

**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

# NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

- Topics:**
- Persistent bees and bugs**
  - Featured product: Poultry Shield**
  - Our local weather forecast**
  - Special Offers, New Products and Services**
  - Poultry Shield**
  - Galvanised Drinker and Feeder**
  - Dust bath mix**
  - Nopex BK**

## Persistent bees and bugs...

Our Bees are showing signs of preparing for the winter, there is far less activity now, but when the sun does come out there really is a 'hive of activity' with the worker bees making the most of the weather and collecting feed wherever possible, the ivy and michaelmas daisies humming.

We have also given the bees a dusting of icing sugar to help to remove any mites that may be in the hive; the bees hate being covered in this dust and so have an extra clean and in doing so remove the mites. A tray in the bottom of the hive is then inspected to see how many mites have dropped to the floor.



So what's bugging the birds?..

With the few sunny days some customers are reporting a late infestation of red mite in chicken housing. Luckily this time of year it is easier to treat as the cold spells reduce the breeding numbers. Our usual advice applies, remove all bedding from the house, clean thoroughly and treat the house for 3 or 4 days in a row with Poultry Shield and Diatom powder. Make sure all 'nooks and crannies' are sprayed, concentrating on the perching rails and nesting boxes, then once dry give a coating of diatom powder. This intensive treatment usually breaks the breeding cycle and normal preventative treatment can then be resumed, however if any mites are missed they will continue to breed so regular checks are required. Signs of mite in the house include 'peppery' powder deposits, and clumps of the mites in the joints (for example ends of perching rails). If you have a serious infestation then the hens daily habits are likely to change as they avoid sleeping in their usual places or even object to going into their house at night, if their combs and wattles look pale then its time to get them out of the house as they are being eaten alive at night!



## Product Feature: Poultry Shield

Poultry Shield is our number 1 defence against red mite. It is not a 'simply spray once and all is OK' remedy (we really don't believe one exists) but it is effective if used thoroughly and routinely.

Poultry shield is a cleaner, sanitiser and odour neutraliser, designed for cleaning chicken housing and equipment. Its powerful detergent action dissolves dirt and grease, washing away the mites and insects habitat.

Poultry Shield can be used on any type of poultry house and is also safe to use with birds present. It does not contain poisons and can be used in organic production.

We recommend the use of Poultry Shield at least every 2 weeks, or ideally each time you clean out the henhouse. It is far better to prevent red mite from taking a hold of the hen house than to react to an infestation.

First remove any bedding then spray the interior of your hen house with Poultry Shield solution (a garden hand pump sprayer is ideal for this so you can give the hard to reach places a good soak); including all your nest boxes, perches, roof joints and any other fittings. Leave for an hour to thoroughly soak, then brush away any debris.

To make 1 litre of Poultry Shield solution, add 100ml Poultry Shield concentrate to 900ml clean water.

## Our local weather forecast



After an unusually benign October – a bit of rain but virtually no wind where we normally get gales the trees are putting on a beautiful autumn display. As we move toward Halloween the nights are drawing in and it's getting quite chilly when the cloud cover clears.

November could go either way but based on the long range forecast suggests that the South East is going to get the best of the weather until the middle of the November. After a week of unsettled weather over the next few days we are likely to have some drier, brighter weather until mid month. This will of course lower the night time temperatures bringing the possibility of frost.

Its a good time to clear out the chicken shed and tidy up the chicken run. The bees have been treated with Apiguard and they look as if they have enough food to get the colony through the winter – although on nice days they are still flying harvesting the last of the Ivy pollen. We're looking forward to some excellent cod fishing along the coast here with shoals of decent fish already showing in the boats.

[www.sussexanglingmedia.co.uk](http://www.sussexanglingmedia.co.uk)

## Special Offers, New Products and Services

**NopexBK – Buy a 1Ltr Bottle of liquid to receive a FREE wound spray or pack of capsules**



Nopex tonic 1Ltr: £30.00      Nopex tonic 250ml: £9.50  
Nopex wound spray: £4.95      Nopex capsules pack of 25: £7.50

**Our offer is continuing into November:**

[Buy a 1Ltr bottle to receive your 30ml wound spray for free](#) – worth £4.95, or choose a pack of 25 capsules worth £7.50



### **Poultry Shield:**

Poultry shield is a cleaner, sanitiser and odour neutraliser, designed for cleaning chicken housing and equipment. Its powerful detergent action dissolves dirt and grease, washing away the mites and insects habitat.

[1Ltr concentrate \(dilute 1 part poultry shield to 9 parts water\): £8.50](#)

[Bring back your bottle and we will refill for just: £6.50](#)



## **Start your Christmas Shopping!** **Special Offer drinker and feeder:**

With all the predictions of a long cold winter, is it time to invest in a long lasting galvanized drinker and feeder?

Galvanized drinkers and feeders make ideal presents for the keen poultry keeper. When we moved to Mantel Farm we discovered some very old galvanized drinkers & feeders in the barns, they had lasted years but with a good clean they are back in use in our chicken pens today. The feeder comes complete with a large rain hat and the drinker is top fill – so no more wet feet when filling it!

**Buy as 1 gallon drinker and 5lb feeder together for £60.00 and save £10.00**

4.5Ltr (1 gallon) drinker £35.95

2.2kg (5lb) feeder £34.95



## **Dust bath mix, still just £2.50/bag**

Dont forget as the ground gets wet your chickens find it harder to find an area to dust bath. Add our dust mix to a sheltered spot, or provide a tray/box (just £8.50) and you will watch your hens go to heaven!

<http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/Dust-Bath-Mix>

*With best wishes from all at Mantel Farm*

**[www.mantelfarm.co.uk](http://www.mantelfarm.co.uk)**