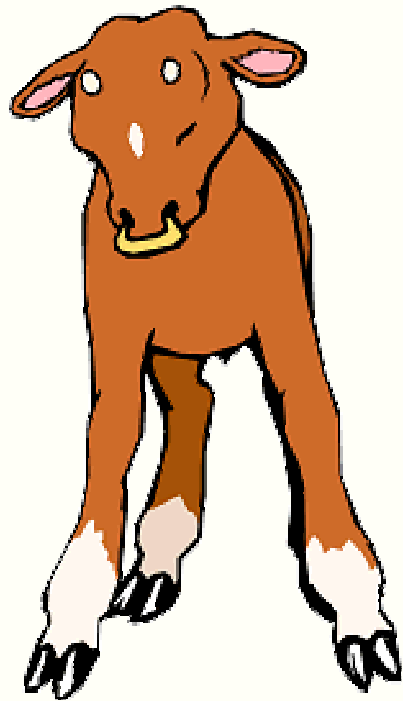


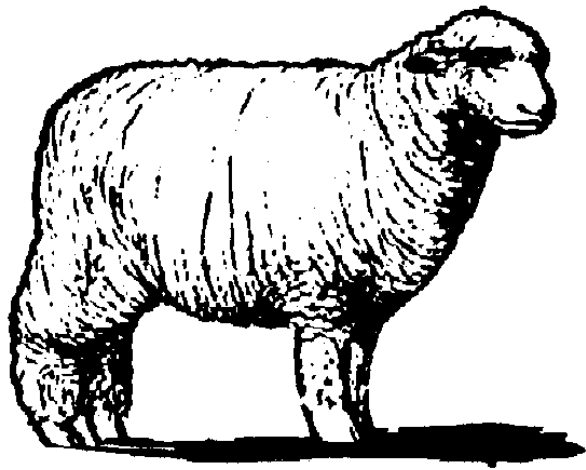
Money and barter in early Ireland



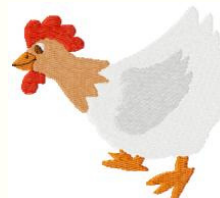
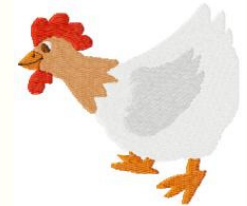
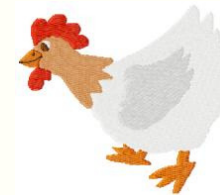
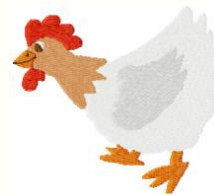
Barter

Before the Vikings came to Ireland, Irish people traded their goods in a system known as “barter”.

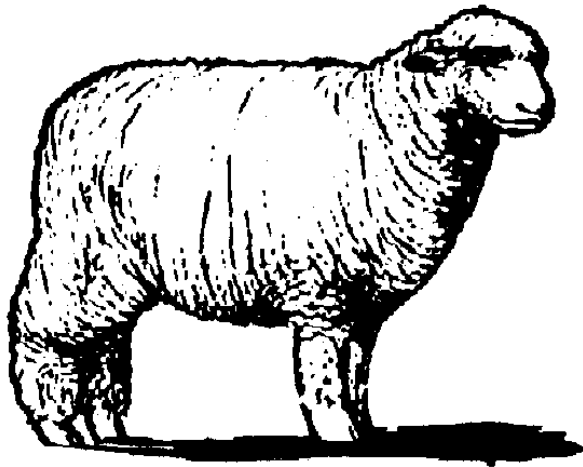
Each animal had its own value: for example,
six hens = the cost of one sheep



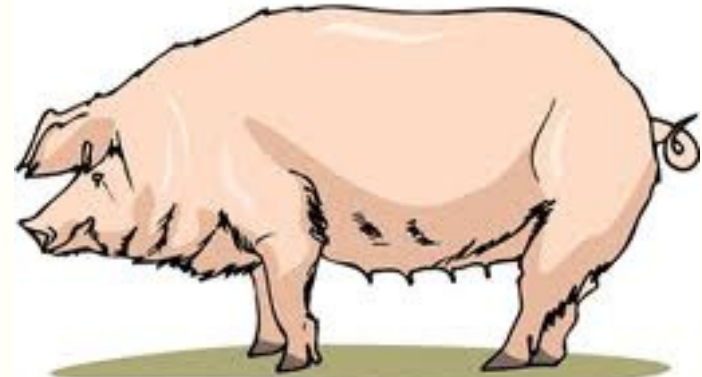
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A fully grown pig (two years old)
was equal in value to one sheep.

