

The Farmer's Boy

1. The sun went down be - - hind yon hill, a - -
 cross the drea - ry moor, Wea - - ry and lame, a boy ___ there ___ came up
 to a ___ far - mer's door. "Can ___ you tell me if a - ny there ___ be who ___
 will give me em - ploy _____ For to plough ___ and ___ sow and to reap and mow and to
 be a far - mer's boy _____ and to be a far - mer's boy.

2. "My father's dead and mother's left with five children small
 And what is worse for mother still, I'm the eldest of them all
 Though little I be, I fear no work, if you will me employ
 For to plough.. etc
3. "And if you will not me employ, one favour I've to ask.
 O shelter me till the break of day from the cold winter's blast
 At break of day I'll trudge away, elsewhere to seek employ
 For to plough... etc
4. The farmer's wife cried "Try the lad. Let him no longer seek."
 "Yes, father, do", the daughter cried while the tears ran down her cheeks.
 " For those who'd work 'tis hard to want and wander for employ
 For to plough..., etc.
5. The farmer's boy grew up a man and the good old couple died
 They left the lad the farm they had and the daughter for his bride.
 And the lad that was, the farmer is, and he smiles and thinks with joy
 Of the lucky day he came that way to be farmer's boy etc

Source: William Newman at The Bank, Stanton, Glos. Collected by Percy Grainger 17 Nov 1907 (tune only).

Notes: Grainger only collected the tune, so words have been supplied from other versions.