

RED POLL BEEF E-NEWS

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Burning Issue at Local Produce Fair

The next local produce fair takes place here at the farm on Saturday 25th June from 10:00 to 14:00. As well as choosing from the usual selection of fantastic local produce, you can see charcoal being made and buy some to take home with you. BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) will be on site with kilns which are used to make charcoal using wood from sustainably managed local woodlands, and you can see the end product and the production process. There is also the chance to find out more about Trafford Mill Kitchen Garden on the day, and a barbecue will be on offer. As an additional incentive, we will be offering a **discount of 10% on all frozen Red Poll Beef fillet steak, joints, braising steak, chuck steak and shin beef** on the day.

More Red Poll Beef Outlets

You can find us at Oswestry Farmers Market on the last Friday of each month and at Knutsford on the first Saturday, between about 09:00 and 13:00 each day. You can also buy Red Poll Beef from Harvies Kitchen at Nercwys (near Mold), and beef will soon be on sale at Abbey Leys Farm Shop, Peacock Lane, High Legh, Lymm.

No Mean Feet

Some of the cattle which you may have seen close to the farm buildings have had foot problems which have now been attended to by Steve Jones, who uses a mobile cattle crush (crate) and is an expert in cattle hoof care. Being cloven footed, cattle (like pigs, deer and giraffes!) are susceptible to infection in their feet entering via the the cleft between the two claws. The claws are similar in substance to human nails although they do not grow as quickly. So some cows need their toe nails trimming occasionally, in just the same way as us.

Sun Stroke

Well, almost! One of the Red Poll heifers (young female) appeared to be ailing this month, with swelling and blisters around her eyes and nose. The vet was called to examine her, and she was suffering from photosensitisation, meaning that her skin had become sensitive to sunlight. This is thought to have caused by her eating a poisonous plant which prevented her liver from working correctly. She is now inside and recovering well.

Chinese Lanterns

Chinese lanterns continue to be a menace to livestock and livelihoods. One landed last week in a barn which houses the two young bulls (Frodo and Twoby) and which is normally full of dry straw. Fortunately, on this occasion, no harm was done. Please be aware that these lanterns are a form of legal and lethal littering, and are causing major problems for airport operators, mountain rescue teams and the coastguard to name but three. It would be greatly appreciated if you avoided the purchase or use of Chinese lanterns.

FREE Farm Visits through LEAF

This farm is a host farm for a lottery funded scheme administered by LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) and the Sensory Trust. We are able to offer free visits for groups of people who might not otherwise visit the countryside, whether it be because of straitened financial circumstances, mobility difficulties or cultural reasons. Funding towards transport costs is also available. If you work with or know of any such groups who could benefit from this scheme, please contact me or visit www.leafuk.org and follow the links to the Let Nature Feed Your Senses page.

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