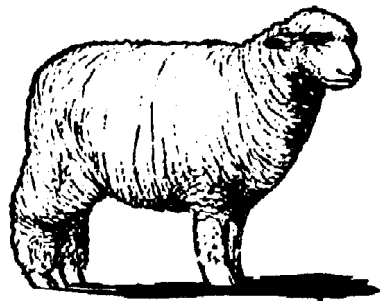
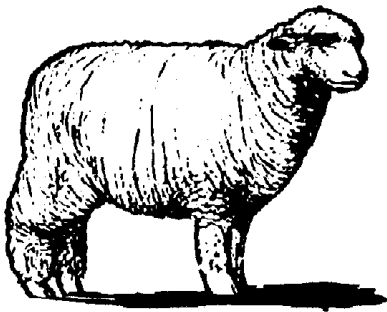


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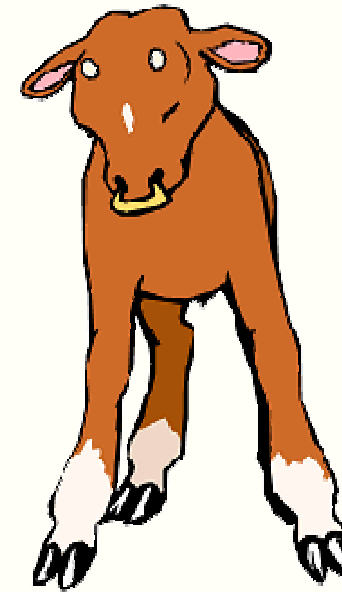


Cattle were considered more valuable than sheep or pigs.

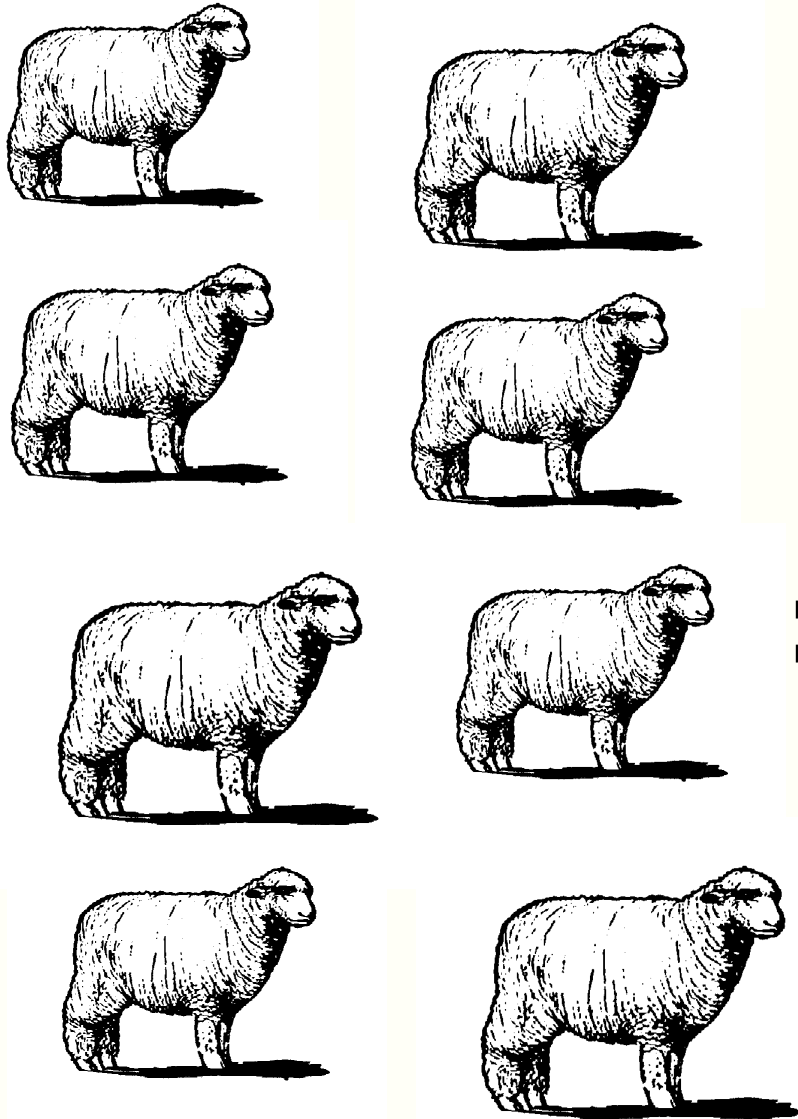
One calf was worth two sheep.



