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Detton Beef and Lamb
Newsletter - March 2004

Spring is upon us and it is time to bring you up to date with news about the farm and meat business. The crops are growing well and the early ewes and lambs are out at grass and the cattle will be out soon too.

Lambing

Early lambing is finished and the lambs are enjoying life in the fields, playing hard and growing fast! We have just started on the main flock lambing and everything is progressing well at the moment. If you would like to come and see the new born lambs please ring and we will be happy to show you round at a mutually convenient time.

Eric Ratcliff

As many of you will know, we had a sad time in November last year when Arthur's father fell ill and died.

Anyone who met Eric will remember him as a man with a real passion for farming and the countryside in which he lived and worked all his life.

He came to Detton with Elisabeth in 1953 as tenants on the Hopton estate. During his life at Detton he transformed many areas of the farm, with the vision of a man who embraced innovative ideas and believed in the future of farming. In the last 10 years he applied the same principles and attention to detail in the renovation of the farmhouse, which is now a magnificent, historic building and a lasting legacy to him.

We all miss him a great deal.

January Sale Weekend

Our open weekend in January was a huge success, in fact a little bit too successful as we sold every piece of meat in the freezers before the end of Sunday and some people were disappointed. However it was lovely to see so many customers here and everyone seemed to go home happy having seen plenty of lambs and had a chat with us and other members of the family.

BBC Hereford & Worcester

We are continuing to be featured regularly on the radio (BBC Hereford and Worcester FM104) and have covered a wide variety of topics. The programme is usually transmitted fortnightly on Wednesdays at 2.10 in the afternoon.

The next programme is on March 24th.

New Outlets

We continue to supply into Hodgehill Farm Shop, Kidderminster ; Bells Farm Shop, Stourport and Mill Orchard Farm Shop, Great Witley. If you use a farm shop ,or similar, that you feel might be interested in stocking Detton Beef and Lamb, do let us know.

The Fighting Cocks in Stottesdon continues to be a marvellous advert for our meat and other local food and drink producers. We have just started supplying some meat to Brockencote Hall . nr. Chaddesley Corbett; and also “Hammonds” in Cleobury Mortimer, which also has plans to open a dedicated Heart of England Fine Food shop in the near future.

When eating out it is always worth asking where products are sourced from, to encourage restaurant owners and chefs to seek out good local suppliers, which help give a menu an added distinctiveness.

July Open Evening

We have decided to hold our annual “open day” on a Friday afternoon/evening in July. You will be very welcome to visit, have a conducted tractor ride round the farm with Arthur (and Vinnie the terrier!) and a barbeque in the gardens of the farmhouse, as well as the opportunity to buy fresh meat if you wish. We also plan to have one or two amusing attractions/distractions (for adults and children!) If the weather is kind to us it should be an enjoyable friendly way to spend a summer’s afternoon/evening.

It will take place on **Friday 16th July** from 5pm onwards. Please contact us if you want any further details

Mutton from Detton

Following various requests we are considering including mutton in our range of meats. If you think that you would be interested in trying some Detton Mutton do let us know, or look out for it on the market stall

Burgers to Go!

Detton burgers are set to enter the fast food market! Ashley's mobile catering is a new business based in Cleobury Mortimer offering quality mobile catering, using our burgers and their own homemade bread rolls. Look out for them at local events or for bookings call Ashley or Estelle on 01299 271283

Farmers Markets

Just a reminder that you can find us at the following:

STOURBRIDGE	1 st Sat. in the month
KIDDERMINSTER	2 nd Fri in the month
BROMSGROVE	2 nd Sat in the month
BEWDLEY	4 th Sun in the month

Alternatively visit us at the farm, open most days, but do ring if you do not want to risk a wasted journey.

With best wishes

Clare and Arthur, and the Ratcliff family