happy → Adverb: happily

If the adjective ends in -le, replace the -e with -y.

- Adjective: gentle → Adverb: gently
- Adjective: simple → Adverb: simply

Adverbs of manner are often placed after the main verb or after the object (We farm **responsibly**. They treat the animals **gently**. She plants the seeds **carefully)**.

Exercise 1. Form the adverb of manner from the following adjectives.

1. organic → **organically**
2. sustainable → _____
3. responsible → _____
4. gentle → _____
5. efficient → _____
6. careful → _____
7. natural → _____
8. proper → _____
9. successful → _____
10. easy → _____

Exercise 2. Choose the Correct Word

1. Organic farmers manage pests _____. (natural / naturally)
2. We must handle the honeybees _____. (gentle / gently)
3. The new irrigation system uses water _____. (efficient / efficiently)
4. To ensure quality, they prune the vines _____. (proper / properly)
5. The mushrooms grow _____ in the dark, humid room. (successful / successfully)
6. The farm operates _____, thinking about the future. (responsible / responsibly)

Exercise 3. Fill in the blanks with a suitable adverb of manner from the list (carefully, gently, sustainably, organically, responsibly, naturally).

1. We grow all our food _____, without chemicals.
2. The beekeeper opened the hive _____ to avoid disturbing the bees.

3. They plant the seeds _____ in straight rows.
4. Our farm runs _____ to protect the environment.
5. We deal with pests _____, using other insects instead of pesticides.
6. A good farmer uses all resources _____.

Exercise 4. Each sentence has one mistake with the adverb. Find and correct it.

1. We farm responsible on our organic land. → _____
2. The grapes are harvested careful by hand. → _____
3. They process the honey gentle to preserve its quality. → _____
4. It is important to manage the vineyard efficient. → _____
5. The mycelium grows quick in the right conditions. → _____

Unit 6. THE BELARUSIAN EXPERIENCE

Learning Objective: To identify the unique cultural and natural assets of Belarus that can form the core of an agritourism offering, with a focus on the agronomist's role in curating these experiences.

Grammar Focus: The Passive Voice (Present Simple Passive) для описания процессов: *The grapes are harvested in September.*

Text A

The Status of Agritourism in Belarus

Pre-reading Task:

1. What makes the Belarusian countryside unique?
2. What is important for the development of agritourism in Belarus?

Vocabulary

Legal framework /ˈliːgl ˈfreɪmwɜːk/ – Правовая база, законодательная основа

Registration /ˌredʒɪˈstreɪʃən/ – Регистрация

Permit /ˈpɜːmɪt/ – Разрешение, лицензия

Subsidy /ˈsʌbsədi/ – Субсидия, дотация

Grant /grɑːnt/ – Грант, целевое финансирование

Government support /ˈgʌvənmənt səˈpɔːt/ – Государственная поддержка

Rural development /ˈrʊərəl dɪˈveləpmənt/ – Развитие сельских территорий, развитие деревни

Unique selling point (USP) /juːˈniːk ˈselɪŋ pɔɪnt/ – Уникальное торговое предложение

Agritourism is a rapidly growing sector that represents a strategic direction for rural development**.** While the concept is relatively new, it has developed significantly, driven by a desire to preserve cultural heritage and generate sustainable income in the countryside.

To operate legally, prospective owners must undergo a process of registration and obtain the necessary permit from local authorities. This process ensures that services meet specific safety and quality standards, which builds trust with visitors.

Recognizing the potential of agritourism, the state offers various forms of government support**.** This can include subsidies for infrastructure development or low-interest loans, often facilitated through institutions like the Belarusian Republican Foundation for Support of Agriculture and Food. Furthermore, aspiring entrepreneurs can apply for special grant programs aimed at boosting rural entrepreneurship.

For a Belarusian agritourism farm to thrive, it must identify its unique selling point (something special about it)**.** Is it the nature of the Braslav Lakes region, a focus on authentic Belarusian cuisine or the traditional folk crafts of a particular village? This is what will make the business stand out in a competitive market, attracting both local and international tourists seeking a genuine experience. Ultimately, agritourism in Belarus is not just about hospitality; it is a powerful tool for preserving the nation's rural soul while building a sustainable economic future.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Answer the questions based on the text.

1. What are the two main drivers for the development of agritourism in Belarus mentioned in the text?
2. Why is the legal process of registration and obtaining a permit important for agritourism?
3. What is the role of a Unique Selling Point in agritourism?
4. How can government support help a new agritourism venture?

Exercise 2. True or False? Correct the false statements.

1. Agritourism in Belarus is a well-established and old sector of the economy.

2. A clear legal framework helps to build trust with visitors.

3. Government support can only be received in the form of cash gifts.

4. The ultimate goal of agritourism, according to the text, is only to make money.

Exercise 3. Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the Vocabulary list.

1. Before opening his farm to tourists, Ivan had to complete the official _____ and get a _____ from the district executive committee.

2. The main _____ of our farm is the opportunity to learn how to bake traditional Belarusian bread.

3. The new law created a favorable _____ for the development of small businesses in the countryside.

4. The farmer received a _____ to build a new guesthouse, which is a great example of _____ for rural entrepreneurs.

Text B

Defining the Belarusian Experience: Culture, Nature, and Authenticity

Pre-reading Task:

1. As an agronomist, what unique knowledge about local plants, soils, and ecosystems could you share with tourists?

2. How can traditional Belarusian farming methods be presented as an interesting experience for city dwellers?

3. Why is the conservation of agricultural biodiversity important for both agronomy and tourism?

Vocabulary

Heritage /ˈherɪtɪdʒ/ – наследие
Folklore /ˈfəʊklɔː(r)/ – фольклор
Tradition /trəˈdɪʃ(ə)n/ – традиция
Authentic experience /ɔːˈθentɪk ɪkˈspɪərɪəns/ – аутентичный опыт
Local crafts /ˈləʊkl krɑːfts/ – местные ремёсла
Biodiversity /ˌbaɪəʊdaɪˈvɜːsəti/ – биоразнообразие
Conservation/ˌkɒnsəˈveɪʃ(ə)n/ – охрана природы, сохранение
National park /ˈnæʃ(ə)nəl pɑːk/ – национальный парк
Ecotourism /ˈiːkəʊˌtʊərɪzəm/ – экотуризм
Birdwatching /ˈbɜːdˌwɒtʃɪŋ/ – наблюдение за птицами

Agritourism is more than just hospitality; it is a platform to showcase the deep connection between the land, its products, and Belarusian heritage**.** An authentic experience here is not just about a rustic setting, but about telling the story of the soil, the crops, and the traditions they sustain.

