



BROCKLEBY'S



Food with Provenance

Hello everyone,

Hope you are all enjoying the torrential downpours and blazing heatwaves we've all come to expect from a great British summer. Despite the credit crunch, we've lots of good news to report from Brockleby's Farm Shop and Goosenest Farm. Top of that list must be the fact that you can now order a fabulous Brockleby's pie from Abel & Cole. They are specialists in organic vegetable boxes but these days deliver so much more than just spinach and spuds. People across England can now order a Brockleby's Melton Mowbray Pork Pie, Picnic Pork Pie or Poacher's Game Pie delivered straight to their door. Check out Abel & Cole's service at www.abelandcole.co.uk - we're listed under Chilled Food along with tonnes of other fantastic, high quality food.

Farm News

Lambing was all over in two weeks this year - and what a busy two weeks it was - with a lambing average of 1.35. We used four rams this year and it really made a difference. Goosenest Farm is also home to five new foals, the off-spring of Annette's beloved mares giving her a foaling average of only 1. Not that we're a competitive family, of course!

Goosenest Farm has now achieved Higher Level Stewardship status. That means we are being recognised for managing our land in ways which will help to improve the quality of our countryside for wildlife and people. It has taken some time to meet all the criteria but we think it's worth it, knowing that we're preserving the British countryside for everyone's children as well as our own.

Entertainment and Events

Many of you will have enjoyed the very welcome return of Melton Country Fair this year and the Jalland family were no exception. We were all involved in the resurrection of this much loved annual celebration through the social enterprise organisation Leicestershire Food Links.

Despite threatening rain all morning, the gods were very kind to us and the sun shone throughout the day. More than 8,000 people turned out to enjoy a day of food, fun and festivities which ultimately made all the hard work seem worthwhile. Watch out for an even bigger and better return next year!

In the meantime, anyone who fancies a cracking day out in the beautiful Charnwood countryside can join us at the Wood Fair, on Monday, August 31. I'm one of the organisers of the farmers market and there'll be a fantastic selection of



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locally produced food – including Brockleby's pies and sausages – as well as a host of other countryside attractions.

Staff News

They came, they saw, they karaoked! Our resident Kiwis – Kirsty and Trudy – have kept us entertained with their ever-cheerful smiles and songs for the past six months. Now they are off on an adventure around the world – well Spain at least! We wish them well.... anyone need a summer job?

Accolades and Awards

April saw the inaugural British Pie Awards held in Melton, an event designed to celebrate Britain's fantastic pie heritage, recognise the valuable craft of bakers and give us all an excuse to scoff a lot of pies! It was a great day out for everyone and we at Brockleby's were really chuffed with our success. As well as carrying off a stack of gold, silver and bronze awards, we were crowned Champions in a class for our Brockleby's Poacher's Game Pie.

The latest news on the competitions front is also incredibly exciting for me. I'm a finalist in the Farmer's Weekly Local Food Farmer of the Year award. There are three of us in the running – we'll find out who's won in October but just to get this far is fantastic. If I go on about it too much, I'll sound like a big-head, so if you want to know more, just go to www.farmersweeklyawards.co.uk.

Family Life

Max has started school and has told all this classmates he's a farmer. Tabitha, bless her, has taken to getting up at 5.30am to help me with the book-keeping – pretty impressive seeing she's only 18 months old.

I'd like to tell you all about the new four-bedroom house that has risen from the mud at Goosenest Farm to become home for Annette, Max, Tabitha and I.

I'd like to, but I can't, as we are still in the mobile home, looking out onto the foundations. Yes, building work on our family home has stalled in the recession. But we're still cheerful and counting our blessings.

Hope you're doing the same. Come and see us soon,
Best wishes,

Ian Jalland