

Hillside Plow

Certain important variations of conventional plows were used, often regionally, to address a situation encountered locally. One such unique type used in hilly New England, was called the hillside, or one-way plow. The hillside plow lays the furrows alternately to the left and right, so that they all slope in the same direction. This is found advantageous on hillsides where the furrow must be always turned uphill to avoid finding all the topsoil at the foot of the hill after a few short years, due to gravity.

Hillside plows also leave the land level and dispense with the wide open furrows between the ridges, which are left by the ordinary plow.

In the hillside plow before you, the mold-board and share are engineered so that they can be swung on a swivel under the beam when the latter is lifted by depressing the foot-lever underneath and behind the mould-board.

The working parts of the plow are the *coulter*, the *share* and the *mould-board*. These are carried on the *beam*, to which are attached the *handles* at the back and the *hake* and *drag-chain* at the front. The hake is notched so that, by moving the drag-chain higher or lower thereon, the plow is caused to go more or less deeply into the ground. It may also be adjusted to suit the height of the horses. The hake moves latterly on a quadrant and it is thus possible to shift the direction of the plow slightly from right to left. A *frame* is bolted to the beam, and this carries the mould-board to the fore end of which the share is fitted. The coulter, at least around here, consisted of a circular cutting blade attached to the beam in front of the share to make an even cut through the turf, two or three inches deep, thus assuring a straight, even furrow.