The Belarusian table is a direct reflection of its agro-ecology. Dishes like draniki (potato pancakes), machanka (pork stew), and kalduny (dumplings) are not merely recipes; they are the result of specific crop varieties and farming practices. An agronomist can transform a meal into a masterclass by explaining the selection of potato varieties for the perfect draniki, the cultivation of local herbs, or the principles of organic farming that enhance the flavor of the ingredients. This turns a guest from a consumer into an informed appreciator of local produce.

Traditional local crafts such as weaving from locally grown flax, pottery made from native clays, and blacksmithing for historical agricultural tools are all tied to the land's resources. An agronomist can host workshops that start in the field – showing the flax plant – and end with a woven product, explaining the plant's life cycle and its historical importance to Belarusian culture. This creates a profound, educational link between agriculture and local crafts.

Proximity to national parks like Belavezhskaya Pushcha and the Braslav Lakes is a significant advantage. This is where ecotourism shines. Agronomists can lead guided tours not just for sightseeing, but for birdwatching and identifying wild relatives of cultivated plants, explaining their role in the ecosystem and their importance for conservation and genetic diversity. This highlights the agronomist's role as a guardian of biodiversity, connecting the farm to the wider wilderness.

Belarusian folklore and celebrations like Kalyady (Winter Solstice) and Kupalle (Summer Solstice) are linked to the agricultural calendar. These traditions mark sowing and harvesting times, celebrating the sun and rain. By incorporating these elements, an agronomist can frame the farming year as a compelling cultural narrative, enriching the guest's understanding of rural life.

Every element of the farm becomes a part of the story. Your scientific expertise is the key to creating a truly deep and memorable agritourism experience that celebrates authentic Belarusian culture.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Answer the questions based on the text.

1. According to the text, how can an agronomist transform a traditional Belarusian meal into an "authentic experience"?

2. What is the connection between local crafts and the science of agronomy, as explained in the text?

3. Why are national parks and their biodiversity important for an agronomist working in agritourism?

4. How does the text suggest using folklore in agritourism?

Exercise 2. True or False? Correct the false statements.

1. The text suggests that an agronomist's role in agritourism is limited to growing food for the guests.

2. Ecotourism activities can include explaining the role of wild plants in the ecosystem.

3. Belarusian folklore is presented as being separate from the agricultural cycle.

4. The main idea of the text is that an agronomist can use their knowledge to create a deeper and more educational experience for tourists.

Exercise 3. Fill in the blanks with the correct words.

1. Protecting the _____ of our region is crucial; it ensures resilience for both our crops and the wild nature that tourists come to see.

2. Offering a masterclass in making pottery from local clay is a great example of promoting _____.

3. Leading a _____ tour to identify migratory birds is a perfect _____ activity for guests interested in nature.

4. Celebrating the _____ of Kupalle, which is linked to the summer harvest, helps to preserve our cultural _____.

Exercise 4. Match the term to its definition.

Term	Definition
1. Heritage	a) The variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat.
2. Biodiversity	b) Travel directed towards natural, often protected, areas to support conservation.
3. Ecotourism	c) The traditions, achievements, and beliefs that are part of the history of a group or nation.
4. Authentic experience	d) The observation of birds in their natural environment as a hobby.
5. Birdwatching	e) A genuine and meaningful interaction with the local culture and environment.

Text C

A Successful Agritourism Farm in Belarus

Pre-reading Task:

1. What are the main agricultural challenges a small farm in Belarus might face throughout the year?
2. How can a farm efficiently use its resources (land, labour, products) to serve both agricultural and tourism goals?
3. What does *sustainable farming* mean in the context of a agritourism farm?

Vocabulary

Mixed farm /ˈmɪkst ˈfɑːrm/ – Смешанная ферма (растениеводство и животноводство)

Crop rotation /ˈkrɒp rəʊˈteɪʃən/ – Севооборот

Cereals /ˈsɪəriəlz/ – Зерновые культуры

Root crops /ˈruːt ˈkrɒps/ – Корнеплоды

Kitchen garden /ˈkɪʧɪn ˈgɑːdn/ – Огород

Yield /jiːld/ – Урожай, урожайность

Fodder /ˈfɒdə/ – Фураж, корм для животных

Dairy herd /ˈdeəri ˈhɜːd/ – Молочное стадо

Livestock /ˈlaɪvstɒk/ – Сельскохозяйственные животные, скот

Organic fertilizer /ɔːˈgænɪk ˈfɜːtɪlaɪzə/ – Органическое удобрение

Sustainable farming /səˈsteɪnəbl ˈfɑːmɪŋ/ – Устойчивое сельское хозяйство

Homegrown produce /ˈhəʊmgrəʊn ˈprɒdjuːs/ – Выращенная на ферме продукция

Home-processed goods /ˈhəʊm-ˈprəʊsɛst gʊdz/ – Продукция собственной переработки

Animal husbandry /ˈænɪməl ˈhʌzbəndri/ – Животноводство

Harvesting /ˈhɑːvɪstɪŋ/ – Уборка урожая, жатва

The Tihonenko family's farm is a prime example of how deep agricultural knowledge is the backbone of a successful agritourism business. The family consists of father Piotr, an agronomist, mother Galina, a master of traditional cuisine, and their son Mikhail, who manages the livestock.

It is a mixed farm that practices crop rotation on its 20 hectares. They grow cereals like rye and barley, root crops such as potatoes and carrots,

and maintain a large kitchen garden with a wide variety of vegetables and herbs. This diversity is not accidental; it is a risk management strategy. Piotr explains: "Crop rotation prevents soil depletion and breaks pest cycles. The yield from one field feeds our family and guests, while the surplus from another is used as fodder for our livestock."

Their small dairy herd of local breed cows and a flock of chickens provide fresh milk, eggs, and meat. Manure from the livestock is a key component of their organic fertilizer system, closing the nutrient cycle on the farm. "We sell the taste and quality that comes from our sustainable farming practices," says Galina.

Accommodation for guests is in a traditional log house. Meals are prepared entirely from homegrown produce and home-processed goods. Activities are seasonal and farm-based.

Key Challenges and Adaptive Strategies:

1. Seasonality: Tourist inflow is high in summer and autumn but drops sharply in winter. To counter this, the Tihonenkos have developed winter experiences like master classes on weaving and cooking with stored produce, focusing on the value-added products from their summer harvest.

2. Agricultural Risks: Unfavorable weather conditions can affect crop yield. The diversity of their mixed farm acts as a buffer. If the potato harvest is poor, the income from cereals and tourism can compensate.

3. Daily chores fieldwork must be done regardless of the presence of guests. The family has learned to integrate tourists into some lighter tasks, turning animal husbandry and harvesting into an engaging educational activity.

