



MEADOWSWEET MATTERS

Meadowsweet Farm Shop to open in Horley!

At last we're almost ready to open the farm shop. A big thankyou to the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council who provided a grant towards equipment we needed to buy for the shop. This is Cherwell District Council money provided to help set up community shops. Meadowsweet Farm Shop qualified because there are very few shops in any of the villages locally and it was felt that a shop would be a huge benefit to the local community. It has been exciting sourcing all the local foods which we plan to sell once we're open. We plan to extend the range as we grow and develop but initially we'll be selling local meats, jams, cakes, ready meals, eggs, dairy produce and fruit and vegetables. Please pop along to have a look – we welcome any suggestions or ideas that you may have.

MEET OUR SUPPLIERS:

The Meat Joint,

Iron Down Farm, Deddington.

The Meat Joint is a purpose built butchery on a farm producing quality lamb and pork. All manner of joints, cuts and other products are produced, including a range of sausages that have won awards and huge customer acclaim. We will be selling a range of their products in our farm shop. Also, they have been developing Meadowsweet Beef burgers from our beef so watch out for this exciting new range including Dijon mustard and horseradish sauce.

HAY AND STRAW FOR SALE

DO YOU KEEP RABBITS, GUINEA PIGS, HORSES, DONKEYS OR SHEEP? STRUGGLE TO GET GOOD QUALITY HAY AND STRAW FOR FEED AND BEDDING? WE CAN HELP AS WE SELL SMALL BALES OF HAY OR STRAW.

£3.00 A BALE.

WE CAN DELIVER LOCALLY, OR YOU CAN COME AND COLLECT.

What's been happening on the farm?...

The cattle stayed out well into the Autumn, however, it turned very wet in the middle of November so we had to bring them into the barns early this year. The food value of the grass deteriorates as the temperatures fall, so we fed them hay out in the fields for several weeks before they came in.

And now we're at the beginning of April, some of them have just been put out in the fields. It's a joy to watch them at turn-out; kicking their heels gleefully, free again after 6 months being stuck inside. Once we've put them all out, the muck will have to be removed from the sheds and piled up in a muck heap for the Summer to be spread on the fields in the Autumn, returning the valuable nitrogen which will help next year's crops to grow. Before they went out they were all given a blue-tongue vaccine and a dose of wormer to get rid of any parasitic worms in their gut.

New addition to Meadowsweet Farm – Meet Tom – our dedicated mouser. Tom has settled well into his new life on the farm – until we discovered he might be a she! We reckon the kittens are due in May, so if anyone's looking for a new pet come to see us in June – free to a good home...

Bird boxes Thankyou very much to "Uncle Tom" who made us a variety of bird boxes to sell in the shop. We have put a couple of them up around the farm buildings and already there has been a lot of interest from potential occupants. A proportion of the sale of each box will be donated to the RSPB.

Congratulations to Martin on passing his BASIS exams. He is now qualified to make his own recommendations on what chemicals and sprays to apply to the crops. Doing the course was quite a commitment over the last 6 months but he gained a much broader insight into

what chemicals are available, how they work, and how to reduce the amount of spraying carried out and to make it more effective. Part of the course involved making a weed collection – no mean feat in December and January when nothing is growing. However the whole family helped and now even Lucy & William can identify some of the weeds we found in our arable crops.



Lucy with her new best friend Tom!



Thankyou very much for your continued support.
Martin & Emma Hamer



MEADOWSWEET FARM SHOP

Opening times: Monday – Saturday 9.30am – 12.30am

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

THURSDAY 30TH APRIL - next lot of Meadowsweet Beef back.

FRIDAY 1ST MAY - Farm shop opening.

MONDAY 25TH MAY (Bank holiday) -
Meadowsweet Farm shop will be at the Wroxton Village Fête. 1pm - 4 pm

FRIDAY 29TH MAY - Meadowsweet Beef due back.

SUNDAY 7TH JUNE - Farm Sunday -
Meadowsweet Farm open day and barbeque.
Meet at the farm at 11.00 with farm walk setting off at 11.30.
Back to the shop for a barbeque lunch and other activities.

JULY - STRAWBERRY FAJRE
fresh local strawberries and locally made strawberry jam available now.
Come and sample some home made scones with clotted cream
and local strawberry jam.

19TH SEPTEMBER - 4TH OCTOBER - BRITISH FOOD FORTNIGHT
come and taste lots of locally produced delicacies on sale in the farm shop.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER orders being taken for Christmas poultry

OUR OWN
MEADOWSWEET BEEF
FREE-RANGE CHICKEN
AND GUINEA FOWL

FARMHOUSE
READY MEALS
FRUIT &
VEGETABLES
HOME-MADE CAKES

LARGE RANGE OF
GLUTEN-FREE
AND WHEAT-FREE
PRODUCTS

THE MEAT JOINT
QUALITY PORK
& LAMB

"DAILY BREAD"
WHOLE FOODS

JERSEY MILK,
CREAM AND
DAIRY PRODUCTS
LOCAL EGGS