



Newsletter

September and October 2021

Delicious new season lamb, geese, hogget, mutton and beef.



Happy geese enjoying an early morning dip

“Christmas is coming and the geese are getting fat” we are already getting enquires for geese. We have a hunch founded on good intelligence that geese are going to be in short supply this year. So if you had one last year and if you would like to have one this year please order NOW.

All the stock are finishing very well, from now up to Christmas is the best time to order. You can find an order form on our website www.susansfarm.co.uk. Or email your order direct to orders@susansfarm.co.uk

For those who do not know, a hogget is a 'lamb' born last year, ie born in 2020, that is now 18 months old.

Remember Houghton Farmers' Market is the 2nd Sat of every month.

Autumn is coming and the new term has started with 3 new students having arrived on the farm, and preparations are being made for tugging time. For those who do not live in Cumbria this is the time when the rams are put in with the ewes. We are also continuing with our progress on a programme of regenerative grazing to meet our Pasture Fed accreditation.

Care farming and education

We warmly welcome Helen Ward as our Education and Community Lead. Helen has hit the ground running and schools can expect to be contacted by her, if they have not already been so. We still have some free visits on offer to the Aglionby Wetlands. For all school and community visits please contact Helen on helen@susansfarm.co.uk. Laura Nightingale found another job, closer to home with more hours, we thank her for her input during the time she was with us.

Sue Lister continues to work very effectively with the Alternative Provision teenagers, the three new students have already started on their ASDAN qualifications. To refer a young person to this provision, please contact Sue direct on sue.lister@susansfarm.co.uk

Our Care Farming team have been amazing during the summer, coming in on extra days to cover the farming tasks for while staff were on holiday. They are also beginning to take on responsibility for the poultry; geese and hens and for Chester, the pony with character.



Right 2 Work students celebrate with their families and staff following presentation of their certificates



Surveying the water meadows at Houghton with CRAG

During the summer, five young men attended the farm 1 day a week for four weeks under the right 2 work scheme, covering, team building, resilience and problem solving. This was to support their transition to further education. On their final day they were presented with certificates, a very happy afternoon which was attended by all their families.

For six months we have 2 Kick start students on the farm, supported by the Ernest Cook Trust. Amelia has been very busy on a beetle project and plans to make it into a Citizens Science Project. Together with Olly, she has been developing Silver Wood, the shelter belt in Crabapple field into a space for educational activities with a fairy and dragon theme linked to farming activities. Amelia has been assisting with quadrat surveys on the 5 new fields, created from the Sports Field. She has also assisted in the survey of the Water Meadows being undertaken by CRAG, Cumbria Reptile and Amphibian Group.

During the last 7 months we have had 7 pre-vet students gaining work experience on the farm, from Edinburgh, London, Liverpool Manchester, Newcastle and Carlisle. We wish them all well in their applications to study veterinary science.

Growing Changes

Growing changes is Susan's Farm allotment project which is delighted to have been donated a greenhouse.

Community Events

Bonfire Night, Friday 5th November, will once again be celebrated on the farm. The gates will open at 6pm and the bonfire will be lit at 6.30pm. Please note that this is a COMMUNITY EVENT for the residents of Stanwix Rural Parish Council and please NO fireworks or sparklers. We will have a huge bonfire and refreshments will be served. If you would like to donate wood, please deliver through the gate on the right hand side. NB Wood only.

Houghton Village Farmers' Market is now open fully, with refreshments being served by different community/charitable organisations. If your organisation would like to do the refreshments, please contact Susan on susan.aglionby@btinternet.com.

The refreshments at the next Farmers' Market, on 10th October, are being organised by 2 of Susan's Farm super volunteers in aid of Susan's Farm, now a registered as a charity as a Care Farm. Three of our Care Farmers have given invaluable help at the Farmers' Market, ensuring the market was COVID secure also helping the stall holders set up and clear up at the end of the market.

Governance and Trustees.

We are delighted to welcome Will Laidlaw as a trustee. Will started volunteering on the farm in June '20 having been furloughed from his full-time teaching job. Will has continued to volunteer throughout last summer and then at weekends and in the school holidays. His help and support have been invaluable. Joe McGarry has been a trustee since the farm became a charity in May 2019. Joe's advice particularly on financial matters has been greatly appreciated by us all, for a variety of reasons he feels he no longer has the time to fulfil the role as a trustee. Thank you, Joe, we know you will remain in touch with all that is going on, at the farm.

Jane Sullivan, our general manager, has worked tirelessly to get all the necessary policies and procedures in place to fulfil the necessary criteria for us being a registered charity and to be accredited as a full member of Social Farms and Gardens. Thank you, Jane.

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.

145 Houghton Road, Carlisle, CA3 0LD. Registered Charity Number: 1183223



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