



# Sondes Place farm

## Free Range Chickens Have Landed...

For the first time, there is a flock of free-range laying hens on Sondes Place Farm. The new flock of 200 hens arrived in August, are living in the fields at Milton Court Farm, between Westcott and Dorking.

We have selected two Speciality hybrid breeds; the Surrey Blue, which lays pale blue eggs, and the Surrey Brown, which lays deep brown eggs. Both are breeds renowned for laying eggs with strong shells and tasty yolks.

They live at night in 2 small specially built houses, and range across the fields during the day. We shut them in at night to protect them from foxes.. ..but in the day, they are kept safe by 2 Alpacas, Noel and Louis and llama, Cameo!!

Alpacas and llamas are naturally curious animals and will chase away any foxes that come into the fields during the day.....at least, that's what we hope!

By keeping the hens in two small "colonies" of 100 birds, we ensure that all the birds go outside during the day (they often don't in the huge "intensive" free-range systems), and that they have plenty of comfortable room to roost at night.

We feed the hens on a specially formulated diet of grains and non-GM ingredients, which is produced by Attlees feedmill in Dorking. It contains sunflower extract, which combined with the grass that the birds eat, gives lovely yellow yolks....try them to see for yourself!

We collect and pack the eggs every day to ensure our customers always get the freshest eggs.

The eggs will be available to buy from a number of local shops. We will also sell them from Milton Court farmyard, or if you would like to place a regular order, delivered to your house, just call or email us.



## Local School Children growing their own vegetables.....

The year 8 school children from St Josephs Primary School have been growing vegetables in the fields next to Sondes Place Farm house in Dorking.

Thanks to the enthusiasm of their teachers and help from Nick Forsyth from seed company, Tozer Direct in Cobham, the children have all managed their own allotment over the Summer term.

Every Thursday afternoon, the children come down to the field to tend their plots. The project started with each child making, and installing their own scare-crow to keep their crops safe from the birds!

This is the 3rd year the farm has successfully co-operated with St Josephs School.