For the Tihonenkos, agritourism is not two separate businesses. It is a single, integrated model where the success of hospitality is directly dependent on the health and productivity of their land.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Answer the questions based on the text.

1. Why do the Tihonenko family practice crop rotation on their farm?
2. How does the farm's mixed nature help it manage agricultural risks?
3. What is the role of livestock in the farm's overall ecosystem, beyond producing milk and meat?

Exercise 2. True or False? Correct the false statements.

1. The farm specializes in growing only one type of crop for maximum efficiency.

2. The manure from the dairy herd is used as an organic fertilizer.

3. The problem of seasonality is solved by completely stopping the agritourism business in winter.

4. All food served to guests is bought from a local supermarket to ensure consistency.

Exercise 3. Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the text.

1. The _____ of potatoes this year was excellent due to good weather and our use of _____.

2. On their _____, they grow _____ like rye and _____ like potatoes, and also keep a _____ of cows.

3. Making jams and sausages is a way to create _____ from their _____, which helps them earn money in the off-season.

4. The daily routine includes _____ the cows and _____ the ripe vegetables from the _____.

Exercise 4. Match the term to its definition.

Term	Definition
1. Sustainable farming	a) The practice of growing a series of different crops in the same area across a sequence of growing seasons.
2. Crop rotation	b) A farm that operates both crop and livestock enterprises.
3. Mixed farm	c) Food given to domestic animals, especially hay or straw.
4. Fodder	d) Agricultural production that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations.
5. Yield	e) The amount of food produced per unit of land.

Grammar Focus: The Passive Voice (Present Simple Passive)
am/is/are + Past Participle (V3)

✓ The grapes are harvested in September. (We don't say who harvests them, the action is important).

✓ Manure is used as a natural fertilizer.

✓ The meals are prepared from homegrown produce.

✓ Crop rotation is practiced on the farm.

Exercise 1. Complete the sentences about farming processes using the Passive Voice. Use the verbs in brackets.

1. On this farm, organic methods _____ (use) for cultivation.
2. The potatoes _____ (harvest) in autumn.
3. Traditional Belarusian dishes _____ (serve) to the guests.
4. Manure from the animals _____ (recycle) as fertilizer.
5. New trees _____ (plant) every year.

Exercise 2. Rewrite these sentences in the Passive Voice.

Example**:** *Active:* Farmers harvest the grapes in September.
Passive: The grapes are harvested in September.

1. The family grows all the vegetables on the farm.
→ All the vegetables _____ on the farm.
2. They prepare meals from homegrown produce.
→ Meals _____ from homegrown produce.
3. The agronomist explains the principles of organic farming.
→ The principles of organic farming _____ by the agronomist.
4. They use crop rotation to protect the soil.
→ Crop rotation _____ to protect the soil.

Exercise 3. Choose the correct form to complete the sentences.

1. The farm (is located / located) in a beautiful rural area.
2. Local crafts (are demonstrate / are demonstrated) during workshops.
3. Fresh milk (is collected / collects) every morning.
4. Guests (are invited / invite) to participate in seasonal activities.
5. The story of the land (is told / is tell) to every visitor.

Unit 7. THE BRITISH EXPERIENCE

Learning Objective: To explore the agritourism industry of the United Kingdom, analysing its key characteristics, from traditional farm stays to luxury glamping, and extracting best practices applicable to other markets.

Grammar Focus: Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

Text A

The Evolution of UK Agritourism

Vocabulary

Income – /ˈɪnkʌm/ – Доход
Industry – /ˈɪndəstri/ – Отрасль, индустрия

Standards – /ˈstændədz/ – Стандарты
Landscape – /ˈlændskeɪp/ – Ландшафт, картина (в переносном смысле)
Spectrum – /ˈspektrəm/ – Спектр, диапазон
Tastes and budgets – /teɪsts ənd ˈbʌdʒɪts/ – Вкусы и бюджеты

Types of Agritourism Offerings

Traditional Farm Stays – /trəˈdɪʃənəl fɑːrm steɪz/ – Традиционное проживание на ферме
B&Bs (Bed and Breakfasts) – /biː ənd biːz/ – Ночлег и завтрак
Self-catering cottage – /self ˈkeɪtərɪŋ ˈkɒtɪdʒ/ – Домик с самообслуживанием
Luxury Offerings – /ˈlʌkʃəri ˈɒfərɪŋz/ – Предложения класса люкс
Rural escapes – /ˈrʊərəl ɪˈskeɪps/ – Загородный отдых
Glamping (glamorous camping) – /ˈglæmpɪŋ/ – Глэмпинг (роскошный кемпинг)
Rustic charm – /ˈrʌstɪk ʧɑːrm/ – Деревенское очарование
Amenities – /əˈmiːnətiz/ – Удобства

Adjectives & Descriptors

Long and rich – /lɒŋ ənd rɪʧ/ – Долгая и богатая
Sophisticated – /səˈfɪstɪkeɪtɪd/ – Развитый, сложный, утонченный
Multi-faceted – /ˌmʌlti ˈfæsɪtɪd/ – Многогранный
Diverse – /daɪˈvɜːrs/ – Разнообразный
Authentic – /ɔːˈθentɪk/ – Аутентичный, подлинный
Immensely popular – /ɪˈmensli ˈpɒpjələr/ – Невероятно популярный
High-end – /ˌhaɪ ˈend/ – Высококлассный
Significant (trend) – /sɪgˈnɪfɪkənt/ – Значительная (тенденция)

Verbs & Actions

To be born from – /tu bi bɔːrn frɒm/ – Рождаться из, возникать из-за
To supplement income – /tu ˈsʌplɪment ˈɪnkʌm/ – Пополнять доход
To ensure survival – /tu ɪnˈʃʊər sərˈvaɪvəl/ – Обеспечивать выживание
To evolve (into) – /tu ɪˈvɒlv/ – Развиваться (во что-то)
To set standards – /tu set ˈstændədz/ – Устанавливать стандарты
To cater to – /tu ˈkeɪtər tu/ – Ориентироваться на, обслуживать
To be run by – /tu bi rʌn baɪ/ – Управляться (кем-то)

To be converted – /tu bi kənˈvɜːtɪd/ – Быть переоборудованным
To redefine – /tu ˌriːdɪˈfaɪn/ – Переопределять
To engage in – /tu ɪnˈgeɪdʒ ɪn/ – Заниматься (чем-либо)
To open doors to – /tu ˈəʊpən dɔːrz tu/ – Открывать двери для
To diversify – /tu daɪˈvɜːsɪfaɪ/ – Диверсифицировать

The United Kingdom has a long and rich tradition of agritourism, often born not from leisure trends but from economic necessity. For generations, farmers have opened their gates to visitors to supplement their income and ensure the survival of the family farm. This practice has evolved from simple farmhouses offering a bed for the night into a sophisticated, multi-faceted industry. A key driver in this evolution has been the role of benchmarking bodies like Farm Stay UK, which sets standards and helps consumers identify quality-assured accommodations. Today, the UK landscape is a diverse patchwork of offerings, catering to a wide range of tastes and budgets.

