

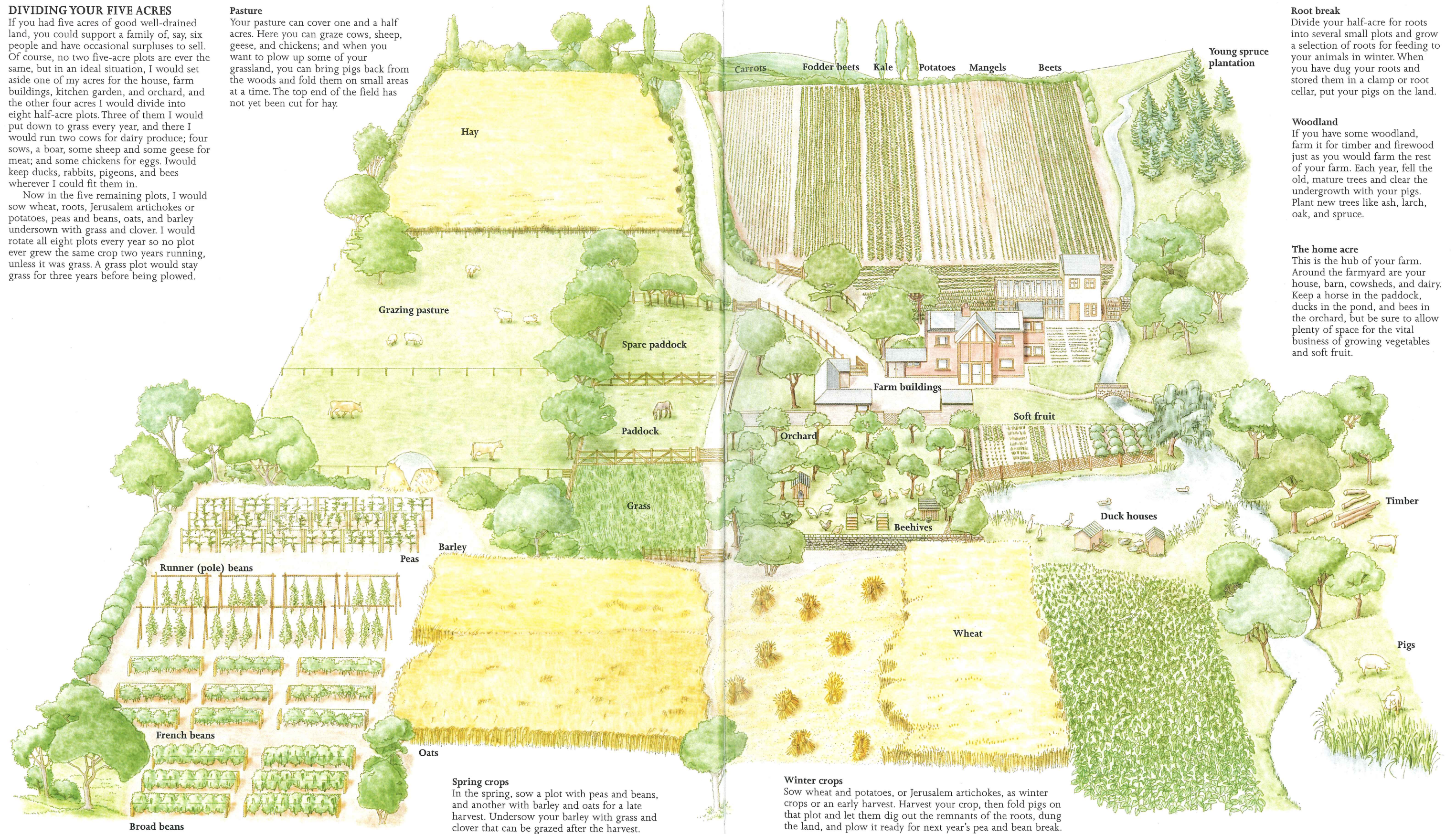
**DIVIDING YOUR FIVE ACRES**

If you had five acres of good well-drained land, you could support a family of, say, six people and have occasional surpluses to sell. Of course, no two five-acre plots are ever the same, but in an ideal situation, I would set aside one of my acres for the house, farm buildings, kitchen garden, and orchard, and the other four acres I would divide into eight half-acre plots. Three of them I would put down to grass every year, and there I would run two cows for dairy produce; four sows, a boar, some sheep and some geese for meat; and some chickens for eggs. I would keep ducks, rabbits, pigeons, and bees wherever I could fit them in.

Now in the five remaining plots, I would sow wheat, roots, Jerusalem artichokes or potatoes, peas and beans, oats, and barley undersown with grass and clover. I would rotate all eight plots every year so no plot ever grew the same crop two years running, unless it was grass. A grass plot would stay grass for three years before being plowed.

Pasture

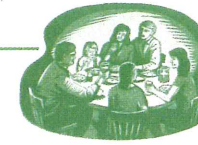
Your pasture can cover one and a half acres. Here you can graze cows, sheep, geese, and chickens; and when you want to plow up some of your grassland, you can bring pigs back from the woods and fold them on small areas at a time. The top end of the field has not yet been cut for hay.

**Spring crops**

In the spring, sow a plot with peas and beans, and another with barley and oats for a late harvest. Undersow your barley with grass and clover that can be grazed after the harvest.

Winter crops

Sow wheat and potatoes, or Jerusalem artichokes, as winter crops or an early harvest. Harvest your crop, then fold pigs on that plot and let them dig out the remnants of the roots, dung the land, and plow it ready for next year's pea and bean break.

**Root break**

Divide your half-acre for roots into several small plots and grow a selection of roots for feeding to your animals in winter. When you have dug your roots and stored them in a clamp or root cellar, put your pigs on the land.

Woodland

If you have some woodland, farm it for timber and firewood just as you would farm the rest of your farm. Each year, fell the old, mature trees and clear the undergrowth with your pigs. Plant new trees like ash, larch, oak, and spruce.

The home acre

This is the hub of your farm. Around the farmyard are your house, barn, cowsheds, and dairy. Keep a horse in the paddock, ducks in the pond, and bees in the orchard, but be sure to allow plenty of space for the vital business of growing vegetables and soft fruit.