



# SOUTH YEO FARM WEST



[www.southyeofarmwest.co.uk](http://www.southyeofarmwest.co.uk) & [www.smallholdertraining.co.uk](http://www.smallholdertraining.co.uk)

## Celebrating our fifth anniversary on the farm

We can hardly believe it ourselves. On the 15th June it was five years to the day when we turned up in Devon and caused mayhem on local roads when the low loader carrying our tractor and other farm kit sloughed across Gorhuish Hill and stuck solid. For six hours. We couldn't have announced our presence any more brashly if we'd asked the town crier to bellow it in every village square for miles around. But there was no road rage or irritation. Instead, farmers stopped and looked at the tractor, debating its merits. The school bus and the postman went the long

way round, our neighbour-to-be following behind, and we all left the man in the low-loader to get on with it as we headed to our new home.

Those five years have seen a great deal of change, all for the better. The two beautiful but utterly derelict stone and cob barns flanking the house are now restored and in use. The thatched roundhouse has been recreated from what was a melt of cob, stone and long straw. Many of the 11km of hedge-banks have been rebuilt and fenced from the future ravages of sheep

and cattle. The orchard has been pruned and planted with many more local varieties of cider apple, eating apples, pears, damsons, gages, plums, cherries, medlars and mulberries and we have made fab juices and cider. Our woodland is now a Devon County Wildlife Site, and the whole farm is in its fourth year of our ten year Higher Level Stewardship programme.

Our flock of Badger Face Welsh Mountain Sheep has increased from 13 Torddu ewes and one ram to a flock of 50 of both Torwen (black with white belly)

and Torddu (white with black belly), and a ram of each type. We have a pedigree Berkshire sow, gilt and boar for breeding and have had two delightful (and delicious) litters.

On the bird front we have Aylesbury ducks, Black Indian Runner ducks and have just acquired some beautiful pilgrim geese for breeding in 2011. And eventually we'll have decent numbers of Black Orpington large fowl on the chicken front.

So much has happened, and we haven't regretted our move for a moment. Here's to the next five years!

### The Roundhouse



## Smallholder training goes large

For the last year we have been running smallholder courses and hope that those of you who have joined us have had as much fun as we have. We will continue our successful

Intro to Smallholding weekends, Living with Livestock days and D.I.Y website courses, but are now adding to them. In response to requests we will be running Fencing for the

Smallholder, Intermediate Smallholder weekends, an Apple & Orchard day, and an advanced web building course. Check out the website for updates.

## View from the Field



**Aunt Agatha with her piglets**

Since December 2007 I (Debbie) have had a regular column in The Landsman magazine, known as the magazine of real country living in the South West of England. In View from the Field I've covered everything from abattoirs to rams' sexual habits, fencing and

seasonal regional customs, the delight of dogs in the countryside and the excitement of the arrival of Aunt Agatha, our first ever breeding sow.

My biggest problem is sticking to the rigid number of words allowed to me; once I get rolling it can be difficult

to stop and my ruthless editing pen comes vigorously into play.

Every two months I still feel the rush of excitement as I pick up a copy in the local agricultural merchants or newsagents. My name will never be up in lights but at least it's in print from time to time.

## Welsh Mountain Badger Face lamb boxes



We have had an excellent lambing season and it's time to start thinking about reserving your grass fed Welsh Mountain lamb boxes. We have increasing interest from people wanting to buy our lambs as breeding stock, so we are taking orders for lamb boxes NOW to ensure you won't be disappointed later in the year. Delivery (direct to your door) will be from August/September 2010

onwards. PRICES REMAIN UNCHANGED FROM LAST YEAR. Your lamb will be delivered in a coolbox with chillpacks, ready to cook and to put in the freezer. You can choose from:

- Half lamb box (app. 6-7 kilos) - £45 collected/£60 delivered
- Whole lamb box (app 12-14 kilos) - £85 collected/£100 delivered

A whole lamb takes up about one and a half shelves in an upright freezer. Lambs are delivered to your door, work, home, neighbour, friend, wherever you choose within mainland England,

Wales and most of Scotland. (The Highlands and Islands including Isle of Wight, Isle of Man and Scottish Isles are sadly excluded as we cannot guarantee next day delivery). To match your cooking preferences you can choose:

- Legs whole or halved
- Shoulders whole, or halved, or whole boned and rolled
- Breast boned and rolled, or minced

