

## **SUMMER & AUTUMN NEWSLETTER FROM BROCKLEBY'S**

Sorry it's late but we've been really busy since March - we are now attending an average of 20 farmers' markets and shows a month! We have even created a new page on our website telling people where they can find us.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of July I unfortunately missed a market but gained a new member of staff with the arrival of our son Maximus weighing in at 7lbs 11oz, most of which seems to be hair! Mother and son are both doing well, Annette and Max now undertaking more shepherding than me as I am so busy with the markets.

In June we took delivery of some new breeding stock from the Nottinghamshire Wild Life Trust, forty Hebridean ewes to add to our growing flock of Jacobs. This Autumn we will be crossing them with Daren's Jacob ram Charlie to produce Jacobean lambs next spring! Fortunately, we have gained some more grazing at Nether Broughton as Tony & Liz Hawley have kindly invited us to manage their paddocks with our super lawn mowers. This means we now have land in Leicestershire as well as Nottinghamshire, where we have grazing in the parishes of Widmerpool and Upper Broughton.

This year we had to lamb outside and occasionally in the snow but next year, thanks to the kind men at Rushcliffe Borough Council planning department, we will have constructed our own purpose built shed right next to our house - assuming Net doesn't fill it with horses first!

Our Jacob Lamb & Mint sausages made a real impact at the 2004 Great Taste Awards, and they were given top marks – a Gold Award. No mean feat in a competition with almost 4000 entries of the highest standard. For those of you who haven't heard of The Great Taste Awards, they are organised by the Guild of Fine Food Retailers and have been running for ten years. Known as the 'Oscars' of speciality food and drink, all entries were blind tasted in August by food experts from across the industry.

Plans are on track for a grand opening of our very own Farm Shop early next year at Grange Garden Centre, two miles west of Melton Mowbray on the A6006. From the shop we'll be selling our own lamb alongside a range of other produce sourced from farmers and rural producers in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire. Fortunately, the Government have supported our plans and DEFRA will be assisting us with some of the painful start-up costs.

Finally, a date for your diaries. On Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> of December we are running a Christmas Farmers market in conjunction with Leicestershire Food Links Ltd at Grange Garden Centre. This one-off market will have stallholders from Leicestershire and surrounding counties and will provide you with an opportunity to buy all those essential Christmas luxuries.

Look forward to seeing you at the market.

Ian Jalland

[www.brocklebyfarm.co.uk](http://www.brocklebyfarm.co.uk)