



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes

The Food Groups in Berks, Bucks, & MK and Oxfordshire work as a federation - BBO Food Groups - and are supported by the South East England Development Agency and by various local authorities and sponsors.



Monthly Update from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire (BBO) Food Group

August 4th 2008

NUMBER 14

Dear Food Group Members:

This is the monthly update from your Local Food Group.

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Please note that our Monthly Updates are now posted on the News page of our website www.local-food.net

If you no longer wish to be part of this mailing list, or if you receive this message twice, please email

localfood@brookes.ac.uk

Meet the Buyer Event with Waitrose 11 September 2008 (venue to be confirmed)

We have arranged for Waitrose Local Sourcing Manager Tracey Telford to meet with 12 potential suppliers, from BBO and Hampshire, however their range of products sought is limited this time, and they will also expect necessary Quality Assurance measures in place (full HACCP, SALSA accreditation at least).

Waitrose are looking for suppliers producing food & drink using traditional methods. Suppliers must be able to provide retail packaging that includes a standard EAN Barcode.

The product areas to be considered are:

- Cakes
- Biscuits
- Bread
- Desserts
- Fruit Juices
- Water
- Beer
- Cider
- Wine
- Dressings
- Sauces - sweet / savoury
- Chutneys
- Pickles
- Mustards
- Cheese
- Meat products - sausages, bacon, pies, sliced meat etc
- Ready meals
- Soup Preserves

Waitrose are not at present looking for Regional suppliers of Meat / poultry or eggs.

If you meet the above criteria and would like to try, please let Tamara know by email localfood@brookes.ac.uk or by phone at 01865484116 / 07795334474 **NO LATER** than 15 August. Places are very limited and producers will be allocated a time slot on a first come first served basis.

Members Networking Event

After a busy and successful event to learn about web design and mail ordering last week our next members networking event will be to learn about SALSA (Safe and Local Supplier Approval) accreditation. SALSA is the new approval scheme designed to help local and regional food and drink producers supply their products to regional and national buyers. Date (in Oct) and venue (in Bucks) to be confirmed. A SALSA auditor will be doing a presentation and answering members' questions. Please register your interest in attending by emailing Wendy at membership@local-food.net or leaving a message on 01865 464116

Members News

Bothy Vineyard wins National Trophy at the English and Welsh Wine of the Year Competition. Sian and Richard Liwicki received their prize from Lord Montagu of Beaulieu at the House of Lords in front of an audience that included 8 Masters of Wine and the likes of other top names such as Ridge View, Nyetimber and Camel Valley vineyards. **Bothy Vineyard**, Oxford's closest vineyard, submitted just two wines into the competition in July and they both won silver awards. This was no surprise but when their new wine The Paradox 2007 took the Berwick Trophy, this was a first for this medium sized, long established vineyard. Richard Liwicki, winemaker and tender of vines said, "Many of our customers are local and they have recognised the quality of our wines and supported us over the years. However, winning a trophy has definitely put us on the national map. "The Paradox came about because the very heavy summer rains of 2007 caused some of our vines to set tiny, seedless berries which, paradoxically ripened beautifully to produce an intense juice, full of sugar and flavour." **Bothy Vineyard** produced only 4,000 bottles of wine in 2007 due to the extraordinarily wet summer and already over two thirds of its stocks have been sold. The owners are hoping that this summer will be kinder and that production will return to normal levels of around 6,000 bottles a year. In 2002, 2000 new vines were planted and these are just beginning to bear fruit. 4. For more information on all of the above visit www.bothyvineyard.co.uk. or contact: Sian Liwicki, **Bothy Vineyard**, Frilford Heath, Oxon OX13 6QW. 01865 390067.

The Old Farmhouse Bakery notification of summer closing dates from Saturday 9th August to Tuesday 2nd September. For further details telephone: 01235-831230 or visit www.theoldfarmhousebakery.co.uk

New Members

Welcome to new members who have joined the BBO Food Group in recent months;

Beechwood Farm Free Range Eggs - Nathan and Rachael Rice – a traditional family farm dedicated to supplying high quality free range eggs. Email beechwoodeggs@aol.com

Birds and Bees – Sue Bird – has apiaries in and around Milton Keynes supplying a variety of flavours in local honey and honey products. Email suebirdsbees@aol.com

Byways bed and Breakfast – Sylvia Mott – a quiet B & B serving local organic and home produced food. Website www.bywaysbedandbreakfast.co.uk