- Loin as a rack, or as chops

If you have any other butchery requirements, do ask and we'll do our best to accommodate. If you have any questions call Debbie on 01837 810569 or email: [debbie@southyeofarmwest.co.uk](mailto:debbie@southyeofarmwest.co.uk)

## Outdoor reared pedigree Berkshire pork, gammon and bacon



Our pedigree Berkshire pork, gammon and bacon boxes will be ready to be delivered in December 2010 to January 2011. You can choose from:

- Quarter pork box (app. 10 kilos) - £80 collected/£95 delivered
- Half pork box (app. 20 kilos) - £160 collected/

£180 delivered

- Whole pork box (app. 40 kilos) - £280 collected/£310 delivered
- Quarter gammon and bacon box (app.10 kilos) - £90 collected/£105 delivered
- Half gammon/bacon box (app. 20 kilos) - £180 collected/£200 delivered
- Whole gammon/bacon box (app. 40 kilos) - £320 collected/£350 delivered
- Whole mixed pork/gammon/bacon box (app 40 kilos) -

£300 collected/£330 delivered (this choice arrives in two separate lots, with the pork box and gammon/bacon box delivered on different days).

Prices remain unchanged from 2009, and although winter may feel a long way off, we rear our pigs to order and sell the rest as weaners to other breeders, so to make sure of your roast pork with exceptional crackling and gammon that thrills the nostrils whilst it bakes, do place an order now.

To place an order or if you have any questions call Debbie on 01837 810569 or email: [debbie@southyefarmwest.co.uk](mailto:debbie@southyefarmwest.co.uk)

What you say:

*"We are finally eating pork! It is stunning... You can consider us regular customers". NS, Dartmoor*  
*"Had some bacon yesterday, it was amazing!" MD Devon*

*"Had a slow roast of the gammon yesterday and it was to die for!!" HBL, Warwickshire.*

## Livestock fame

From time to time a surprise appears in the inbox. We've received a small but much enjoyed number of requests for our livestock to be featured in various books. So far, our lovely pigs have been featured in Jack Byard's book "Know Your Pigs" published in 2009, and our Aylesbury and Black Indian Runner ducks should be similarly ap-

preciated in his duck book, due out at the end of 2010.

We've also posted fleece and sent photos of both the Torwen and Torddu Badgerface sheep to America where they are to be celebrated in one of the really useful Storey's livestock guides (we refer to these a lot ourselves) written by Carol

Ekarius and Deb Robson.

Sadly, a request to bus our livestock to Kent for a day of filming was a step too far, but it was fun to be asked.



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## Contact us:

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Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions you think we might be able to help with. We already produce a factsheet for hatching and rearing ducklings (available on the farm website) to help out novices buying our fertile hatching eggs, and we get asked all kinds of things—so don't be shy, we can always say we don't know!

More and more of you are buying places on our smallholder courses as presents for a partner or friend (and then coming along too!). To announce your gift we will create a card and post it to make someone's day even more special—just let us know.

## A day in the life: Friday 18th June 2010

People on our smallholding courses often ask what a typical day involves, but apart from the routine livestock feeding, mucking out and general husbandry stuff, every day is different. This is what we did today (honest):

- Picked up new geese from holidaying cyclists at Exeter services
- Stocked up on a heap of livestock feed, buckets & electric fencing for the turkeys
- Sprayed rams against flystrike
- Mended the fence around the goose hut
- Clipped wings of new geese & welcomed them home
- Made a vegetable table for farm gate sales
- Fixed the pig waterer (again)
- Dismantled old pig ark for major repairs & painted steel with red oxide primer
- Mended puncture on hay turner tyre
- Topped up duck water several times
- Grabbed a pizza from the Co-op for lunch (the shame)
- To Hatherleigh post office to send off duck hatching eggs
- Sterilized barrels for making elderflower champagne & cordial
- Took orders for tawny owl & dormice boxes
- Walked dogs
- Checked sheep
- Admired new geese
- Made & chomped amazing organic Devon Ruby beef fillet (from friend's herd) for supper with home-grown broad beans
- Wrote weekend "To Do" list & gasped
- Put all ducks & geese away for the night, cleaned out water buckets & refilled
- Watered the poly-tunnel
- Light spot of weeding
- Did household ac-

