

RED POLL BEEF E-NEWS

From Huw Rowlands, The Grange, Warrington Road, Mickle Trafford, Chester CH2 4EB.

Tel. 01244 300655 / 07950 963526. Web www.redpollbeef.eu

Now on Twitter@redpollbeef

Also at <http://redpollbeef.blogspot.com>

If you have received this newsletter in error or no longer wish to receive it, please reply with a blank email entitled No Red Poll E-news and you will be removed from the list.

LOCAL PRODUCE FAIR THIS SATURDAY

You are welcome to come along to our local produce fair at the farm this Saturday(28th May) from 10:00 to 14:00. All sorts of local food and more will be on sale, and the R.S.P.B. will be here with a stand. Paul Brady is conducting a guided farm walk at 11:00, which is your chance to brush up on your farmland bird recognition skills and find out how the land is managed to benefit wildlife. As well as local honey, eggs, cheese, fruit and vegetables and our Red Poll Beef, you can buy Jane's Handmade Bread, Harvies Pies and Pastries, delicious pasta dishes, jams and chutneys from Mike Morton, spectacular cakes, and even get some plants for your garden.

FRESH RED POLL BEEF

The next batch of fresh Red Poll Beef will be available from 16:30 on Thursday (26th May). If you would like to place an order, please let me know. We will be at Oswestry Farmers Market on Friday 27th May and Knutsford Farmers Market on Saturday 4th June.

OPEN FARM SUNDAY

This year Open Farm Sunday takes place on 12th June. To date over 320 farms across the country have registered to open their gates, and you can find out what is going on near you by visiting www.farmsunday.org and typing in your postcode. We are offering a guided farm walk at 11:00 and another at 14:00 on the day, each lasting about two hours and taking in many of the sights and sounds of the farm at a leisurely rate. There is no need to book; just come along on the day, remembering to bring suitable clothing and footwear. You are welcome to bring a picnic lunch which you can eat in our meeting room if the weather is inclement, or you could treat yourself to a Thai meal at the Nags Head or a Sunday roast at the Shrewsbury Arms.

SILAGE

As I write, the first cut of silage has almost been completed by Ardens and the clamp is looking healthily half full. The grass is covered with a plastic sheet weighed down with old tyres; the purpose of the tyres is both to prevent the sheet from blowing away and to aid the compression of the grass. This helps the fermentation process which turns the grass into silage and thus feed for the Red Poll cattle in the winter. The heavy crop demonstrates the benefit of using green compost on the land. As the soil structure improves, plants are encouraged to root more deeply, thereby making them more resistant to drought. Although the grass crop is no taller than previously, it is much more dense than before.

RED POLLS

With the exception of the bulls (Bernie,Ernie, Frodo and Twoby) all the cattle are now out and enjoying the spring grass, and about half of the cows have had calves to date. The bulls will join the herd in July with the aim of next year's calves being born from late March onwards. This means that the animals will be outside and will have had the benefit of a few weeks on spring grass (sometimes known as Dr.Green because it works wonders for ailing livestock). Like humans, the gestation period for cattle is around 9 months.

ATTACHMENTS TO THIS EMAIL

You will find attached to this email a leaflet detailing events and activities planned for Trafford Mill Kitchen this summer to which everyone is welcome, as well as a poster giving more information about the farmland bird walk being offered by the RSPB this Saturday.

Huw Rowlands

24/05/2011

Visit a farm on Open Farm Sunday, 12th June.
www.farmsunday.org