



www.rectoryreserve.co.uk info@rectoryreserve.co.uk

Pigtails

The Lincolnshire Curly Coated Pigs Newsletter -
February 2011

*** The First Open Day of 2011 at The Old Rectory Sunday March 13th. 1100 to 1500 ***
' Meet the Pigs & Taste some Meat '

The End of the Noughties

We had mixed memories of December 2010. On the one hand we were snowed in for 3 weeks, the automatic drinkers all froze. We were carrying 24 buckets every morning and evening for the pigs to drink and hot water at lunchtime to unfreeze the water that the animals hadn't drunk in the morning.



Samson loved the snow: digging his own wallow that ended up bigger & deeper than him. We never found out what it was for but it certainly kept him busy for a week

Many Christmas markets were cancelled, although we probably couldn't have got to them anyway. However, those events we got to were well supported and we sold out with provisions from the farm several days before Xmas. Indeed, it was a record month for the growing food business. In terms of turnover, the latter is now larger than the breeding and live pig operations.



Ginger's Piglets during December: warm & snug in their arc prior to weaning

We had two litters to wean over the Christmas period: the Precious' 10 and Ginger's 7.

The weather was so cold that their mothers' had been keeping them in the protection of their arcs. So we decided to put the 10 in the barn and the 7 in the stalls. That was fine but they are still there as we then had the rains that made all the pens so wet. Actually, the pigs love it. They roll all over to get an even coating of mud that gets rid of all the loose hair and tones up the skin. Then they lie in wait for those humans, dash over and shake as hard as they can. Splat: mud everywhere. Great sense of humour these pigs and the joke is just as funny on the 10th time as on the first.



Let's all go and play with mud pies down in the field

Now for the Eleven + Exam

January is always a quiet month for Rectory Reserve: sandwiched between the hectic rush of Xmas and quieter, but time consuming, journeys around Farm Parks in March when we deliver piglets to be attractions for the, hopefully, hordes of visitors throughout the Season. We try and use this time to think weighty thoughts and lay plans for the coming year. In our experience, it never works out quite like one imagined. However, the process throws up all kinds of interesting ideas that wouldn't have occurred otherwise.

We must admit that this year we have been preoccupied with two of our most important cost inputs: the cost of transport / fuel and cereals / feed. Both are showing double-digit inflation compared to last year. So we need to think of making two journeys into one in future and producing more value from the pigs that we have. The latter has led to some experiments in establishing some more culinary masterpieces. Now that's what I call turning adversity into a benefit. At Rectory Reserve we're going to keep to this positive approach for the new times ahead even if they might sometimes be cold, wet and sometimes we get a bit of mud in the eye.

With kind regards

Brian & Sylvia Codling

PS We'll be at Farmers' Markets in February and March as follows:
Horncastle Thursday February 10th & March 10th
Louth Friday February 11th, Wednesday February 23rd. & Friday March 11th.

Please see the web site for latest information

www.rectoryreserve.co.uk [Click here for our March Order Form](#)

PPS Check out our New Ebay Shop that is slowly being filled with provisions: look for 'rectoryreserveporkprovisions'. We offer Free Delivery in Lincolnshire & the East Riding of Yorkshire on any size of order.