

## Chicken & Egg FAQ

### About our Chickens

Our free range chickens are 'White Leghorns'. We have a small flock of 40 hens, at a low stocking density, feeding on our grass and clover ley, supplemented by organic layers pellets for the first year. We hope to eventually feed our own grain, grown on site. No medicines or antibiotics are used at all, we put some vinegar into the water.

The animal welfare standards are of the highest being to "Demeter" standard, we are in "conversion" at this point but they will be fully organic / biodynamic in September 2017. We have chosen the White Leghorn as they are nimble and able to take flight if a fox is around, they are kept in electric fences in mobile houses and will be moved through the orchards as our planting progresses.

The eggs are white and they will be sold fresh, within a week of being laid. We have been pioneering at our Essex farm. They sell out every Saturday by 11 am, people rave about them saying that it is the size of the flock ie small, and the fact that they are grazed on the green pasture that makes them so delicious.

### Egg FAQ

Q. What is biodynamic farming?

A. Founded in 1924, Biodynamic farming is the oldest 'green' farming movement, and forerunner of organics. All biodynamic farmers and growers practice organic methods of cultivation, are against genetic modification (GM), and share its ideals, but there are important differences. Biodynamics has metaphysical and spiritual roots that organics does not, and thus embraces the mystery of all life processes, including the subtle and energetic realities that are not necessarily easy to measure or justify using current scientific methods. Whilst it's a simple farming system based on natural rhythms and ecological principles, it is not easy to explain in a few words. See [here for more information](#).

Q. How can I order eggs?

A. Our preference is for you to place a weekly or bi-weekly order for eggs and choose a collection hub for delivery. We will then deliver to this hub every Friday, where you can collect the eggs and pay for them by leaving the money at the collection hub. See the website for collection hub details. [Order eggs here](#).

Q. What is the price of the eggs?

A. £2.25 / half dozen. £4.50 / dozen.

Q. How do I pay for eggs?

A. If you are ordering for a weekly or bi-weekly collection, please order by paying for 10 weeks of eggs in advance (£22.50 / half dozen). You can pay by BACS



transfer or by cash / cheque to Bob, we will contact you to arrange payment). Once you have started with regular eggs, we will be in touch once your 10 weeks worth of eggs have been collected.

Q. I don't want weekly / bi-weekly eggs. Can I buy occasionally?

- A. Yes, although our priority will go to supplying regular orders. There are 2 ways to buy occasionally:
- You can order and prepay for 10 weeks worth [here](#). To then order, email [bob.mehew@apricotcentre.co.uk](mailto:bob.mehew@apricotcentre.co.uk) by 10pm on any particular week you would like eggs. We will let you know when your 10 weeks has been used for you to make a new order.
  - There will be an honesty boxes at various locations including the farm itself - see website. Eggs will be available from Fridays.

Q. If I have regular eggs, can I have a week(s) off?

- B. Yes, by all means, but you will need to let us know by Wednesday 10 pm. Your advance payment will then last a week(s) longer!

Q. Can I buy larger quantities of eggs?

- A. Yes, please get in touch with Bob to discuss your order.

Q. Can I get involved with the chickens / elsewhere on the farm ?

- A. Yes please! We have [volunteering](#) every Wednesday and at other special events. If you specifically want to be involved in the chickens, let Bob know.

Q. What are the welfare standards of the hens?

- B. The animal welfare standards are of the highest, being to "Demeter" standard, which can be [downloaded here](#). We do not use antibiotics or medicines. The grass / clover that they feed on is grown to biodynamic standards and the supplementary feed is organic layer pellets.

Q. Will there be cockerels in the flock?

- A. No, not initially.

Q. Will you grow your own chicken food?

- B. Yes, but not initially. It is in our farm plan to grow grains from 2017 to feed our chickens. At the moment, they have the range of our orchard to feed on insects, grass and our wonderful thriving clover, which is topped up by organic layers pellets.

