



LINSCOMBE FARM NEWSLETTER

Thursday 15th May 2011

Late enough for another Newsletter - the main news being that we have decided to have an **Open Farm Day** to coincide with Open Farm Sunday on **12th June 2011. Starting at 2.00pm**, this is intended as another of our casual and informal get togethers. We have asked Carol (who is on maternity leave at the moment) if she could manage to do a repeat of her very popular childrens' activities like last time - but haven't heard back yet. Fingers crossed on that one. We will do a couple of guided walks around the active parts of the farm. The polytunnels are all looking particularly good this year; those of you who came on our last walk will remember that we hadn't even got the polythene onto the frames back then. We have even got some strawberries coming on in one of them....



All the tomatoes, peppers and aubergines - the mainstay of our summer polytunnel crops - are now planted and growing away well in the seasonal warmth and sunshine.

The field crops are also looking excellent and we have just made a start on cropping some of the new season's produce - many of you will see some fresh and flavoursome coriander this week. I always regard this as a special treat in the kitchen as the flavour seems far superior when grown as an outdoor crop but it really doesn't do well outside in the winter so make the most of it over the summer!

The recent rain, tinged with a good dollop of free nitrogen courtesy of the lightning, has made the potato plants triple in size of the space of around

10 days. We have seen this happen occasionally before but the results are really most spectacular if we get:

- 1) heavy rain (large drops = plenty of oxygen forced into the soil)
- 2) accompanied by lightening (the electricity fixes atmospheric nitrogen into the raindrops which is then instantly available for the crops)
- 3) falling onto dry soil (the sudden re-activation of soil processes gone dormant for lack of water)
- 4) that is holding a young crop (growth always appears most spectacular in smaller plants).

An unusual combination but one that has happened abundantly over the last few days. It also refreshes the farmers that other influences at this time of year can somewhat jade!



The first bunch beetroot and carrots are appearing in the boxes this week and are also available to order as extras online - if you haven't looked at our shop yet then it is worth doing so just to see how convenient and easy it is to customise your weekly order.

The wildlife areas on our farm include and area of old wetland that has resisted previous farmer's attempts at drainage. On the right is a flower that I don't think I can identify - any ideas?



And last - but by no means least - our "outgrade vegetable processing units" (aka pigs) have finally gone to the muddy field in the sky; probably unlikely to be much better than the piggy heaven they enjoyed down here but there you go. The point of this being that if anyone fancies buying some pork then please get in touch ASAP to discuss.

We envisage selling in around 5kg minimum quantities but are open to negotiation. Please phone Phil on 07525 435583 .



All the best and enjoy the increasing amounts of luscious new season produce that will appear from now on.
The Linscombe Team