

BROCKLEBY FARM SPRING NEWSLETTER

As many of you will no doubt remember, my wife Annette and I have been long-standing members of staff at Farm Shop Home Delivery for several years, Annette as manager of FSHD, and myself as Sales Manager for Farm Shop Specials. However, we both left at the end of last year to fully concentrate on our own enterprise, Brockleby Farm, which we set up some months ago with a couple of like-minded friends, Daren and Sarah.

This letter is partly to say a big thank you to those of you who have supported our new venture, and partly to satisfy the curiosity of those who would like to know how we are progressing!

Brockleby Farm currently consists of 82 sheep, 11 dogs, 9 horses and 4 humans! These numbers are increasing all the time, not only with the new lambs being born as we write, but also a new human partner, with the forthcoming birth of mine and Annette's baby, expected in early July!

The farm's aim is to raise the profile of rare breed and native stock, providing an increased awareness of the benefits of rare breed meat, and, as ever, to promote the direct link between producer and consumer. The majority of our flock currently consists of Hebrideans, a small black hardy sheep, of a fairly wild but well-mannered temperament! As some of you may already know, we came across these sheep through our contact with the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, who use them for conservation grazing in Sherwood Forest and Clumber Park. They are slow maturing and provide a full-flavoured tender meat, with considerably less fat than commercial breeds.

We also have a growing population of Jacobs, headed by our two rams, Massai and Charlie. Jacobs are a large sheep, with a black-spotted white fleece, and have a slightly arrogant attitude which really provides the sheep dogs with a run for their money!>

This flock includes two ewes hand-reared by Annette last year, imaginatively named Spot and Patch! Jacobs are a faster maturing breed and provide meat which is both sweet and succulent.

The remainder of the flock consists of Portlands, a brown-faced sheep with small deer-like horns, and Wiltshire Horns, a large white sheep, ruled over by their Matriarch, affectionately known as Back End, due to her rather unfortunate looks! Still, it never seemed to bother the ram!!

We hope to add considerably to our extended family over the coming months, not just expanding our existing flocks, but also adding cattle, pigs and chickens.

We are currently marketing our produce mainly through Farmers' Markets, including West Bridgford (2nd & 4th Sat. of every month), Melton Mowbray (resuming as from April) and Leicester (last Weds. of every month). We will also be making an appearance at several county and village shows throughout the year. Freezer packs (half lambs) are also available, either via mail order, or collection from Steve, at Brumpton's Butchers in Cotgrave.

Well, that's it for now. We sincerely hope that you receive this letter in the spirit it is intended - as a friendly note to keep you informed of our progress. However, if for any reason you would prefer not to hear from us in the future and would like to be removed from our database, please reply to this email putting 'remove' in the subject box. If, on the other hand, you know of someone who would appreciate our letter, then please feel free to pass it on. And, of course, if you would like any further information, please don't hesitate to contact us, or view our website at www.brocklebyfarm.co.uk

Many thanks for your time,

Ian Jalland, and the team at Brockleby Farm.