The spectrum of agritourism in the UK is broad. At one end, you find the Traditional Farm Stays & B&Bs (Bed and Breakfasts)**.** These are typically family-run, offering a simple, authentic experience with a hearty breakfast, often with eggs from the farm's own chickens. Another popular option is the self-catering cottage, a converted barn or stable where guests can enjoy greater independence.

At the other end of the spectrum are Luxury Offerings**,** which have redefined rural escapes. Glamping (glamorous camping) has become immensely popular, with accommodations ranging from beautifully furnished shepherd's huts and circular yurts to modern pods and treehouses. This approach blends rustic charm with high-end amenities.

A significant trend across all models is the focus on Educational and Activity-Led experiences. Many farms now engage in rare breed conservation and open their doors to school visits. They offer hands-on activities, such as participating in the lambing season or learning about sustainable farming. This diversification – moving from purely agricultural income to a mix of farming and tourism – is a core strategy for the modern UK farmer.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Answer the questions.

1. According to the text, what was the original reason for the development of agritourism in the UK, and what is a core strategy for modern farmers?

2. Explain the difference between a traditional "Bed and Breakfast" farm stay and a "self-catering cottage".

3. What role does an organization like "Farm Stay UK" play in the industry?

4. How does "glamping" blend different concepts to create a new type of holiday?

5. Why is "diversification" described as a core strategy for the modern UK farmer?

6. What is one example of an educational activity a visitor can do on a UK agritourism farm?

7. What two main types of offerings make up the "broad spectrum" of UK agritourism?

8. Why is agritourism important for the survival of family farms?

Exercise 2. True or False? Correct the false statements.

1. UK agritourism began primarily as a luxury trend for tourists.

2. A "self-catering cottage" is usually a converted building like a barn or stable.

3. "Glamping" offers a rustic experience without any modern comforts.

4. The main goal of educational activities on farms is to entertain visitors without teaching them anything.

5. "Diversification" means moving from a mix of activities to focusing only on tourism.

Exercise 3. Match the words with their definitions.

1. Benchmarking (n.)
2. Spectrum (n.)
3. Authentic (adj.)
4. Converted (adj.)
5. Diversification (n.)
6. Conservation (n.)

a) The act of changing something from one form or purpose to another

b) The act of protecting and managing natural resources and the environment

c) The process of comparing and measuring practices against a standard

d) Genuine and real, not false or copied

e) A wide range of different ideas, objects, etc.

f) The process of starting to produce new products or offer new services

Text B

Roots in the Soil: Agronomy, Organics and Agritourism in the UK

Pre-reading task:

1. What is the difference between conventional and organic farming?
2. Why is soil health important for the food production?

Vocabulary

Agronomy /əˈgrɒnəmi/ – агрономия

Organic farming /ɔːrˈgænɪk ˈfɑːrmɪŋ/ – органическое земледелие

Soil health /sɔɪl helθ/ – здоровье почвы

Crop rotation /krɒp rəʊˈteɪʃən/ – севооборот

Composting /ˈkɒmpɒstɪŋ/ – компостирование

Biodiversity /ˌbaɪəʊdaɪˈvɜːsəti/ – биоразнообразие

Sustainable agriculture /səˈsteɪnəbl ˈægrɪkʌltʃə/ – устойчивое сельское хозяйство

Pollinators /ˈpɒlɪneɪtəz/ – насекомые-опылители

Heritage breeds /ˈherɪtɪdʒ briːdz/ – традиционные (исторические) породы животных

Natural ecosystems /ˈnætʃərəl ˈiːkəʊsɪstəmz/ – природные экосистемы

Beyond a simple holiday, agritourism in the UK offers a deep dive into the science and practice of sustainable land management. For many visitors, it is a unique opportunity to learn about **agronomy** – the science of soil management and crop production – first-hand.

A central pillar of this educational approach is **organic farming**. UK organic farms that welcome tourists strictly avoid synthetic pesticides and fertilizers. Instead, they focus on nurturing **soil health** through natural methods. Tourists can see these principles in action: they might observe **crop rotation**, where different plants are grown in sequence to enrich the soil, or learn about **composting**, which recycles organic waste into valuable fertilizer.

The goal of these methods is to work in harmony with nature. By promoting **biodiversity**, these farms create habitats for beneficial insects like **pollinators** and support rich **natural ecosystems**. Many also participate in preserving **heritage breeds** of livestock, which are often better adapted to local conditions. This entire system is a practical example of **sustainable**

agriculture, demonstrating how to produce food while protecting the environment for future generations.

For the tourist, this is an enriching experience. It is not just about seeing farm animals, but about understanding the connection between healthy soil, healthy food, and a healthy planet.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Answer the questions.

1. According to the text, what is "agronomy"?
2. What are the two main natural methods mentioned for improving soil health on organic farms?
3. What is the ultimate goal of the farming methods described in the text?
4. How do heritage breeds of livestock benefit from this type of farming?
5. Why is this kind of agritourism described as "educational"?
6. What is one thing a tourist can learn about on an organic farm in the UK?
7. What does "biodiversity" on a farm support?
8. What is the connection between soil health and the food we eat, according to the text?

Exercise 2. True or False? Correct the false statements.

1. Organic farms in the UK use synthetic chemicals to protect their crops.
2. Crop rotation helps to keep the soil healthy.
3. The main goal of these farms is to maximize production at any cost.
4. Agritourism on an organic farm can teach visitors about environmental protection.
5. Heritage breeds are modern types of animals created for high productivity.

Exercise 3. Match the words with their definitions.

1. Agronomy (n.)
2. Biodiversity (n.)
3. Composting (n.)
4. Sustainable agriculture (n.)
5. Pollinators (n.)

a) The variety of plant and animal life in a particular habitat.

b) Insects that carry pollen from one flower to another, helping plants to fruit.

c) The science of soil management and crop production.

d) The process of recycling organic material into fertilizer.

e) Farming that meets current needs without harming the ability of future generations to meet theirs.

Exercise 4. Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.

1. The key to successful _____ is understanding the relationship between crops and the soil they grow in.

2. _____ helps to reduce waste by turning kitchen scraps into nutrient-rich fertilizer.

