



USE OF LOCAL PRODUCE

CATEGORY: CASE STUDY YEAR: 2008

Business Details:



Cobble Hey Farm & Gardens
Cloughton on Brock
Garstang
PR3 0QN

www.cobblehey.co.uk



Description:

Cobble Hey is a working farm and Garden open to the public in Cloughton, nr Garstang. There are a wide range of activities available onsite ranging from viewing the farm and gardens, plant sales, a small shop and of course refreshments in the dining area. The majority of the produce on the menu comes from the local area. Beef, lamb and eggs come from the farm itself. Poultry and duck from Goosnargh. Cheese and dairy are also sourced locally including Ice Cream from Chipping. Just about everything that can be sourced locally, is. Apart from the food the gardens and surrounding farmland are a haven for wildlife with lots of interpretation around the garden as well as trails leading from the site. The site offers more formal education options with trained teachers available for schools coveting a range of national curriculum topics.



Economic

The local economy sees a direct benefit from using local suppliers. Local producers and retailers will receive a greater portion of the revenues compared with those supplied through national or international chains, meaning the money stays with the local community and not shareholders. The benefits of diversification as at Cobble Hey have become a reality for many farming businesses and can provide another source of revenue in rural areas. The key is being creative and finding something that fits in with your business but that consumers also want.



Environmental

The environmental benefits of using local produce are obvious. Food miles – the carbon emissions that arise from the transport and processing of food are minimised on this site with virtually all produce coming from the surrounding area. On top of that knowing your suppliers personally means you know they are looking after their animals and the environment. Something that's harder to be certain of with far-travelled produce.



Social

The local community benefits significantly. Making sure money stays in the local area means that the middle men are removed from the equation. It also helps to maintain local employment directly onsite and in with the suppliers and producers. The educational aspects of the site will also help to prepare the next generation with an understanding of what stewardship of the land entails.

WEB

Forest of Bowland www.forestofbowland.com
 Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) www.fwag.org.uk
 Linking Environment & Farming (LEAF) www.leafuk.org
 Bowland Spring Water www.bowlandspringwater.com