



# April 2020 Newsletter

Registered Charity Number: 1183223

## News from the Farm

Lambing is almost finished, just one ewe with her legs crossed and two pet lambs; “Mary had a little lamb” Susan’s middle name is Mary! We have 4 splendid Longhorn calves, Sid, Sian, Sarah and Sophia.

After the very positive early March newsletter ([link here](#)) the farm, like all other organisations, has been thrown into a state of uncertainty by COVID-19. All visits to the farm were cancelled and those of us working on the three different sites have concentrated on caring for the stock. February and early March were horrendously wet, with early lambs born in puddles, but it is all change and now we are longing for rain to get the grass growing. We have plenty of good forage but the cattle and sheep are all looking for green grass! Now we are pasture fed as well as organic we are trialling new systems to maximising grass use and carbon storage.

## Sales of Beef, Lamb and Mutton

Currently we have frozen and some fresh Beef for sale and should have Lamb and Mutton to sell in early May. We will be in touch with exact dates shortly.

Amongst the sadness for so many and the uncertainty for us all, on the positive side our meat has been in great demand. We have developed a ‘Safe shopping at Susan’s Farm’ policy and are delighted that many neighbours have discovered they have wonderful fresh local produce for sale on their doorstep. Amongst the challenges facing the farm it was a real blow when our organic abattoir stopped killing for private clients which disrupted our supplies. We are now making alternative arrangements.

## Care Farming – Supporting Beneficiaries who attend Susan’s Farm

The staff on the farm and those who attend the farm regularly are all missing each other and the socialisation and learning that takes place on Mondays, Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays. The farm is doing its best to keep in touch regularly by phone. With school visits no longer taking place our trustees have been working tirelessly to see how they can make ends meet, the decision was taken to furlough our excellent education officer.



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## Wildlife and New Life

With the village street being almost silent the bird songs have been so apparent, the wild flowers, and shrubs in Tarraby Wood and the hedgerows are a delight. A large number of local residents are walking the public/ permissive paths at Houghton giving great pleasure to them on their daily exercise outing.

As for new life, with the last ewe to lamb and one cow about to calve, many sparrows and pigeons are nesting in the ivy at The Croft, and will soon be feeding their fledglings. At Armathwaite primroses, violets and wood anemones are all blooming and the swallows arrived.

## Looking forward – Friends of Susan’s Farm

We are planning to start a ‘Friends of Susan’s Farm’ group, these plans are now beginning to take shape. Do watch this space, we will keep you in touch. As a charity we are enormously appreciative of all our support from donors and volunteers as well as our customers.

**\*\*We will have locally milled flour to sell from next Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April – during the national flour shortage this has been very popular\*\***

**All of us on the farm wish that you and your families are keeping safe and well, if you have any queries do please contact us at [info@susansfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@susansfarm.co.uk)**

**Do follow us on Twitter @Susans\_Farm and like us on Facebook @susansfarmcumbria for regular updates and cute video clips**

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



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