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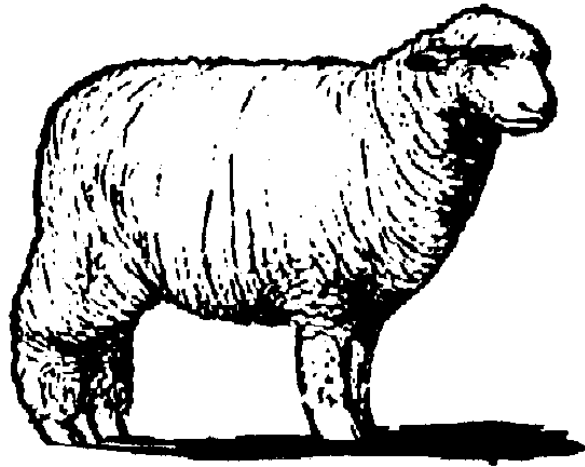
And an adult cow giving milk
was worth eight sheep



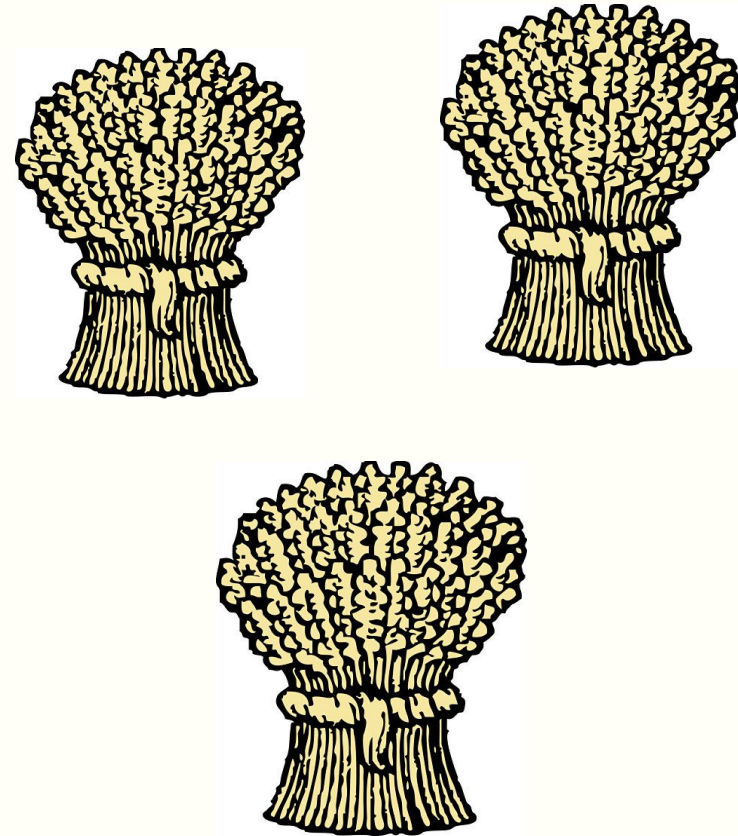
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A sheep was also worth three bushels of wheat.



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Can you work out how many bushels of wheat was equal to one adult cow giving milk?

Birthdays for the animals

Early Irish farmers did not keep records of the birthdays of their animals.

Instead they said that every Halloween (*Samain*) and every May-Day (*Beltaine*), the animals were reckoned to become six months older.



Viking raiders weren't interested in friendly barter.





But they were
business men, too,
and liked to trade.