3. A farm with high _____ is home to many different species of plants, insects, and birds.

4. _____, such as bees, are essential for the production of many fruits and vegetables.

5. The main principle of _____ is to avoid using synthetic chemicals on crops.

6. The primary goal of _____ is to produce food without damaging the environment for the future.

Exercise 5. Speaking. Discuss the following questions.

1. The text says organic farming works "in harmony with nature." What do you think this means? Can you give other examples?

2. How can the knowledge gained from an agritourism experience on an organic farm influence a tourist's daily life (e.g., shopping habits, food waste)?

Text C

Organic Principles and Agritourism in the UK

Pre-reading task:

1. How can a farm be a destination for environmental education?

2. What role do you think traditional farming knowledge plays in modern agriculture?

Vocabulary

British countryside – /ˈbrɪtɪʃ ˈkʌntrisaɪd/ – Британская сельская местность

Holistic approach – /həˈlɪstɪk əˈproʊtʃ/ – Комплексный подход

Ecological principles – /ˌiːkəˈlɒdʒɪkəl ˈprɪnsəpəlz/ – Экологические принципы

Farming systems – /ˈfɑːrmɪŋ ˈsɪstəmz/ – Фермерские системы

Resilient ecosystem – /rɪˈzɪliənt ˈiːkoʊsɪstəm/ – Устойчивая экосистема

Soil fertility – /sɔɪl fərˈtɪləti/ – Плодородие почвы

Living entity – /ˈlɪvɪŋ ˈentəti/ – Живой организм

Green manure – /gri:n məˈnjʊər/ – Сидераты

Natural fertilizer – /ˈnætʃərəl ˈfɜːrtəlaɪzər/ – Натуральное удобрение

Organic matter – /ɔːrˈgænɪk ˈmætər/ – Органическое вещество

Nutrient cycle – /ˈnjuːtriənt ˈsaɪkəl/ – Круговорот питательных веществ

Natural pest control – /ˈnætʃərəl pest kənˈtroʊl/ – Естественный контроль вредителей

Biodiversity – /ˌbaɪoʊdaɪˈvɜːrsəti/ – Биоразнообразие

Balanced ecosystem – /ˈbælənst ˈiːkoʊsɪstəm/ – Сбалансированная экосистема

Wildflower meadows – /ˈwaɪldflaʊər ˈmedoʊz/ – Луга с полевыми цветами

Habitats – /ˈhæbɪtæts/ – Места обитания

Beneficial insects – /ˌbenɪˈfɪʃəl ˈɪnsekts/ – Полезные насекомые

Rigorous certification – /ˈrɪgərəs ˌsɜːrtɪfɪˈkeɪʃən/ – Строгая сертификация

Carbon footprint – /ˈkɑːrbən ˈfʊtprɪnt/ – Углеродный след

Verbs & Actions

To nurture (the soil) – /tu ˈnɜːrtʃər/ – Взращивать, питать (почву)

To employ techniques – /tu ɪmˈplɔɪ tekˈniːks/ – Использовать методы

To protect from erosion – /tu prəˈtekt frəm ɪˈroʊʒən/ – Защищать от эрозии

To enrich the soil – /tu ɪnˈrɪtʃ ðə sɔɪl/ – Обогащать почву

To rely on – /tu rɪˈlaɪ ɒn/ – Полагаться на

To adhere to standards – /tu ədˈhɪər tu ˈstændədz/ – Соблюдать стандарты

To enhance – /tu ɪnˈhæns/ – Улучшать, усиливать

To deplete – /tu dɪˈpliːt/ – Истощать

The British countryside, with its patchwork of fields and hedgerows, is increasingly becoming a living classroom for sustainable agriculture. A growing segment of UK agritourism is dedicated to **agroecology** – a holistic approach that applies ecological principles to farming systems. This goes beyond simply avoiding chemicals; it's about creating a resilient, self-sustaining agricultural ecosystem.

At the heart of this movement is a profound focus on **soil fertility**. Organic farmers in the UK view soil not as an inert growing medium, but as a living entity. To nurture it, they employ techniques like planting **cover crops**, such as clover or rye, which protect the soil from erosion. These are often turned back into the earth as **green manure**, a natural fertilizer that enriches the soil with organic matter and nitrogen, thus closing the **nutrient cycle** on the farm.

Instead of relying on synthetic pesticides, these farms champion **natural pest control**. They actively encourage biodiversity to create a balanced ecosystem. This includes maintaining **wildflower meadows** and dense **hedgerows** to provide habitats for beneficial insects, birds, and mammals that prey on crop pests. By fostering this complex web of life, farmers reduce the need for interventions and create a healthier environment.

This commitment is often validated by rigorous certification from bodies like the **Soil Association**, the UK's leading organic certifier. This logo assures visitors that the farm adheres to the highest standards of animal welfare and environmental stewardship.

For the agroecotourist, the experience is one of immersion and understanding. It’s about walking through a wildflower meadow buzzing with life, understanding how a hedgerow functions as a wildlife corridor, and learning how these practices reduce the farm's **carbon footprint**. This form of tourism offers a profound connection to the land, illustrating how responsible farming can produce food while enhancing, rather than depleting, the natural capital of the British landscape.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Answer the questions.

1. What is "agroecology" and how does it differ from simply not using chemicals?
2. What are the two main purposes of planting cover crops?
3. How does a "wildflower meadow" contribute to natural pest control?
4. What is the role of the Soil Association in the UK's organic sector?

5. How does the text suggest a tourist can experience the principles of agroecology firsthand?

6. According to the text, what is the ultimate goal of these farming practices in relation to the environment?

Exercise 2. True or False? Correct the false statements.

1. Organic farming in the UK is only about replacing synthetic pesticides with natural ones.

2. Cover crops are used solely to provide food for farm animals.

3. Hedgerows are seen as unimportant for modern farming.

4. A certified organic farm guarantees certain standards of animal welfare and environmental care.

5. Agroecotourism allows visitors to see how farming can have a positive impact on nature.

Exercise 3. Match the words with their definitions.

1. Agroecology 2. Soil fertility 3. Carbon footprint 4. Nutrient cycle 5. Hedgerow	a) The ability of soil to sustain plant growth by providing essential nutrients. b) A fence formed by a dense row of shrubs or trees, important for wildlife. c) The total amount of greenhouse gases produced by human activities. d) The movement and exchange of organic and inorganic matter back into the production of living matter. e) The application of ecology to the design and management of sustainable agroecosystems.

Grammar Focus: Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

We use comparative adjectives to compare two things. We use superlative adjectives to compare one thing to a whole group.

