HAYMAKING.FARMYARD.IM

A proverb, said of a real field, in 2026

A typographic fact sheet. No photographs.

On 24 July 2026, Stephen Craven photographed late-July haymaking at Healey, in the City of Wakefield. The Geograph page says: “The very dry summer of 2026 gave plenty of opportunity to ‘make hay while the sun shines.’” That is the photographer’s wording, not an official weather record.

A 1947 baler, waiting at Cregneash

Hay was not only packed in the field. On 2 September 2011, Richard Hoare photographed “A 1947 Ross Stationary Self-feed Hay and Straw Baler at the Cregneash Folk Museum.” It is a museum machine, and a reminder that hay and straw were sometimes brought to a fixed press.

What the official map does — and does not — say

Defra’s June Survey of agricultural land use in England, at 1 June 2026, puts the utilised agricultural area at 8.8 million hectares, 67.7% of the area of England. The croppable area was 4.9 million hectares, 55.7% of that utilised area, and includes temporary grassland as well as cereals and other crops. The notice does not publish a separate official total for land cut for hay, or a hay tonnage, and this sheet does not invent one.

Sources, checked 17 November 2026: Wikimedia Commons / Geograph file pages for the Healey and Cregneash photographs; Defra, “Agricultural land use in England at 1 June 2026.” This is not a Defra publication. haymaking.farmyard.im is part of the ReallyByte network, run by REALLYBYTE, based in the Isle of Man. ReallyByte — Fun. Educational. Useless.