THE YEAR AT MAPLE HILL FARM

JANUARY
Happy New Year

FEBRUARY
A Winter Day

MARCH
I See You.

APRIL
New Babies

MAY
Spring Flowers

JUNE
Two Friends

JULY
A Beautiful Morning

AUGUST
New Shoes

SEPTEMBER
An Unhappy Dog

OCTOBER
Apples in the Orchard

NOVEMBER
Rooks in the Cornfield

DECEMBER
Warm Companions

ALICE AND MARTIN PROVENSEN

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THE YEAR AT MAPLE HILL FARM

Winter
Summer
Spring
Autumn

Alice and Martin Provensen

Aladdin Paperbacks
New York London Toronto Sydney Singapore

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THE YEAR

This is a book about farm animals,
And what happens during one year on a farm.
The year is divided into twelve months,
The months are divided into weeks,
The weeks into days,
The days into minutes,
And on a farm something is happening every minute.

Animals don’t know there is such a thing as a year,
But they do know about seasons.
Animals know when the cold will come,
And they grow heavy overcoats.
They know when it is summer,
And they shed them.
When it is hot, they look for shade,
And in winter, they look for shelter.

People have names for what they call the months of the year.
We could start with any month as far as the animals are concerned,
But it is usual to begin with January.
January is a winter month. The ground is covered with snow.

Cows stay in the barnyard when the ground is frozen. So do the chickens, but not many eggs are laid in January. The days are too short and dark. The horses don’t mind the cold. Neither do the sheep with their heavy winter coats.

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It is a cold, grey time of year and night falls early.

All the farm animals stay close to the barn where they are fed. There is hay and grain to eat. Even the wild deer come nearer the farm, hoping to find a little salt or a windfall apple under the snow.
February follows January. The forest pond is frozen solid.

The children are having a skating party. When they are cold, they sit by the fire and toast their toes and noses. The geese play in the icy water all winter. You’d think their bare feet would freeze but they never do.

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all but a marshy place where the spring water feeds the pond.

The noisy rooks are having a circus. They toss and tumble on the trapezes of bare branches. Rooks like winter. Under the ice, in a tunnel in the frozen ground, the water rat is napping. He won't be up until spring.

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In January, the cows stay in the barnyard, and the chickens don’t lay many eggs. By March, you can tell spring is coming: the barn is filled with baby animals. Month by month, the animals at Maple Hill Farm sense the changing seasons and respond to the changes.

Through gently humorous text and charming illustrations, Alice and Martin Provensen capture one year at their beloved Maple Hill Farm in a way sure to delight city slickers and country folk alike.

“One of the Provensens’ loveliest books. . . . Those privileged to experience it are sure to be convinced that country life has special rewards.”

—Publishers Weekly

Alice Provensen and her late husband, Martin, collaborated on numerous highly acclaimed picture books, including the Caldecott Medal–winning The Glorious Flight and Nancy Willard’s Newbery Medal–winning A Visit to William Blake’s Inn, which was also a Caldecott Honor book. Alice Provensen lives in Straatsburg, New York, on Maple Hill Farm.

Don’t miss the delightful companion volume to The Year at Maple Hill Farm:

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