1. For short adjectives (1-2 syllables):

o **Comparative:** add **-er** (e.g., rich → richer, long → longer).

o **Superlative:** add **-est** (e.g., rich → richest, long → the longest).

2. For longer adjectives (2+ syllables):

o **Comparative:** use **more** + adjective (e.g., authentic → more authentic).

o **Superlative:** use **the most** + adjective (e.g., authentic → the most authentic).

3. Exceptions: Some adjectives are irregular.
good → better → the best; bad → worse → the worst

Exercise 1. Choose the correct comparative or superlative form to complete the sentences.

1. Glamping is a _____ (more luxurious / most luxurious) option than traditional camping.
2. This farm offers the _____ (better / best) educational experience in the region.
3. Agroecology is a _____ (more holistic / most holistic) approach than conventional farming.
4. For many families, a farm stay is a _____ (richer / richest) holiday than a hotel stay.
5. The Soil Association has some of the _____ (more rigorous / most rigorous) organic standards in the UK.

Exercise 2. Write sentences comparing the two things, using the adjective in brackets. Use the comparative form.

1. Organic farming / conventional farming (sustainable)
→ _____
2. A wildflower meadow / a single crop field (good) for biodiversity
→ _____
3. The agroecology approach / using synthetic pesticides (good) for the environment
→ _____
4. Learning about soil health / just seeing farm animals (educational)
→ _____

Exercise 3. Correct the mistakes.

1. This farm offers a more richer experience than a regular hotel.
2. Organic methods create the most healthy soil for crops.
3. Their breakfast is made from the more fresh eggs on the farm.
4. This is the goodest way to learn about sustainable agriculture.
5. Glamping is becoming more and much popular in the UK.

Exercise 4. Rewrite the sentences using the word in brackets.

1. Traditional farming is not as sustainable as agroecology. (more)
→ Agroecology _____ traditional farming.
2. No other farm in this region has such high standards. (the)
→ This farm has _____ in the region.

3. A self-catering cottage offers more independence than a B&B. (less)
→ A B&B offers _____ a self-catering cottage.
4. This wildflower meadow attracts more pollinators than that field. (fewer)
→ That field _____ this wildflower meadow.

Exercise 5. Use the comparative or superlative form of the adjectives in brackets to complete the text about UK agritourism.

The UK offers some of 1) _____ (good) agritourism experiences in Europe. While traditional farm stays are 2) _____ (simple), luxury glamping is becoming 3) _____ (popular) each year. However, for an 4) _____ (educational) experience, agroecology farms are 5) _____ (interesting) than conventional ones. They use 6) _____ (sustainable) methods to create 7) _____ (healthy) environment possible.

Unit 8. CHALLENGES AND FUTURE TRENDS IN AGRITOURISM

Learning Objective: To describe common challenges and future trends in sustainable farming and agritourism.

Grammar Focus: Future Simple Tense for predictions (will/won't) and First Conditional for real future situations (If + Present Simple, will + verb).

Text A

Modern Challenges in Sustainable Farming

Pre-reading task:
1. What problems do you think farmers face today?
2. How can weather affect farm work?

Vocabulary

Climate change /ˈklaɪmət ˌtʃeɪndʒ/ – изменение климата
Extreme weather /ɪkˈstriːm ˈweðər/ – экстремальные погодные условия
Labor shortage /ˈleɪbər ˈʃɔːrtɪdʒ/ – нехватка рабочей силы
Market competition /ˈmɑːrkɪt ˌkɒmpɪˈtɪʃən/ – рыночная конкуренция
Supply chain /səˈplaɪ ˌtʃeɪn/ – цепочка поставок
Input costs /ˈɪnpʊt kɒsts/ – затраты на ресурсы
Pest resistance /pest rɪˈzɪstəns/ – устойчивость вредителей

Modern farmers face many challenges in their work. Organic farmers have special problems because they don't use synthetic chemicals.

Environmental Challenges. Climate change will bring more extreme weather. If the weather is too dry, crops won't grow well. If there is too much rain, plants will get diseases. Farmers will need better water management systems. They will plant more drought-resistant crops.

Economic Problems. Input costs for organic farming are high. If fuel prices increase, farm transportation will cost more. Market competition is strong. If large farms sell cheaper products, small farms will have problems. Many farms have labor shortages. If farmers don't find enough workers, they won't harvest all their crops.

Technical Difficulties. Pest resistance is growing. If pests become stronger, farmers will need new organic solutions. Supply chain issues can ruin harvests. If vegetables aren't transported quickly, they will spoil.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Match the terms with their definitions.

1. Climate change	a) Not enough workers available
2. Labor shortage	b) System for getting products to market
3. Supply chain	c) Long-term changes in weather patterns
4. Pest resistance	d) Pests becoming immune to control methods

Exercise 2. Complete with Future Simple. Use will/won't + verb to complete the predictions.

1. If temperatures rise, crops _____ (need) more water.
2. Farmers _____ (find) new organic methods for pest control.
3. If costs increase, food prices _____ (go) up.
4. Small farms _____ (have) problems with big competition.

Exercise 3. First Conditional Practice. Complete the sentences using First Conditional.

1. If the weather _____ (be) good, we _____ (have) a big harvest.
2. If farmers _____ (not find) workers, they _____ (need) machines.
3. If pests _____ (become) resistant, we _____ (develop) new solutions.

Text B

Innovative Solutions for Organic Farms

Pre-reading task:

1. What new technologies can help farmers?
2. How can farms be more environmentally friendly?

Vocabulary

Renewable energy /rɪˈnjuːəbl ˈenərdʒi/ – возобновляемая энергия

Water conservation /ˈwɔːtər ˌkɒnsəˈveɪʃən/ – сохранение водных ресурсов

Vertical farming /ˈvɜːtɪkəl ˈfɑːrmɪŋ/ – вертикальное земледелие

Agroecology /ˌægroʊiːˈkɒlədʒi/ – агроэкология

Biodynamic /ˌbaɪəʊdaɪˈnæmɪk/ – биодинамический

Text B

Innovative Agronomic Solutions for Modern Farms

Farmers are constantly developing new agronomic approaches to solve pressing challenges. These innovations will help make farming more productive, sustainable, and resilient.

Technology Solutions. Precision agriculture will enable farmers to use resources with unprecedented efficiency. If farmers utilize special equipment, they will monitor crop health and soil conditions more effectively, applying water and fertilizers only where needed. Vertical farming will allow for intensive food production in urban environments. If we build vertical farms, we will save space and reduce transportation costs, while also minimizing pesticide use.

