



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



MARCH NEWSLETTER

Dear...

Topics:

- .. Time to 'spring' into action
- .. Our local weather forecast
- .. Special Offers, New Products and Services:

Chicken Manure

FREE Mealworms with 5kg Treat Feeds

Beekeeping for 2015

Special Offer on Egg Trays

Hatching Eggs

Sausages

Easter Chicken Trippers



Time to 'spring' into action...

February has flown by extremely quickly and it seems unbelievable that March is here already! Though it has started to feel a little like spring... Many of our pure breed chickens are coming into lay, the odd one even showing signs of being broody! Our first delivery of hybrids has arrived and it's great to have the Black Sussex again after a year of being unavailable (no eggs from that pen yet although one customer had an egg from her new hen, so I'm sure the others won't be far behind!). Our Peacocks are also feeling like spring – I had forgotten how noisy they could be and in our goose pen 'Perkin' our gander is definitely getting more protective of his girls!

For our full range of hybrids please go to:

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

I spotted a toad on the lane the other day and at first wondered why he was out of hibernation so early, but I guess it is March and soon we will be looking for spawn in the pond. So for now, despite the unsettled weather, we must start that big rush to get all the outside pens ready for spring – trying to leave it long enough for the earth to dry out a little (we hope) but catching it soon enough for the animals to enjoy and the plants to grow!

Last month I mentioned that Dan was joining us, here is a little more about him:

Dan is 19 and from Hastings, we originally met Dan several years ago when he shopped here with his parents. It seemed he was always here, ever adding to his flock of chickens! Soon Dan was helping out at the weekends whilst still at school, and has since stayed in touch, helping out on many occasions; manning trade stalls, working with the chickens and serving in the shop, so some of you may recognise him. Dan's knowledge and enthusiasm for poultry and animal care is great, he has many plans and ideas for our animals! Alongside the animal management Dan will also be carrying out a Sales Apprenticeship through Sussex Downs College, so tying in the animal care side of our farm nicely with our shop and customers. Dan has already set up a system for collection, storing and selling this year's hatching eggs.



He is also in the process of making signs for our chickens so customers can know more about them. Without doubt, his enthusiasm and fresh look will help us to continue to grow our business and free up some time for Jason to carry out some much needed works.

Dan will be keeping a note of the things he is doing around the farm, so if you would like to see more why not follow us on facebook, twitter or google+ :

Our local weather forecast for March

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



Another year without any serious snow in the South East is very welcome. The end of February has been almost spring like in some places and over the next week or so we'll have a westerly air flow. It might be spring like again in some sheltered spots.

Our bees were flying on one warmish day in February so they're coming out of cold storage.

There is a chance of another cold blast coming in the second week of March so look out for that and as always the weather around the equinox is very unsettled with low pressure and high winds.

We'll be out in the angling boats as soon as we can as Plaice sometimes move in early – particularly when there hasn't been a

long freeze to lower water temperatures.

Our chickens can go broody at this time of the year – which can cause problems as they don't feed properly. And of course the local Vixens have had their cubs and will start to come out of their dens and forage a lot more so we will be keeping an eye out for that!

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

Special Offers, New Products and Services:

Chicken Manure

Don't forget its a great time of year to add some of our lovely chicken manure to your flower beds and vegetable patches.

Just £3.50 a bag or 3 bags for £9.00



Poultry manure makes an effective non-chemical fertiliser. It is ideal as a spring top dressing for crops requiring plenty of nitrogen (the main nutrient needed for green leafy growth), such as blackcurrants, plum trees and many vegetables.

Fresh manure from your pens can be too strong to use directly on your garden, being very alkaline in PH compared to our well rotted manure. Your fresh droppings are best used as an excellent compost activator.

Our manure is stored in covered silos (to prevent entry of weed seeds). It is turned regularly over a three year period before being bagged up ready to sell. The finished product is completely smell free with a similar consistency to a grow bag. Its fine nature means it can be used as a top dressing or as a potting compost.

FREE Mealworms with 5kg Treat Feeds

Due to its popularity, we are continuing this offer for another month:

Buy a 5kg bag of the following feeds and receive a £2.95 tub of mealworms for free!

Includes:

5kg Mixed Corn £3.25

5kg Super Mixed Corn £4.00

5kg Kibbled Maize £4.00

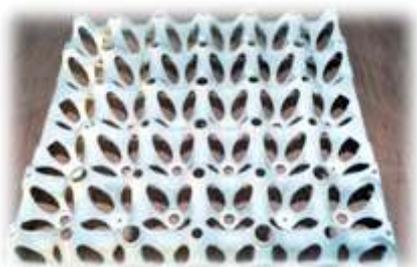
5kg Sunflower Hearts £6.50



Beekeeping for 2015

Our new beekeeping leaflet is now available for our 2015 range of beekeeping products and our shelves are full, so come and get stocked up for this year's beekeeping 'bee-fore' it's all gone!

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



Special Offer on Egg Trays

As well as our special offer on plastic egg trays we can now offer the following for cardboard trays:

Cardboard: 25p each or 5 trays for £1.00

Plastic: £1.25 each or 5 trays for £4.50

Hatching Eggs

It's time to think about hatching, so as our chickens come into lay we will be adding details of each breed to our website:

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



Sausages

Our sausages are selling out fast and we have now sold out of Black Pepper, so hurry to choose from Romany, Leek or Plain Pork (gluten free), while you can:
Just £3.60/lb

Chicken Trippers

Easter is not far away, so if you are planning a trip or a break, don't forget to book soon if you would like us to look after your birds

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



With best wishes

From Kerry, Jason & all at Mantel Farm

www.mantelfarmshop.co.uk