

Tales from Whyle House

The home of Whyle House Lamb

May 2007



Well we're all finished lambing for another year. An amazing run of great weather means that all the lambs have yet to see rain – although we'll need some soon to make the grass grow. We've got 34 lambs running around – out of 35 expected so we didn't do too badly and most came the right way round. We had one very difficult birth which was breech which I managed to deliver alive but we lost its twin - other than that Celine and I managed really well. Our troublesome ewe – “Dermatitis” decided to lamb early while I was away which didn't exactly help my store of brownie points but my wife Frances managed to sort her out and the rest arrived pretty much on cue.

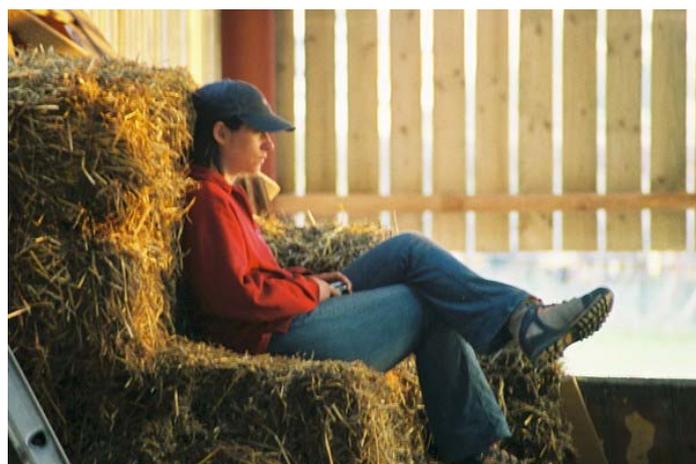


We had a good winter this year - we brought the ewes in during January and although it costs a bit more to feed them it makes looking after them so much easier and we had a good stock of our own hay. We also put a new floor down in the barn and organised ourselves a bit better so that life was much simpler in the run up to lambing. We've even got a fully plumbed in sink now – much to the amusement of the neighbours.

It never ceases to amaze me how quickly these Texel cross lambs get up. These two pictures were taken only about 10 minutes apart!



Celine did a marvellous job when I went back to work for a few days – including lambing 4 of them one afternoon. Here taking a well earned rest.





We've almost finished the barn now – some major landscaping has been completed and only one more bay of concrete blocks to lay!

We're still working hard outside, trying to get the land a bit more productive and we've just completed the levelling and re-seeding of 'shop field'. This will give us a lot more grazing this year which we're going to need with 53 mouths to feed. Assuming it rains sometime!



You can see the heaps of soil we had to level in the background to this picture of Celine on her way to move some logs.

The neighbours were mightily relieved to see than the feared new industrial estate didn't materialise!

We've also now got our own mower and baler which means we can make hay when we want to rather than waiting for a contractor. It also means we can rent some mowing grass if we need to augment our own grazing.



Our sales of Whyle House Lamb went really well last year and every single customer has made a point of telling us how much they liked it and many came back for more.

We've got over twice as many to sell this year so we'll be doing a bit of advertising and getting the web site at www.whylehouse.co.uk set up.



We try to look after our animals, our customers and our land, all of equal importance to us and we hope that comes across in our approach and in the quality of our product. Do let us know if you think we can do things better.

Thanks to Ian (Celine's husband) for the photographs and for enduring the long days and nights over what was supposed to be his holiday. Also thanks to Ian and Jill (another Ian) who came and helped for a couple of days.

As I write the lambs are doing their evening lamb races around the field and we start to think about the next jobs – dosing for worms and shearing and,... and ... - but it's all great fun and we know we're producing really good food which people tell us they like.

Do let us have your order for this year – they should be ready from August onwards.

Have a great summer - Andy, Frances and Celine.