



DEMONSTRATION FARM

Wantisden Hall Farms



Farmer: Tim Pratt

Address: Wantisden, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 3PQ

This 1,549 acre farm has been in the Kemball family since 1946. It specialises in the production of field vegetables, grown on contract for a range of packing and processing companies, who supply the major supermarkets. Wantisden Hall Farms is currently in both Entry Level and Higher Level Stewardship agreements including one of the largest areas of medieval pollarded oak woodlands in Europe. As well as the Home Farm, Wantisden also contract farms another 2,800 acres in the surrounding area.



The Farm

Wantisden Hall Farms has been in the Kemball family since 1946. Today, the 1,549 acre farm specialises in the production of field vegetables grown for a range of packers.

Livestock

Wantisden currently have 200 Dorset Horn and Poll Dorset ewes which are used for the grazing and utilisation of crop residues and grassland, introduced within the HLS agreement. These will gradually be built up over the next few years, with the out of season lambs, supplying local farm shops.

Crops for food

Crops include potatoes, onions, carrots, cabbages, swedes, barley, maize, wheat, triticale and sugar beet. The most important crop is potatoes, which go directly to a marketing company for packing and selling to the major retailers.

Crops like potatoes and onions can be hard on the ground, but a carefully planned rotation with other less demanding crops such as cereals interspersed with vegetables, ensure the soil is kept in good heart. Pigs have also been introduced to the rotation on lighter land, which has helped create a great deal of muck and also reduce volunteer issues.



Conservation

Among the conservation features at Wantisden Hall, Staverton is one of the largest areas of medieval pollarded oak woodlands in Europe. Wantisden Hall Farms works closely with English Nature to help protect this unique Site of Special Scientific Interest. Irrigation is essential at Wantisden Hall Farm, due to the character of the soil and the farms' location. We have an extensive network of underground mains and pumping stations extracting water from the 50 acres of lakes on the farm. These reservoirs have been extracted over 25 years and are now managed to provide excellent wildlife habitat.

To help protect the soil from wind erosion, belts of pine trees across the farm have been established and an extensive programme of planting more indigenous species is being followed as part of the farms' Biodiversity Action Plan.

Visits

Come and visit Wantisden Hall Farm to find out how, by farming in an integrated way, they are balancing the requirements of growing healthy food with environmental care. Visitors are welcome throughout the year.



About LEAF Demonstration Farms

LEAF Demonstration Farms are commercial farms, which show the beneficial practices of Integrated Farm Management (IFM) to a broad range of audiences, through organised visits. They communicate an understanding of IFM in order to encourage uptake by farmers, support from the industry and political awareness of sustainable food and farming. For more information, visit www.leafuk.org.