Environmental Solutions. The integration of renewable energy is becoming crucial for farm sustainability. If farmers install solar panels, they will significantly reduce energy costs and their carbon footprint. Advanced water conservation systems will be vital during dry periods. If we implement rainwater harvesting and drip irrigation, we will maintain crop yields even during droughts.

Scientific Approaches. Agroecology and biodynamic methods are gaining recognition for their holistic benefits. If farmers deepen their under-

standing of ecosystem relationships, they will create more robust and self-regulating farming systems. These methods will enhance soil health, increase biodiversity, and improve nutrient cycling, leading to long-term agricultural sustainability.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Choose the correct option.

1. Precision agriculture helps farmers...
a) use more chemicals
b) use resources more efficiently
c) avoid using technology altogether
2. Vertical farming is particularly beneficial for...
a) saving space in urban areas
b) growing only ornamental flowers
c) reducing soil organic matter
3. Renewable energy solutions on farms include...
a) solar panels and wind turbines
b) exclusively diesel generators
c) nuclear power plants

Exercise 2. Answer the questions.

1. What are two main advantages of vertical farming?
2. Why is water conservation particularly important for modern agriculture?
3. How can drones and sensors help farmers in precision agriculture?

Exercise 3. Match the terms with their definitions:

1. Precision Agriculture
2. Vertical Farming
3. Agroecology
4. Biodynamic Methods
5. Water Conservation

a) Agricultural approach that applies ecological principles to food production systems
b) Farming practice of growing crops in vertically stacked layers
c) Management strategy to use water efficiently and reduce waste
d) Farming management concept based on observing and responding to field variability
e) Holistic agricultural system that treats farms as unified organisms

Exercise 4. Complete the sentences using terms from the text:

1. By using _____, farmers can apply fertilizers only to areas that need them, reducing waste.
2. _____ systems allow food production in cities where land is scarce.
3. Installing _____ helps farms reduce their dependence on traditional energy sources.
4. _____ approaches help maintain soil health and biodiversity over the long term.
5. During dry seasons, _____ systems ensure crops receive adequate water.

Exercise 5. True or False? Correct the false statements.

1. Precision agriculture leads to more efficient use of water and fertilizers.
2. Vertical farming requires more transportation than traditional farming.
3. Solar panels can help reduce farming operational costs.
4. Agroecology focuses only on maximizing short-term yields.
5. Water conservation is unimportant in regions with regular rainfall.

Exercise 6. Critical Thinking Questions

1. How can precision agriculture change the role of traditional farming?
2. What are potential limitations of vertical farming systems?
3. Why are some farmers hesitant to adopt new agroecological methods?
4. How could water conservation systems be integrated with traditional farming practices?
5. What economic benefits might farmers gain from adopting these innovative solutions?

Exercise 7. Complete the sentences using the First Conditional structure:

1. If farmers _____ (adopt) precision agriculture, they _____ (reduce) their fertilizer costs.
2. If we _____ (develop) better water conservation systems, we _____ (mitigate) drought effects.
3. If agricultural schools _____ (teach) agroecology, future farmers _____ (understand) ecosystem relationships better.
4. If governments _____ (support) renewable energy on farms, carbon emissions _____ (decrease).
5. If consumers _____ (prefer) sustainably grown food, farmers _____ (implement) more environmental solutions.

Text C

The Future of Agritourism

Pre-reading task:

1. How will agritourism possibly change in the future?

Vocabulary

Soil microbiome /sɔɪl ˌmaɪkroʊˈbaɪoʊm/ – микробиом почвы

Cover cropping /ˈkʌvər ˈkrɒpɪŋ/ – использование покровных культур

Integrated pest management /ˈɪntɪgreɪtɪd pest ˈmænɪdʒmənt/ – интегрированная защита растений

Climate-resilient varieties /ˈklaɪmət rɪˈzɪliənt vəˈraɪətiz/ – климатически устойчивые сорта

Nutrient cycling /ˈnjuːtriənt ˈsaɪklɪŋ/ – круговорот питательных веществ

Water management /ˈwɔːtər ˈmænɪdʒmənt/ – управление водными ресурсами

The future of agritourism will be deeply rooted in advanced agronomic science. Farms will transform into living laboratories where visitors can witness and participate in cutting-edge agricultural practices that address global challenges like food security and climate change.

Precision agriculture technologies will allow tourists to observe how sensors monitor soil moisture and nutrient levels in real-time. Farmers will demonstrate how drone imagery helps identify plant stress before it becomes visible to the naked eye. A key educational focus will be on soil health; visitors will learn about the soil microbiome and its critical role in plant nutrition. Through hands-on workshops, they will see how cover cropping and compost application enhance soil structure and fertility, creating a resilient foundation for crop production.

The farms of the future will serve as demonstration sites for advanced integrated pest management (IPM). Tourists will learn about companion planting strategies and the use of biological controls, such as beneficial insects, to manage pests without synthetic pesticides. Furthermore, agritourism will showcase the importance of plant breeding. Visitors will be introduced to climate-resilient varieties developed to withstand drought, heat, or new pathogen pressures, highlighting the direct link between agricultural science and sustainable food production.

Agritourism will become a platform for promoting agroecology—the application of ecological principles to agricultural systems. Farms will design their landscapes to mimic natural ecosystems, emphasizing biodiversity and closed-loop systems. Tourists will engage in activities that illustrate efficient water management techniques, such as drip irrigation and rainwater harvesting. They will trace the path of nutrient cycling, from organic waste to compost and back to the field, understanding how a farm can operate as a self-sustaining ecological unit. This approach will not only preserve rural traditions but also position farms as vital centers for environmental education and innovation.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

Exercise 1. Answer the questions based on the text.

1. How will precision agriculture technologies enhance the tourist experience according to the text?
2. What is the "soil microbiome," and why will it be a focus for future agritourism?
3. What are two specific methods of sustainable plant protection that tourists will learn about?
4. How can agritourism help showcase the importance of plant breeding?
5. What is "agroecology," and how will it be demonstrated to visitors?

Exercise 2. True or False? Correct the false statements.

1. The text suggests that future agritourism will ignore traditional farming methods.
2. Drones will be used only for taking aerial photos of tourists on the farm.
3. Managing pests with beneficial insects is an example of a biological control method.
4. The concept of "nutrient cycling" means using more synthetic fertilizers.
5. Future farms will aim to be self-sustaining ecological units.

Exercise 3. Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

1. The farmer explained that _____ involves using ladybugs to control aphid populations instead of chemicals.
2. To improve _____, they planted clover after the main harvest to protect and enrich the soil.

