



Mantel Farm Shop

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Chicken Boarding, Garden Farming
and Smallholding Specialists

Catsfield, Near Battle, East Sussex, TN33 9BN
Farm shop opening hours - Thu, Fri, Sun 10am-4pm



APRIL NEWSLETTER

Dear...

Topics:

- .. Are we in charge?
- .. Our local weather forecast
- .. Special Offers, New Products and Services:

Hatching Eggs

Hybrid Hens

Checking your flock for worms

Poultry Shield special offer

Dans Diary

Easter Opening times



Are we in charge?...

We recently attended a talk about 'managing the worker bee' by an experienced beekeeper. It was a very well presented and informative talk but the statement 'we are in charge' really played on my mind, it seems all too often to be an unnecessary question at all levels! I believe it is arrogant to think we are in charge or even in control when it comes to the natural world, there are far greater forces in place that we should respect, but having listened to this talk on beekeeping it was a strong reminder that as humans we control too many things.

The use of chemicals, pesticides and wireless communications are often questioned with regards to the bees decline and changes in agriculture and horticulture all have an impact on bees. So maybe we must accept that we are controlling the bee's future! Bees are vital to our ecosystem and food security so it would be wrong to simply leave them alone to find a way to deal with these manmade problems.

The question asked of beekeepers at the talk was 'are you an observer or manager of your beehives?'

I like to observe and let the bees manage themselves. Bees are in decline and it is important to understand what is happening in the hive, and at times that means managing the colony to ensure the bees remain healthy but at what point does managing become controlling? The key to this is to understand why we are doing it – is it for the bees benefit or for our own? There is no reason why it can't be for both – looking out for the bees welfare gives its own reward – the chance to observe and understand these fascinating creatures, and maybe an added bonus – enjoying a little of their honey.

Back at Mantel Farm it was great to see the bees flying from the hive on a sunny day, and the nice weather a couple of weeks ago meant we were able to clean out the duck pens and the ground dried out enough to let the geese down onto the freshly cut grass. We even managed to plant a few new fruit trees before the weather turned wet and cold again!



Our local weather forecast for April

Tim's weather forecast with thanks from -
www.sussexanglingmedia.co.uk :

More weather forecasting here
<http://www.sussexanglingmedia.co.uk/#/weather/4553707795>



Special Offers, New Products and Services:

Hatching Eggs

Several of our breeding flocks have now come into lay and eggs are available in our shop or through the website.

After many months alone we have managed to find some hens for our Chamois Polish Cockerel, so you can now see his new little family group as you walk down our track – but beware he has become very protective of his new girls!

We hope to have Chamois hatching eggs available soon
For more details on our eggs visit:

[http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/epages/950003783.sf/en_GB/?ObjectPath=/Shops/950003783/Categories/Poultry For Sale/Traditional Pure Breeds](http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/epages/950003783.sf/en_GB/?ObjectPath=/Shops/950003783/Categories/Poultry%20For%20Sale/Traditional%20Pure%20Breeds)



Hybrid Hens

Our Hybrid hens are very popular again this year and some breeds are in short supply, so if you know you would like certain breeds please reserve them to avoid disappointment.

Next hens are available from the second week in April

Checking your flock for worms

Are you concerned that your hens are not coming into lay as they should be, or do they seem a little under the weather? This could simply be due to the cold start to spring, however it could also be due to a worm infestation

If you regularly inspect your hens you are likely to see signs of a heavy worm infestation, but hens can carry a significant amount of worms without you being aware. It is therefore advisable to routinely test to find out the worm count in your flock. This can be carried out by collecting samples of your flocks droppings and sending them to a lab for analysis and test kits are available in our shop for £19.00.



New: £10.00 Health check and worm test

Alternatively, if your hens are booked into our boarding pens then why not save some money and time as for just a £10.00 extra we will carry out a full health check and worm test for you! We will then review the findings and prepare a report with recommendations for your return.

If booking your hens through our website simply note that you would like your hens to have our health check and add the product to your basket.

http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/epages/950003783.sf/en_GB/?ObjectPath=/Shops/950003783/Categories/Animal Boarding



20% off Poultry Shield

With warmer weather on the way (we hope!) it is important to start to check and treat regularly for red mite in the chicken housing.

So we are currently running a special offer on our poultry shield:

1Ltr Poultry Shield bottles:
normally £10.50 **NOW £8.40**

Refills for 1Ltr Poultry Shield Bottles:
normally £8.50 **NOW £6.80£**

Dans Diary

Since joining us in February, Dan has been keeping a note of some of the things he gets up to on the farm.

This month he has been working with the hens, mowing the grass, and cleaning out the ducks, why not read more on our website:
www.mantelfarmshop.co.uk



Easter Opening

We wish you all a happy Easter break...

**Our shop will be open 10am to 4pm on Thursdays,
Fridays and Sundays during the School Easter
holidays (including Good Friday)**

but we will be closed on Easter Sunday

With best wishes

From Kerry, Jason & all at Mantel Farm

www.mantelfarmshop.co.uk