From Rani's Kitchen – Rani Jadavji – home made Indian style chatnis, pickles relish and sauces. Email fromraniskitchen@hotmail.co.uk

Stanlake Park – Peter Dart – largest vineyard and winery in Berkshire/ Thames Valley. Website www.StanlakePark.com

The Cake Makers – Joanna Bains – home made celebration cakes finished with unique homemade decorations for individual and corporate clients. Website www.thecakemakers.co.uk

Watersplash Lane – Alison Westmacott – traditionally produced pickles, chutneys, jams and marmalades made from authentic and old fashioned recipes. Website www.watersplashlane.co.uk

Full details of all new members products, location and contact details can be found on our website www.local-food.net

County Shows

Come and visit producer members at the following county shows

Bucks County Show - Thursday 28 August

Thame and Oxfordshire County Show - Thursday 18 September

Royal County of Berkshire Show - Saturday & Sunday 20 & 21 September (1 stand left). For further information contact Tamara at localfood@brookes.ac.uk

Training & Events

September-November Free Workshops for Producers.

Business Link are running a programme of complimentary and interactive workshops aimed at helping land based businesses in the SEEDA region to adapt and improve their performance against a background of constantly changing environments, ranging from climate change to regulatory requirements.

Workshops are FREE, from 9.30am for 10am to conclude at 12.30pm with a buffet lunch.

To book please call your local Business Link: 0845 600 9 006 or visit www.ruralbookings.co.uk

Theme 1: Business diversification and possible grant opportunities

Whilst diversification as a concept has been around for many years, this workshop will explore many of the possible new areas for business diversification open to land based businesses. It will also discuss possible grant opportunities available to support innovative and sound ideas.

This workshop will focus around case studies of a number of successful projects and the lessons learnt.

Oxfordshire: Windmill Conference Centre, Clanfield, 30 September

Berkshire, Newbury Rugby Club, Berkshire, 15 October

Theme 2: Prepare to Meet Thy Planner This workshop aims to dispel the myth that the planning system has been set up as a barrier to starting new ventures. It will provide guidance on how to approach planning applications with a step by step guide to the process. The workshops are led by ex-planning officers now working as planning consultants with advice on how to maximise the chances of making successful applications. It will highlight the key issues, timescales, costs etc by going through the stages illustrated by case studies of successful applicants.

Oxfordshire: Windmill Conference Centre, Clanfield, 8 October

Berkshire, Shaw House, Newbury, 22 October

Theme 3: Moving up the Food Supply Chain — A profit opportunity

Many primary producers look with envy on the profits made by companies further along the supply chain for example dairy farmers getting 20+ p per litre for non organic milk with supermarkets selling at the equivalent of 88.5p per litre. This workshop will analyse and discuss various opportunities for producers to get involved in the processing either individually or collaboratively. Jonathon Bayne, Head of Technical Services, Sustainability & Regulatory Affairs, Musgrave Retail Partners GB will also be joining us sharing with us the do's and don't within the retail environment.

Oxfordshire: Windmill Conference Centre, Clanfield, 21 October

Berkshire, Shaw House, Newbury, 4 November

SEEDA Grants & Awards

£27M LEADER funding is going to support rural businesses in the SE. Farmers, foresters, growers and rural businesses and communities in South East England will soon be able to apply for a share of the programme. Leader is a source of funding led by SEEDA to help revitalise and support rural businesses. SEEDA will be distributing the funds directly to 13 Local Action Groups (LAG). It is these local groups who will decide where the share of the money goes, to ensure it fits local priorities. Each project can receive a grant of up to £50,000. The Leader programme is a source of funding from the EU and Defra through the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). Oona Muirhead, SEEDA Director for Sustainable Prosperity said, "Leader is a locally-led approach which will support a range of schemes to create wealth in rural areas. For example, to help increase the sale value of local produce; to provide renewable energy which will reduce businesses' running costs and tackle climate change; and to increase profits from tourism. The funds will help develop new enterprises as well as providing major opportunities for businesses and communities to

work together to invest in their future." Each Local Action Group, which was chosen by a selection panel of stakeholders, will receive delegated funding of between £1.6 million and £2.6 million for the period 2008 to 2013. The funding will cover a wide range of activities such as farm diversification, tourism activities, renewable energy projects and collaborating to develop new products and services. To find your nearest Local Action Group and how and when to apply for funding please visit www.seeda.co.uk/rdpe or contact Helen Dallas at SEEDA on 01483 484297.

http://www.seeda.co.uk/news_&_events/press_releases/2008/20080718.asp © South East of England Regional Development Agency

Events

SEEDA Survey – Win a hot air balloon trip to see the South East

As you are aware, SEFGP and the county food groups are funded by SEEDA, the regional development agency. To measure the success of their financial support they have asked if producers could fill out a survey (10 minutes max). Fill out the questionnaire at

http://www.ghkint.com/surveys/nrp%20evaluation/farmer_and_producer_electronic_survey_v3.htm and you will be entered into the draw to win a hot air balloon trip.