3. The development of _____ is crucial for ensuring food production in regions facing frequent droughts.

4. A key principle of _____ is viewing the farm as an ecosystem rather than just a food factory.

5. Modern _____ involves using moisture sensors to apply water only where and when it is needed.

Exercise 4. Match the terms with their definitions.

1. Precision agriculture
2. Soil microbiome
3. Agroecology
4. Cover cropping
5. Climate-resilient varieties

a) The community of microorganisms living in the soil.

b) Planting crops to cover the soil rather than for harvest.

c) An approach to farming that applies ecological principles.

d) Crop varieties bred to tolerate extreme weather conditions.

e) Farm management using technology to optimize field-level efficiency.

Grammar Focus: Future Simple and First Conditional

We use the **Future Simple** to talk about future predictions and facts. We use **will** or **won't** + verb. We use the **First Conditional** to talk about real future situations – things that will probably happen. The structure is: **If** + Present Simple, **will** + verb.

Future Simple: "Climate change **will bring** more extreme weather."

First Conditional: "**If** the weather **is** too dry, crops **won't grow** well."

Exercise 1. Complete the sentences about future farming using will or won't + the verb in brackets.

1. Farmers _____ (need) better water systems for their crops.

2. If pests become stronger, farmers _____ (find) new organic solutions.

3. Vertical farming _____ (allow) food production in cities.

4. If fuel prices increase, transportation _____ (cost) more.

5. Agritourism _____ (help) preserve rural traditions.

Exercise 2. Complete these First Conditional sentences using the correct verb forms.

1. If farmers _____ (use) drones, they _____ (monitor) crops more efficiently.
2. If we _____ (collect) rainwater, we _____ (have) water during droughts.
3. If visitors _____ (want) to learn about farming, we _____ (create) special courses.
4. If farmers _____ (not find) workers, they _____ (need) more machines.
5. If winter _____ (come), we _____ (offer) in-door workshops.

Exercise 3. Match the situations (1-4) with their likely results (a-d) to make First Conditional sentences.

Situations:

1. If farmers install solar panels,
2. If we build vertical farms,
3. If people cannot visit the farm,
4. If young people want to learn about sustainability,

Results:

a) they will take virtual tours online.
b) they will join eco-volunteering programs.
c) they will reduce energy costs.
d) we will save space in cities.

Exercise 4. Correct the Mistakes

1. If the weather will be bad, crops won't grow well.
2. Farmers will needs new solutions for pest control.
3. If we build vertical farms, we saves space.
4. Agritourism will helps create jobs.
5. If visitors wants to learn, we will create courses.

Exercise 5. Discussion

1. What do you think will be the biggest change in farming in the next 10 years?
2. If climate change continues, how will farming adapt?
3. What new agritourism activities will appear in the future?

Possible answers: *I think robots will help farmers with harvesting. If climate change continues, farmers will need more drought-resistant crops. Farms will offer high-tech experiences like VR tours of fields.*

GLOSSARY

Agritourism – Агротуризм
Organic farming – Органическое земледелие
Sustainable agriculture – Устойчивое сельское хозяйство
Eco-friendly – Экологически чистый, безопасный
Rural – Сельский, деревенский
Farm – Ферма
Farmer – Фермер
Crops – Сельскохозяйственные культуры
Livestock – Домашний скот, животные
Soil – Почва
Seedlings – Рассада, сеянцы
Pollination – Опыление
Irrigation – Орошение
Drip irrigation – Капельное орошение
Weed management – Борьба с сорняками
Open pollination – Свободное опыление
Yield – Урожайность

Органическое земледелие

Pesticides – Пестициды
Chemical fertilizers – Химические удобрения
Natural fertilizers – Натуральные удобрения
Compost – Компост
Manure – Навоз
Crop rotation – Севооборот
Biodiversity – Биоразнообразие
Pollinators – Опылители (пчелы, бабочки)
Earthworms – Дождевые черви
Weeds – Сорняки
To weed – Пропалывать
Seeds – Семена
Harvest – Урожай; собирать урожай
Greenhouse– Теплица
Bed / Plot – Грядка

Агротуризм

Farm stay – Проживание на ферме
To pick fruits/berries – Собирать фрукты/ягоды
Feeding animals – Кормление животных
Beekeeping / Apiculture – Пчеловодство
Honey – Мед
Dairy farm – Молочная ферма
To milk a cow – Доить корову

Глаголы

To grow – Выращивать
To cultivate – Возделывать, культивировать
To plant – Сажать
To sow – Сеять
To water – Поливать
To fertilize – Удобрять
To protect – Защищать
To preserve – Сохранять
To reduce waste – Сокращать отходы
To recycle – Перерабатывать
To experience – Испытывать, познавать
To encourage – Поощрять, способствовать

Прилагательные

Fresh – Свежий
Local – Местный
Healthy – Здоровый
Homegrown – Выращенный в домашних условиях
Free-range – Свободного выгула (о животных)
Authentic – Аутентичный, подлинный
Traditional – Традиционный

Почвоведение

Soil health / fertility – Здоровье / плодородие почвы
Soil structure – Структура почвы
Soil erosion – Эрозия почвы
Soil amendment – Мелиорант, улучшитель почвы

Tillage / No-till farming – Вспашка / Беспахотное земледелие
Mulch / Mulching – Мульча / Мульчирование
Cover crops – Покровные культуры
Green manure – Сидераты (растения, заделываемые в почву для удобрения)
Vermicompost – Вермикомпост (биогумус)
Soil aeration – Аэрация почвы
Water retention – Водоудерживающая способность
Soil pH – Кислотность почвы

Защита Растений и Борьба с Вредителями

Integrated Pest Management – Интегрированная защита растений
Biological control – Биологический контроль
Beneficial insects – Полезные насекомые (например, божьи коровки)
Natural predators – Естественные хищники
Companion planting – Совместные (смешанные) посадки
Botanical pesticides – Ботанические (растительные) пестициды (например, на основе пиретрума)
Disease-resistant varieties – Устойчивые к болезням сорта

Удобрения и Питание Растений

Biofertilizers – Биоудобрения
Compost tea – Компостный чай (жидкое удобрение)
Vermicompost tea – Чай из вермикомпоста
Seaweed extract – Экстракт водорослей
Bone meal – Костная мука
Blood meal – Кровяная мука
Nutrient deficiency – Дефицит питательных веществ
Nitrogen fixation – Азотфиксация
Mycorrhizal fungi – Микоризные грибы

Экосистема

Agroecology – Агроэкология
Ecosystem services – Экосистемные услуги (например, опыление)
Carbon sequestration – Секвестрация углерода (связывание углерода в почве)
Closed-loop system – Замкнутая (безотходная) система
Renewable resources – Возобновляемые ресурсы

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