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Detton Beef and Lamb **Newsletter - October 2003**

We are well into some autumn weather now, following a glorious summer. The hot dry weather makes a lot of farm jobs much easier, the harvest has come in with remarkably little hassle and without the need to analyse the weather forecast and study the clouds over the Clee Hill several times every day!

Next years crops are sown and hopefully will not have suffered from insufficient moisture early on. Our heavy land manages well in times of low rainfall and there has generally been enough grass for all the livestock throughout the summer.

The farmers markets have been a bit quieter through the summer but are picking up well now.

Christmas Orders

Please contact us with any Christmas orders as soon as you can.

Open Day

We had lovely weather for our open day in June. Those that came seemed to enjoy the day, but the numbers were a bit disappointing, I think we shall have to be braver and advertise it a bit more aggressively next year.

January Sale Weekend

This will take place on Jan. 17th and 18th 2004 10am – 3pm. It will be similar to last year with a sale of all the freezer stocks (plenty of bargains!) and a chance to visit the lambing shed to see the early lambs.

Deliciously Shropshire Awards

These awards were presented in October to catering outlets throughout the county who use local produce (food and drink) and provide excellent meals for the public.

I was lucky enough to attend the awards lunch at Adcote school, where they served **Detton Lamb**, and see Sandra Jeffries from the **Fighting Cocks** in Stottesdon pick up First prize for the best pub in Shropshire. Sandra uses Detton Beef and Lamb regularly on her menu as well as many other local products. If you visit the pub you will find a warm welcome, wonderful food and local beer in a traditional rural pub setting. There is limited seating so if you want to have a meal it is best to ring and book first(01746 718270)

Beef and Real Ale sausage

Our latest sausage variety uses beer from the Hobsons brewery in Cleobury Mortimer. We use Hobsons “Old Henry” to develop a lovely beef sausage with a definite beer taste.

BBC radio Hereford & Worcester

We have begun work on a programme which will be broadcast soon, and go out regularly on BBC Hereford and Worcester. The aim is to follow the progress of the farm,(including Detton Beef and Lamb), over a 12 month period and take in a recording at a farmers market. Arthur and I are struggling with the art of being articulate in front of a radio mike, hopefully we will improve as the months go by!

New Catering Outlets

We have recently started supplying some meat to the Brasserie in Kidderminster and lamb to The Falcon in Bridgnorth (low town). It takes some extra effort for caterers to try and source from local producers so if you get the chance to mention that you have noticed/appreciate the freshness and quality of the menu it will not go unnoticed.

New Shop Outlets

You can now find Detton Beef and Lamb products in Bells Farm Shop in Stourport and Hopton Bank Garage shop at Hopton Wafers near Cleobury Mortimer. We continue to supply into Hodge Hill Farm shop, on the Birmingham road out of Kidderminster and Mill Orchard farm shop at Great Witley

Farmers Markets

We have a stall regularly at the following markets:

Stourbridge 1st Sat. in the month (1st Nov, 6th Dec, 3rd Jan)

Kidderminster 2nd Fri. in the month (14th Nov, 12th Dec, 10th Jan)

Bromsgrove 2nd Sat. in the month (8th Nov, 13th Dec, 10th Jan)

Bewdley 4th Sun. in the month (23rd Nov, ***** 25th Jan)

NB there is no farmers market in Bewdley in Dec. but we will take a stall there on the regular Saturday market on Dec20th instead

Rick Stein's new book

We are featured in Rick Stein's latest BBC book called "Rick Stein's Guide to the Food Heroes of Britain" It is a good book, full of information on small scale, quality food producers throughout Britain and Ireland. If you would like a copy we have them for sale at the farm and the farmers markets, price £12.99

Friday Delivery

Don't forget that we do a regular Friday delivery run in the Kidderminster/Worcester/Bridgnorth /Cleobury Mortimer area. If you ring with an order in good time we can always deliver to the door.

With Best Wishes,

Clare and Arthur and the Ratcliff family

P.S. DID YOU KNOW that you can also treat your dog/cat to Detton Beef? We sell 1kg bags of minced beef trimmings for £1 a bag.