

The Field Station.

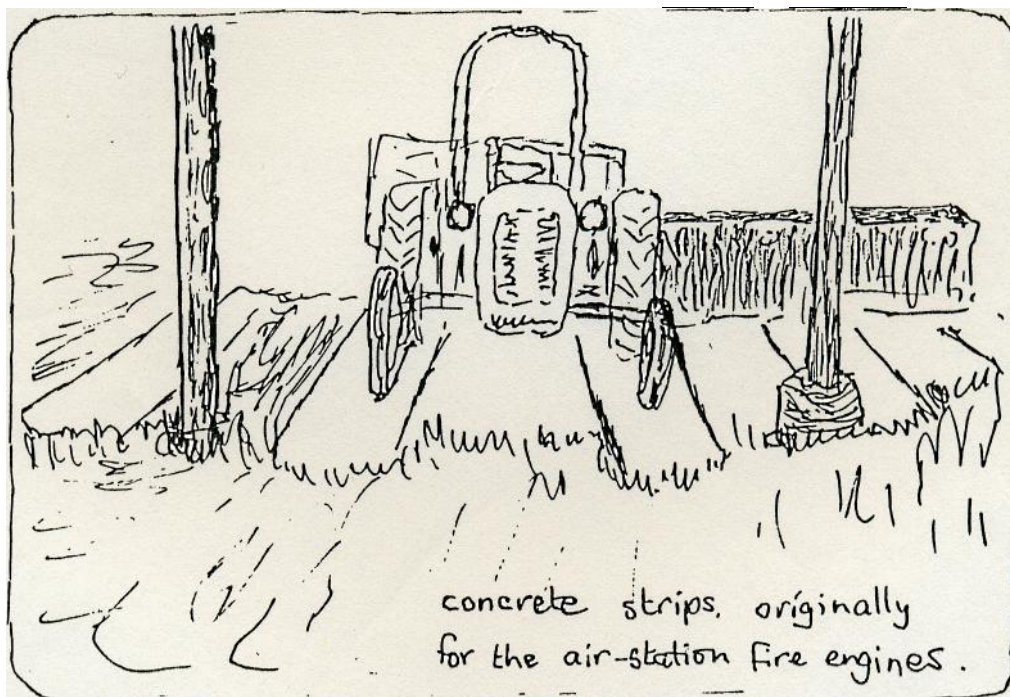
Prior to 1946, all agricultural education in Yorkshire was carried out jointly by the Yorkshire Council For Agricultural Education and Leeds University, the latter body being responsible for all teaching, advisory and research work. In 1889 the Board of Agriculture had discussed the formation of an agricultural department within the Yorkshire College but it was only in 1897/8, after the foundation of the University, that Manor Farm, Garforth, was leased from the East and West Riding County Councils. It opened as a demonstration farm in 1901 and it was suggested that the Agriculture Department should move out there, but they did not. The question arose again when the present departmental buildings were going up, but it was then felt that it was better to remain physically within the university.

By the time the lease at Garforth had run out in 1928, the Yorkshire Council had bought two farms at Askham Bryan. The Farm Institute opened there soon after the Second World War. The University then found that the three adjacent farms of Headley Hall, Wise Warren and Spen were available. Providing a convenient unit of approximately six hundred and fifty acres, they were ideal. Spen was purchased outright and the other two farms were rented until very recently, when the University was able to buy them.

The Field Station undertakes a wide variety of primary research work on both crop and animal husbandry. This is under-pinned by a commercial

farming venture which includes a dairy herd based at Wise Warren, a pig unit at Spen and sheep at Headley Hall. A Regional Trials Centre for the National Institute of Agricultural Botany is also based there.

And so the farming continues: almost a thousand years of ploughing, sowing and reaping.



concrete strips, originally
for the air-station fire engines.