



MARCH NEWSLETTER 2016

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A new skill for a new year?

Have you thought about trying something new for 2016? This year we will be offering more training events at Mantel Farm, from informal evening gatherings to intensive weekend courses. Held at our farm we are teaming up with some craft experts to offer educational & informative but friendly courses, so if you are thinking of trying something a little different, or improving your knowledge then keep an eye on our training programme for 2016.

To launch our training we are offering 2 new courses on the art of beekeeping:

'The basics of beekeeping' is an evening talk, discussing Beekeeping today, what you need to know if you are just thinking about keeping bees, the apiary set up, equipment needed, hive management and honey.

'Beginning your Beekeeping' is a more intense course to get you started –explaining more about the honey bee, helping you choose your hive and equipment, how and where to set up your apiary, the bees management and pests and diseases. Not forgetting when and how to extract that lovely honey.

These courses will be limited to small groups and will be held by Maurice; a local master beekeeper who has a wealth of experience in both beekeeping and training.

We are also continuing to run our Chicken Keeping and Handling and Health courses throughout the year.

For more information about our courses see below, call into our shop or visit our new website:

www.beekeepingcourse.co.uk

This month's product feature:

Verm-X for Poultry

Verm-X is the No.1 UK Brand for Natural Intestinal Control in Animals:

Available in a Pellet or Liquid form, Verm-X for Poultry is made with 100% natural active ingredients to control intestinal hygiene whilst being gentle on the gut and digestive system. It can therefore provide active control throughout the year.

Designed to be fed for three consecutive days each and every month, both forms are equally effective and work by creating an environment designed to stop most intestinal challenges establishing themselves in the animal's gut and digestive system. As with all natural ingredients, it may take a number of days after feeding Verm-X before it becomes fully effective so it is important to follow the feeding instructions.

Verm-X is highly palatable and is an easy to use formulation, the pellets easily added the poultry feed and the liquid simply added to the drinking water.



Verm-X for Poultry has the added advantage that you are able to eat your hens' eggs whilst using the product and the pellets are approved for use in organic systems (following assessment by Organic Farmers and Growers Ltd.)

For our **special offer** please see more details below

Our local weather forecast



So as we predicted the month ended with a sharp cold snap as high pressure built in the atlantic (not often we get it right so far ahead. It's certainly put a stop to the spring feeling which seemed to be causing Daffs to bloom and bees to come out of their hive. Bit worried though that they'll not have enough food to get them through before the first spring flowers bloom.

For March the first week is likely to start with rain and a return of the South Westerlies, which means it should warmup somewhat. Thereafter the latest indications are that conditions will be generally unsettled with further periods of rain and strong winds pushing in from the northwest and spells of colder, brighter, showery weather

expected in between. Although a little milder at times under cloud and rain, temperatures will be generally below normal, with overnight frosts likely on many nights.

For the second half of March it is likely to be rather cold and changeable with a northerly airflow for much of the time. Spells of wet and windy weather are likely as more frontal systems push in from the Atlantic, but there should also be periods of more settled, crisp and bright conditions in between. The temperature is expected to be colder than normal for March, with overnight frosts expected on many nights, especially at first. So make sure bees are fed with sugar solution, your chickens have plenty of fresh bedding and food to keep them active. Fishing is normally very patchy in March with very little inshore to catch apart from whiting and the odd Codling. Plaice start to move in later in the month but we are getting reports of a few showing up early because the sea temperature is a bit higher than average.

Special Offers, New Products and Services



Beekeeping Courses – Bookings now being taken

Learning the art of beekeeping is a fascinating past-time, but beware it can become addictive from the very first time you open a hive and peer inside!

It is an interest that can just keep growing, as you begin to understand more and more about how these little insects work as an incredible and complex colony there is endless knowledge to gain.

Bees are under threat and need our help to survive, by understanding the behaviour and instincts of the honey bee along with their needs and the problems they are encountering you can help a vital part of our ecosystem.

Courses now available:

'The basics of beekeeping' Friday 15th April 7pm – 10pm £66.00

'Beginning your Beekeeping' Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd May 9.30am – 4.30pm £198.00

Chicken courses also available

How to book: Simply reserve a place in our shop or visit the training page on our website:

[http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/epages/950003783.sf/en_GB/?ObjectPath=/Shops/950003783/Categories/Training Courses Events](http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/epages/950003783.sf/en_GB/?ObjectPath=/Shops/950003783/Categories/Training%20Courses%20Events)



VermX Poultry Products – Special Offer

Available in:

A 250ml bottle of Verm-X Poultry Liquid (will last 10 birds 5 months)
£16.99 **SPECIAL OFFER NOW JUST £15.00**

A 250g pack of Verm-X Poultry Pellets (will last 5 birds over 6 months)
£10.99 **SPECIAL OFFER NOW JUST £9.00**



Some Sausages still available

Our tasty sausages are selling fast, and make an ideal supper for these colder evenings. Just £3.60/lb, the following are still available:

Pork and Leek

~~Plain Pork~~ (gluten free)- sold out

~~Romany~~- sold out

Pork and Garlic

Pork and Black Pepper



The lovely Amber Hen

After many months of uncertainty surrounding the ongoing supply of the Amber, we are really pleased to be able to tell you that they will be **available again in early March – date to be confirmed.**

We have been told they will be available each month in the early part of the year but it is still unsure if this will continue later in the season.

Ambers make lovely back garden pets, generally being very docile and friendly along with being excellent egg layers.

Please reserve your hens as soon as possible as numbers are limited,

either contact us on 01424 830357 to make a deposit by card, call into our shop or visit our website

New Winter Opening Hours

During our quieter winter months we have made the decision to reduce the number of days that the shop is open from three down to two. We are now open only on:

Fridays and Sundays, 10am - 4pm

We appreciate your understanding of this difficult decision and wish to let you know that we are taking this time to review our products and services so that we can continue to offer all of our customers the best of attention at all times.

Be on the look out for new offerings from Mantel Farm in 2016 :-)

If you are one of our customers who finds it difficult to come to the shop on any day other than Thursday, please let us know and we will try and accommodate you.

To save time, why not try our online ordering system where you can pay for your items via the website and have them ready to be collected when you visit the shop.

Or if you are local, why not make use of our delivery service.

All details can be found here - <http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/Collections-and-Deliveries>

With best wishes from all at Mantel Farm

www.mantelfarm.co.uk