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Detton Beef and Lamb **Newsletter - Oct 2004**

Summer seems to have passed us by this year, and it has been a great relief to finally get the crops harvested, it has been exasperating at times! The autumn has been short and catchy for ploughing and sowing next year's crops, but most of it is done now.

The livestock have benefited the most from the wet summer, because there has been an abundance of grass growing all season, as anyone with a lawn to mow knows only too well!

The cattle are beginning to come into their winter quarters, and it is reassuring to know that we have plenty of good quality silage to keep them happy for the next few months.

The ewes in the early lambing flock are looking well and should start lambing from January 1st, meantime the tups (rams) are preparing to join their next harem!

OPEN EVENING JULY 2004

We had a busy enjoyable evening on July 16th with plenty of visitors to our open evening. There were 3 full trailer rides round the farm and a barbeque, as well as dancing and singing from the Sedgeley Morris Men.

Fortunately the rain that had fallen all day stopped at the crucial moment and Arthur's last minute efforts at putting a cover on the trailer did not have to be tested.

NEW OUTLETS

You can now find Detton Beef and Lamb products in Hopleys Farm Shop in Bewdley and in the new Shop at the Cocks next to the Fighting Cocks in Stottesdon. Both are good examples of independent outlets where you can find fresh local produce. Do take time to call in sometime as you may well be surprised by the range and quality of products on offer.

We are also pleased to be supplying The George Hotel in Bewdley with some beef and lamb for use in their restaurant.

EXISTING OUTLETS

Bells Farm Shop, Stourport.
Mill Orchard Farm Shop, Great Witley
The Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon
Brockencote Hall, Chaddesley Corbett

Hodge Hill Farm Shop, Kidderminster
Hopton Bank Garage, Hopton Wafers
Hammonds, Cleobury Mortimer

DELICIOUSLY SHROPSHIRE AWARDS

We were very pleased, last week, to pick up a Commended prize at the Deliciously Shropshire awards. This was the first year that these prestigious awards had included a category for "Small Producers" and there was much competition. The winners were the Wood brewery at Wistanstow, and highly commended were Appleby's cheese from Hawkstone, so we were in good company.

DETTON MUTTON

Our first tentative steps into mutton have been very encouraging. The flavour is superb and our personal doubts about the tenderness were quite wrong. It requires a slightly longer, slower cooking time than lamb, but produces a wonderful roasting joint as well as excellent stewing meat and mince. We pick the slimmer ewes aged between 2 and 4yrs. and they are hung for a minimum of two weeks after slaughter.

Following calls by the Prince of Wales to promote mutton, a "Festival of Mutton" is to be launched in mid November backed by the National Sheep Association and the Academy of Culinary Arts. We can now offer mutton, to order, on a regular basis

NEW PRODUCTS

- **MEDITERRANEAN MEATLOAF**
We have just launched a really tasty new Beef meatloaf, which cooks in the oven and is delicious hot or cold. It is made with oats, tomato and Mediterranean herbs. It slices well and can be used as a meal or snack, or as part of a buffet or picnic. We will be offering tasters at the farmers markets, so try it for yourself.
- **LAMB GARLIC AND ROSEMARY SAUSAGE**
Fantastic new sausage, if you like garlic!
- **BEEF AND CRANBERRY SAUSAGE**
This is in its final stages of development and should be out for Christmas

CHRISTMAS ORDERS

To avoid disappointment please let us have your Christmas orders as soon as possible

JANUARY SALE WEEKEND

This will take place on Jan.29th / 30th 2005 10am – 3pm. It will be similar to previous years, with a sale of freezer stocks (plenty of bargains!) and a chance to visit the lambing shed to see the early lambs. Everyone is welcome.

FARMERS MARKETS

Just a reminder that you can find us at:

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

Alternatively visit us at home. We are open most days but do phone if you do not want to risk a wasted journey.

With best wishes

Clare and Arthur and the Ratcliff family