



Moon Ridge Farm Newsletter

Autumn 2011

Hello to every one

October already, difficult to see where the year has gone, Christmas just around the corner.

GOOD NEWS!! Despite the increases in feed, fuel and just about everything else we are keeping our Christmas geese prices static for the fourth year in a row at 4.25 per lb. (9.35 per Kg). **HURRAH**

This compares very favourably with other producers in the area and nationwide from prices we have already seen advertised on the internet for this year.

We have only be able to maintain this price as we keep our own flock of breeding geese , incubate , rear and process the birds here at Moon Ridge, so as well as keeping cost down they could not be more local. They are dry plucked and wax finished by hand then hung to develop their flavour. The only additional help we have is at processing time, all the rest is down to Merv and his small team so we are always very proud of the end results!!

There are still some live geese for sale so if you want to finish some yourself or if you want to get your own breeding stock for next year please contact us.

ORDER YOUR GOOSE ONLINE AT <http://www.moonridgefarm.co.uk/page7.htm>

THANKYOU

Before I carry on I would like to say thank you for your feedback following our last newsletter, some ideas we have implemented already and some of which we are in the process of, some of them are on the 'to do list'

Improve the signage to our farm on the road (this involves planning so could take some time)

Upgrade the content of the website and keep updated (in the process of and on-going)

Introduce credit card payment on the farm (this I am looking into and hopefully we will have a system in place for Christmas)

An online shop for the poultry housing (hopefully before Christmas)

Fingers crossed we will have a course time table fixed in time for spring.

Back to the present

The seasons have been all over the place this year having a knock on effect to the breeding stock, the wildfowl and pheasants have been quite hit and miss this year some of them laying at complete odd times and in the last couple of weeks we have had Guinea fowl, Egyptian and Maned geese hatch their own in the wildfowl enclosures, this being the fourth clutch of eggs from the Maned geese.

We've also had another four baby mara born and most surprisingly a baby fallow deer in the 'park' recently.

There is a huge amount of fruit around this year both cultivated and hedgerow, we are hoping this does not mean another hard winter, but the 'nights are pulling in' and there is as I pen this a change to the morning air, so we have got to make the most of the Autumn before Winter sets in.

On the livestock front

(see our sale page <http://www.moonridgefarm.co.uk/page8.htm>)

We have the usual full range of chickens here on the farm, remember we sell all the accessories you need for your poultry including the housing. We also do personalised gift vouchers which make great Christmas presents, these can be ordered on-line and with you within 48 hours.

We have plenty of productive ducks, Khaki Campbell's, Silver Appleyards, Indian Runners and Cayugas. There are both grey and white Chinese geese, (the best guard dogs) and great lawn mowers!! We have the graceful giants, the Africans who are our most placid friendly geese, the standard white meat goose, plus a few commercial Toulouse. We also have a reasonable selection of wildfowl.

With the increasing numbers of mara we now have some young for sale, along with some castrated young pygmy goats who are very tame, thanks to our children who have spent an inordinate amount of time with them, not forgetting a litter of newly weaned large black pigs.

There has been a lot of interest in 'Red' our tame red deer hind this year and anyone wanting a hand reared youngster, either red or fallow for 2012 would be advised to book early (deposit) required to avoid disappointment as we only ever do a handful. The same applies to anyone wanting one of our sprocker puppies as this year the litter from Tess went very quickly and a number of people have been disappointed to have missed them so it is best to register your interest via email to the website and Kate can let you know when we have another litter expected

LOOKING FORWARD...

We have much to do in the coming months, we have sold our park home and it is in the process of being removed; this frees up quite a large paddock and some hard standing so we are having a big rethink on how the farm and selling stock is laid out. Hannah our apprentice from Bicton has taken on a full time position here at the farm which is great news and as ever we have our band of 'youngsters' who work here at the weekends and holidays. Plans for the New Year will be to extend our opening days and increase our livestock to include bantams, rabbits, guinea pigs as well as a small aviary.

As I said before we hope to have some courses running here next year so that will take most of our energies setting up.

The waterfowl boundaries still need to be reinstated but we hope to do that over the winter months and then we can sort out the species in each area.

As always we have a very busy Christmas in front of us with the geese and this year we will also be selling our home grown Christmas trees.

If we miss our next newsletter (WINTER) I hope we are not too previous in wishing you our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Thank you for your time and signing up for this newsletter

Merv, Kate, William and Megan.

Please be patient with the website as it has changed quite a bit, I am no IT expert, some of the links may not work but the menu on the right will get you to the right destination ...

www.moonridgefarm.co.uk