



Newsletter

July and August 2021

Open Farm Sunday

The theme of the day was 'get on my land'. 18 different organisations were represented, all in their own gazebos, socially distanced in crab apple field. A big thank you to Sustainable Brampton who lent us their gazebos.

With the wide variety of organisations present, those who visited could find out about farming, gardening, conservation and care of the environment. During the afternoon Steve Trotter, Director of Cumbria Wildlife Trust, presented seven of our Care Farmers with their City and Guilds certificates and diplomas. They had all waited many months for an occasion when we could gather socially in a safe way.



Care farmers' presentation.
Photo – David Lush



Two of our younger visitors on Open Farm Sunday find a Northern March Orchid

Visits to the Farm

We have been delighted to welcome back school visits and youth groups to the farm. Laura Nightingale, our new Education Officer, has settled in well and all the visits have been thoroughly enjoyed by the children and young people. If you know of a school or youth group that would like to visit the farm, please contact Laura on laura@susansfarm.co.uk. Bookings are already coming in for the Autumn term. We still have free visits on offer for the Aglionby Wetlands, please contact Laura to secure on of these wonderful visits to a wilderness area without public access, yet within sight of the M6.

We have just heard that a group of year 9 students from William Howard School have reached the final of the LEAF's (Linking Environment And Farming) competition, the theme of which is 'will farmer's continue to be guardians of the countryside?'

Farm News

When do you make hay? This is a question frequently asked by students and visitors coming to Susan's Farm. The answer is when we have five hot sunny days. We can now say that all is safely gathered in. This is thanks to two good groups working very late on two evenings. The weather has indeed been hot and if it continues, the available water on the land we graze at Aglionby will no longer be there – another challenge looms.

Thistle, a bull calf, is the latest Longhorn calf born just after one of our pre-vet students had arrived from Edinburgh. We are expecting three more calves this summer.

Our four Alternative Provision students have received certificates for their positive engagement with the researchers from the University of Cumbria who were undertaking work into the therapeutic value for teenagers on the agricultural programme on the farm.

Summer Holidays

A Summer programme for young people from Carlisle will take place at Susan's Farm in collaboration with Right2Work. The programme involves young people undertaking 4 days of activities and challenges to develop their enterprise, problem-solving and independent living skills whilst at the same time boosting their confidence, social skills and team building abilities to support their move into employment. The days will offer the young people the chance to experience many different aspects of the farm and include farming activities, woodland challenges, conservation work and a field to fork workshop. This is the first of many exciting collaborations Susan's Farm will be undertaking with Right2Work, who are a Community Interest Company based at Kendal supporting young people through work and learning.

We are also delighted to be supporting the Government's Kickstart scheme which aims to create jobs for 16–24-year-olds at risk of long-term unemployment. In July three new faces joined our ranks for a 6-month placement in a collaboration with The Ernest Cook Trust and DWP. Our new recruits will support Susan's Farm with vital work over the next 6 months and we are looking forward to them settling in. Amelia is our Biodiversity Project Assistant and will be exploring our grasslands, wetlands and farmland in a range of interesting projects, Matthew is our digital administrator and will support our IT needs and learn about the world of office administration and Olly is working with Martin as a General Farm Worker to develop his farming skills.

Martin is hosting a 'World of Work' day on the 18th of August to offer valuable work experience to several young people who are keen to learn more about farming- they will be helping him weigh our lambs, check the stock and care for our hens and goslings. All great experience for their future.

We will still be working with our Care Farmers, Care Gardeners and Alternative Provision beneficiaries throughout the summer and also have several community groups booked in for visits to Aglionby Wetlands and the farm.

Staff will take well-earned holidays and enjoy the beautiful summertime and we are grateful to our volunteers who will support the farm during these times.

We will also be planning and getting ready for the next academic year as we welcome many new Alternative Provision students to the farm in September. We look forward to working with them and their families to support them with their education.

Wildlife on the farm

We were so pleased that having been away for three years, the swallows have returned to the tool shed and have successfully raise a brood. We were careful to leave the door open to allow them access.

We are starting careful recording of quadrats in the new field beside Hadrian's Wall and will be transplanting many of the seedling oak trees from those fields into the hedgerows we are planning to plant next winter.



An emerald moth found by a care farmer



Regenerative grazing by our store cattle at Aglionby

Meat Sales

We now have lamb and beef for sale twice a month and we have some fantastic hogget, full of flavour. The new season's lamb will be available very soon. Please check our website for updates. Our meat is becoming more and more popular so please order soon.

Remember, buying our meat supports our charitable work. If you'd like to order some meat, please call the farm on 01228 548366, email danella@susansfarm.co.uk or use an order form on the website www.susansfarm.co.uk.

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