Fallowfields Food Festival 25 August from 12 noon until 6pm. Producers are invited to have stands and for more information place contact:

Lisa Mather Sales and Marketing Manager

Fallowfields Restaurant & Country House Hotel 01865 820416

email irina@fallowfields.com website www.fallowfields.com

Wokingham Food, Drink & Music Festival 2008 Elms Field, Wokingham. Friday 5th, Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th September 2008

This year the Festival is doubling in size. The Food and Drink marquees will be the centre piece for the festival with stalls for local and national specialist producers and a large live demonstration area.

If you would like a stand contact Kate Lole at Yellow Poppy Marketing by email kate.lole@yellow-poppy.co.uk or 0118 978 8801 or 07708 864365

British Food Fortnight 20th September - 5th October 2008

The biggest national celebration of the diverse and delicious range of food that Britain produces. All the resources retailers need to take part are on the event's website

www.britishfoodfortnight.co.uk

British Cheese Awards This is the 15th year of the British Cheese Awards with a record 910 cheeses from 183 producers.

GREAT BRITISH CHEESE FESTIVAL 26th - 28th September 2008 Cardiff Castle [organised by Cardiff Council]
BRITISH CHEESE WEEK 27th September - 5th October 2008

Further info from:

Eclectic Events Ltd
Churchill Heath Farm
Kingham

Oxon OX7 6UJ

T: 01608 658 929 trade@thecheeseweb.com

<<mailto:trade@thecheeseweb.com>>

F: 01608 659 654

PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER

Local to London - trade event 1 October 2008 New Covent Garden Market - see, taste and source local food produced in the regions around London. Following the success of the Celebration of Local Food event at New Covent Garden Market in February 2008, once again **farmers and growers** are invited to attend Local to London trade event designed to bring together producers, wholesalers and end users in a bid to encourage foodservice sector to source more regional produce. The 1st of October also sees the start of the Wholesaler month with all six wholesale markets of London taking part (New Covent Garden Market, Smithfield Market, New Spitalfields Market, Billingsgate Market, Borough Market and Western International Market). The day will see a renewed drive for London based wholesale market, New Covent Garden Market, to source more produce from its surrounding regions and is part of a working partnership between the Market Authority, East Anglia and the South East to get more local food on the capital's plates via wholesalers and catering distributors based at the market.

Local to London Programme - you don't have to attend every event, just pick & mix:

7.00am Tour of the Market and Buyers' Walk.

8.00am Breakfast. Start Programme Master classes from Fruit & Vegetable, Butchery and Fish experts. Meet-the-Supplier with producers & growers. Light refreshments will be available during the day.

This event is made possible with help from EEDA

<http://www.eeda.org.uk> and SEEDA <http://www.seeda.co.uk> (the Regional Development Agencies in the South East and Anglia), Covent Garden Market Authority, The food groups in the East of England (Tastes of Anglia) and the South East (South East Food Group Partnership Ltd) and the London Development Agency.

Local Food Fair at Ascot Racecourse Saturday 11 October,

If you are interested in taking a stall or for further information

please contact Diane Harker, Food Fair Co-ordinator, on 01628 670272 or e-mail: diane.harker@tiscali.co.uk. Stall fees will be required by 1st September 2008.

South East Rural Board: are looking for a Chair of the new South East Rural Board for Sustainable Prosperity, SEEDA. The Chair will lead action to identify the key economic, social and environmental trends in what is an increasingly turbulent and uncertain global environment. As leader of the Board the Chair will identify the priority actions for the rural SE and need to commit approximately 2 days a month with a maximum of 30 days a year. For more information please contact Oona Muirhead, Executive Director Sustainable Prosperity SEEDA, on 07967 107497. The closing date for applications is 15th August

New farming website available www.farmingads.co.uk where you can place a classified advert on the site for free. For more information contact Kate Kidger at support@farmingads.co.uk



Food & Drink
from the South East

Contact Us

BBO Food Groups

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Wendy Hole, Membership Co-ordinator

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