

# Glossary

**at bay:** cornered, trapped, not free

**barbed wire:** strong wire with sharp barbs at intervals to discourage animals from trying to pass through it

**chicken coop:** a small building used to house chickens

**cows are out:** a phrase describing something every farmer fears: when cattle escape the enclosure of buildings and fences

**digger:** in this story, a post-hole digger: a shovel with two handles, specially designed to dig holes for posts

**divinity candy:** a creamy white candy made with egg whites, syrup, sugar, vanilla, and water, and used as frosting for cake or eaten as fudge

**fence line:** any fence, but especially one that stands on property line

**fodder:** coarse food, especially for cattle or horses, consisting of whole plants or the leaves and the stalks from a cereal crop

**hauling hay:** picking up the dried hay from the field and taking it to the barn for storage

**hay:** grass or alfalfa mowed and cured for use as fodder

**holes for posts:** holes meant to hold posts. Postholes are usually round, less than 12 inches in diameter, and about two or more feet deep

**jackrabbit:** a large, swift-running hare that often zigzags to escape a pursuer

**Make hay while the sun shines:** a proverb based on the fact that farmers need to make hay on a sunny day; if they wait too long, rain might cause the hay to rot. The proverb means that you should do something immediately when the situation is right and not put it off until later.

**making hay:** the process of cutting and drying grass or alfalfa, hauling it to the barn, and then unloading the hay and stacking it in the barn

**manure:** animal or plant material used to fertilize land

**putting up hay:** same as **making hay**

**pincers:** a hand tool with sharp jaws, used for holding or cutting

**pliers:** a hand tool with notched jaws, used for gripping

**post:** a length of wood fixed firmly upright in the ground to hold up wire for a fence

**second crop:** the second of several cuttings of alfalfa for hay. Farmers cut alfalfa for hay in early June. Alfalfa will grow again and be ready to be cut in late July. If the alfalfa is cut timely, up to 4 cuttings can be harvested from a single field; but usually the weather allows for only two or three cuttings.

**slough:** low-lying wetland; swamp, marsh

**stacking hay:** piling the hay on a wheeled rack in a manner that allows it to withstand a rough ride from the field to the barn without spilling

**staple:** a U-shaped wire nail used to fasten wire to posts

**tramping hay:** jumping or walking on hay to make the stack more compact so it will better withstand a rough ride from the field to the barn

**Watkins truck:** Watkins is a company based in Winona, Minnesota, and famous for their quality food and utility products. During the 1940s and 1950s, drivers regularly stopped at farms to sell the products to farmers.