



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

Pigtails

The Lincolnshire Curly Coated Pigs Newsletter
April 2011

*** Come to Open Farm at The Old Rectory Sunday May 1st. 1100 to 1500 **
' Meet the Pigs & Taste some Meat '*

My, My, My Delila

Clarissa Dickson Wright had been particularly impressed with Delila when filming here last year. Even so, we were surprised when Clarissa's Great British Food Revival came on BBC TV and Delila promptly started crashing around in her arc - delivering piglets. We have given the litter the generic name of 'Clarissa's' & will name the piglets after great chefs. Since we have had a bit of unseasonal sunshine they have quickly been out and about in the warmth and making the most of the longer Spring days.



Delila supervising a little practice, rooting in the woods. Already after two / three weeks the stripes are fading. See piglet at the front.

Precious Moments

You can always tell when weaning should take place: at feeding time piglets are snouted out of the way, the milk bar remains closed most of the day and if the piglets go walk about, Mum promptly goes to sleep.



Token squealing over: piglets are safely transferred to the stalls for examination & onward moves to Custodians & Farm Parks

Four days after weaning Precious was reunited with Samson who had been off his food for some days, if not weeks. However, he soon made it clear that she wasn't going to pinch the tasty morsels he had been saving. After all he now had to build up his strength. So she decided that investigation of his new bijou residence (he destroyed the last one by coming out a bit quick one morning and bringing the doorway with him) was the first priority. She seemed to approve, so we left them. In a day or two they were sorted.

Meanwhile, we had the help of a couple of students, Lucy & Chloe, from Lincoln University Bio-veterinary Studies to check over the weaners & ear-tag them.



It may not be how you hold your baby but by gripping the back leg the pig keeps quiet and doesn't try to get away.

Wooly Pigs

This warm weather is bringing on the Curly Coats. Not only are the pigs fit but also hairy and will soon be ready for moulting during May / June. The hair is used all over the world for tying Fishing Flies as it repels water (Hydrophobic) in contrast to Sheeps' wool that absorbs water (Hydrophilic). This means the fly stays a consistent weight for accurate casting.



The softest hair is behind the ear and the rest will be coarser or even like bristle. Moreover, each pig is different – some more hairy. Just like humans.

This month we were fascinated to hear from a Swedish correspondent who had found an eighteenth century reference on winter fishing which extolled the benefit of warm hands that could be obtained by using fishing gloves made from Pigs wool. He also gave us the following translation of a Swedish proverb dating back to 1708: 'Much noise for little wool said the old lady who cut the pig'.

With kind regards

Brian & Sylvia Codling

PS We'll be at Farmers' Markets in April / May as follows:

Horncastle Thursday April 14th. & May 12th

Louth Wednesday April 27th. Friday May 13th. & Wednesday May 25th.

Sleaford Saturday 23rd. (St. Georges' Day), Saturday May 7th.

Please see the web site for latest information www.rectoryreserve.co.uk

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.

Click here for your [Order form](#)