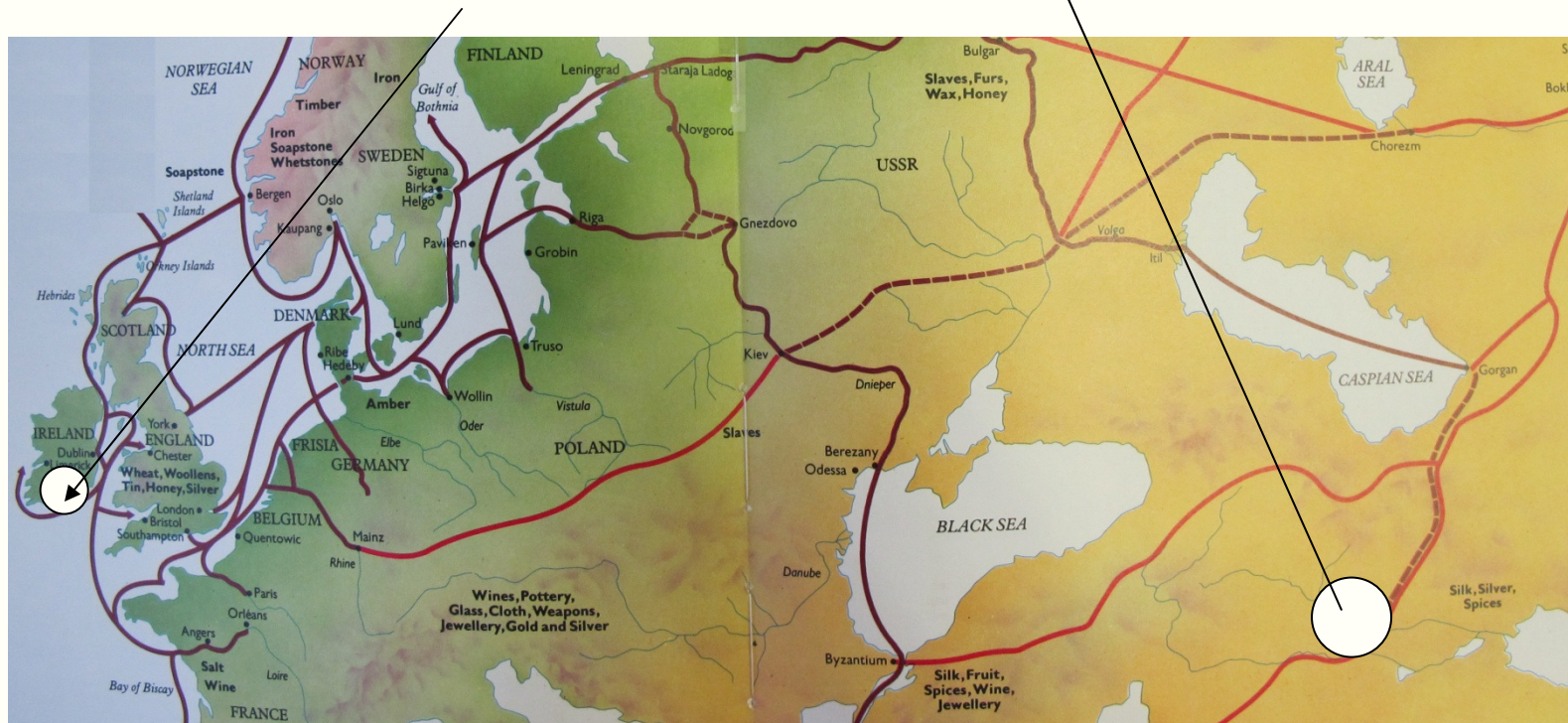


The Vikings traded right across the known world

This silver coin piece was found in Waterford.



It came all the way from Baghdad.



The Vikings brought masses of Asian silver into Ireland and Europe.

Much of it they turned into bracelets and brooches





They also melted silver into little bars called ingots.

For payment, a chopped piece of ingot, coin or armring could be weighed on a little portable scales.



Cuerdale hoard

Armies, too, had to be paid and weapons had to be bought and this was often done with silver.

A huge hoard, known as the Cuerdale hoard was found in Lancashire which included enormous amounts of Irish metalwork and silver.



It is thought that the hoard originally contained 7,500 silver coins and 1,000 silver ingots as well cut fragments of ornaments and brooches.

We think it was collected together by a Viking king to pay for an army or a fleet of warriors.

Dublin kings who rule in York

There were a sequence of kings of Dublin who migrated to northern England and became kings of York.

Even though they didn't use coins in Ireland, they did mint coins in their own names when living in England.



ANLAF CVNVNGI
King Olaf Guthfrithsson
Died as king of Northumbria in 941



ANLAF CVNVNCC
King Olaf Sigtryggsson died on Iona in 981.
It has been suggested this coin shows a raven banner.



As a result of Viking settlers and their links abroad, Dublin became enormously rich.

It traded with

- Chester
- York
- Bristol
- London
- Western Scotland
- Scandinavia

As a result of this trade, English coins began to be widely used in Ireland, especially in the eastern half of the island.



Eric Bloodaxe,
Viking king of Northumbria,
died in 955 – can you see his sword?



King Edgar of England,
died in 975

Finally the Irish Vikings became so rich that they began to mint their own coins.



Coins minted for Sitric Silkenbeard of Dublin in the 990s

Ireland has been making coins ever since