

Whitmuir Farm, Lamancha, West Linton, EH46 7BB  
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### How it works

Farm supporters pay by regular standing orders. We let supporters know what we have available. Supporters order the food they want, when they want it and we charge it to their account. Every three months we balance the accounts. It is that simple.

You get fresh, organic food at a good price. We grow for people we know and have some certainty of income.



### The last few months at Whitmuir

Since last Pigmail, it's been a bit busy down on the farm. The Saturday morning farm shop regulars have battled through a building site for months, but the butchery and shop should be open in June.

On 11 March we had two great farm walks as part of the Borders Banquet programme - in spite of the driving rain.

The edible and boozy hedge, funded through the Traditional Boundaries Programme, has been planted.

The maternity wards and intensive care units have been busy. As well as new piglets, 180 lambs and 11 calves have been born this spring.



WHITMUIR  
ORGANICS  
FOOD WITH ATTITUDE NOT ADDITIVES



PIGMAIL  
SPRING 2007

BLOWING OUT THE WIND

Ruminant animals (such as cows, sheep and wildebeest) make a great job of converting grass into milk or meat, and so using land which is unsuitable for other crops. Unfortunately, a by-product of all this rumination is large quantities of methane - as much as 500 litres a day from a cow. Methane is a real 13.5 tog earth blanket gas - tonne for tonne, it produces about 23 times as much global warming as carbon dioxide.

A recent report for DEFRA estimated that, taking methane into account, producing a kilogram of beef generates the equivalent of 16kg of CO<sub>2</sub>. Farming organically cuts both ways. Not using nitrogen fertiliser means we generate less nitrous oxide (which is 300 times as powerful as CO<sub>2</sub> as a greenhouse gas), but because our cattle eat less grain and mature slowly they spend more months burping methane than conventional beef cattle.

Scientists around the world - including the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen - have been working for years to produce a feed additive to reduce methane emissions, but as yet there is no magic fix.

This creates a challenge for our efforts to farm sustainably. Even our small herd of 13 cows is having the same impact on the environment as a dozen small cars. All this wind is what economists call an externality - we produce it, but the effects are felt elsewhere. So to offset the global impact of our very local herd, we are introducing our own greenhouse gas tax on meat - linked to the social cost of carbon.

We've settled on a carbon price of £20/tonne - based on the Stern report and Global Cool - and this means a tax of 10p/kg on beef and lamb and 4p/kg on pork. (Pigs don't produce much methane, but much more fossil fuel energy goes into producing the grain they eat). We will introduce the tax once the butchery is up and running at the end of May.

The money raised will be used to support tree planting and energy efficiency projects on the farm and in the local community. We will produce an annual report on how much has been raised and how it has been spent.

### WHERE WE ARE

Whitmuir Farm is on the A701, 4 miles south of the Leadburn Inn and 2 miles north of West Linton, approximately 15 minutes from Peebles and 20 minutes from Hillend, Edinburgh by car.

## SEASONAL VEGETABLES AND WHEN THEY'RE IN SEASON

All of our soft fruit and vegetables are grown on the farm. Our location and altitude (our vegetable field is at 850ft) means we have a very short growing season. In spite of this, we managed to grow over 30 different types of vegetable last summer. We have been sowing and planting and this chart is to give you some idea of when things will be ready.

	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Potatoes	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Rainbow Chard	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				•
Basil, Parsley, Dill, Coriander	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					
Salads	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					•
Spinach	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					•
Broad beans			•	•	•							
Strawberries			•	•	•							
Gooseberries			•	•								
Blackcurrant			•	•								
Carrots		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Broccoli (green, then purple)			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cauliflower			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Fennel		•	•	•	•	•	•					
Beetroot			•	•	•	•						
Courgettes			•	•	•	•						
Peas			•	•	•	•						
French beans			•	•	•	•						
Cabbage (summer, red, savoy, winter)			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Turnip purple top			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Celery				•	•	•	•	•				
Garlic				•	•	•	•	•				
Cucumbers				•	•	•	•					
Runner beans				•	•	•						
Tomatoes				•	•	•						
Leeks					•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Onions					•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Pumpkin/squash					•	•	•	•				
Parsnip						•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Swede						•	•	•	•	•	•	
Jerusalem artichokes						•	•	•	•			
Celeriac						•	•	•	•			

### ONE PLANET FOOD

The Soil Association has just launched its 'One Planet Agriculture' campaign. Global warming and the prospect of rising oil prices challenge us to imagine a more sustainable and equitable system for producing the world's food. Agriculture is responsible for 12% of Scotland's greenhouse gas emissions, while contributing less than 2% to our economy - so we have plenty of room for improvement.

Last year, the Scottish Executive published a guide for farmers 'Changing our ways - climate change and Scottish agriculture'. While it makes some useful suggestions, such as using biodiesel from waste oil to run the tractor (we're still looking for a supplier), it's a long way from a strategy for sustainable agriculture.

Such a strategy would need to include a major shift towards local and regional food economies; shortening supply chains and reducing food miles (which cost the UK more than the total value of all our farm produce); a significant move to organic production which both reduces nitrous oxide emissions and increases the 'carbon sink' held in the soil; serious support for developing and using wood for fuel and construction; on-farm wind energy generation and a greenhouse gas trading scheme together with advice on a farm by farm basis.

For more see [www.soilassociation.org/oneplanetagriculture](http://www.soilassociation.org/oneplanetagriculture)

**GROWING  
FOR PEOPLE  
WE KNOW**