

## MARSHALLS FARM, HUNT STREET

### Field Margins

A grass sward is planted around all field margins and mown once a year. No pesticides or herbicides are used on field margins. Part of the perimeter of the tunnelled area is used during harvesting periods to gain access to the crop by our harvesting staff. Vehicles are not permitted on the fields with the exception of our fruit transport van.

### Field Boundaries

Field boundaries are tall hedges and areas of woodland, which are preserved and encouraged. It is very important for the growing of soft fruit to gain as much protection from the wind as possible. The hedges will be trimmed from time to time, normally once every two years.

### Growing Protocols

Clock House Farm is LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) accredited. LEAF is an organisation that "is committed to viable agriculture which is environmentally and socially acceptable and ensures the continuity of supply of wholesome, affordable food while conserving and enhancing the fabric and wildlife of the countryside for future generations". The farm also holds the Tesco 'Nurture' Gold Standard. These two protocols require a high standard of environmental conservation and sustainability in all aspects of agricultural and horticultural production. Details of the extensive requirements of such protocols can be found on [www.leafuk.org](http://www.leafuk.org) (LEAF) and [www.tesco.com/nurture/](http://www.tesco.com/nurture/) or [www.nsf-cmi.com/](http://www.nsf-cmi.com/) (Tesco Nurture).

The Farm Policies on Conservation and Use of Polytunnels is also attached for your information.

November, 2009

**FARM POLICY STATEMENT**  
**WILDLIFE AND LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT**

Clock House Farm is mainly located on the Greensand Ridge which is an area of great visual importance to the area of Kent and also lends itself well to the maintenance and enhancement of natural flora and fauna. The farming policy we have adopted has been to make optimum use of natural resources and to follow the philosophy of integrated crop management where applicable. We have therefore retained the great variety of woodland and natural vegetation that has existed for centuries in this area.

All land that is not used for crop production is managed to produce habitats capable of supporting the widest range of flora and fauna. The management of these areas is very different to that being used in the cropping area where the objective is to obtain the optimum yield from a mono-culture. Successful management of these environmental habitats involves obtaining the maximum diversity of flora and fauna with the minimum of disturbance. By carrying out the following policies, not only will the widest range of ecological niches be created on the farm, but also the maximum source of food will be available for predators.

The farm has a number of orchards and fields surrounded by windbreaks to improve the micro-climate within the cropping area as well as woodland, hedges, grasslands, ditches, ponds, reservoirs and native specimen trees.. Pesticide applications are excluded from all non cropping areas such as wind-breaks, hedges, ditches and grass headlands. Traffic on non cropping areas is reduced to a minimum to avoid disturbing wildlife and reduce soil compaction.

FWAG Landmanager Report

FWAG completed a Whole Farm Plan in January 2008 to raise awareness of key wildlife habitats, other environmental and archaeological feature and best farming practice. FWAG gave the farm various pointers on conservation enhancement but much is already in place. FWAG complimented the farm on being a 'fantastic example of applying a fully integrated approach to a natural system to make the environment work both for the farmer and for wildlife'.

Woodlands

The farm has various areas of woodland consisting of varied native broad-leaved species. Structural diversity within the wood is produced by coppicing by compartments on a regular basis to give the largest range in habitats while providing the single greatest benefit to preserving their characteristic flora. This ensures the continuity of woodland cover to provide refuges for mobile animals who might have been ousted from the newly coppiced area.

Windbreaks

The farm's windbreaks are made of alders and there are also many traditional hedgerows. We carry out a rotational cutting programme to reduce the disturbance to wildlife and only cut during January/February to avoid the bird nesting season and the early autumn berry season. It is proposed to leave a slightly wider strip when mowing near windbreaks and we also ensure that herbicides are not sprayed near the bottom of a windbreak.

Grasslands

The grass headlands around the orchard margins are left to grow during the season to provide cover for beetles and small mammals, which in turn provides a source of food for birds. Fallow grassland is cut twice a year to increase the nutrient value of the soil.

Ditches

The farm appreciates the importance of all watercourses in that they have high conservation potential but also can be at risk of damage from pollution. The farm carries out LERAPS assessments prior to spraying pesticides. Ditches are cleaned out every two to three years on a rotational basis to ensure the minimum amount of disturbance to wildlife. The cleared herbage is removed to ensure it does not block the flow of the watercourse. We shall consider clearing only one side at a time wherever possible or at least leaving some ditch vegetation for regeneration.

Reservoirs

The two reservoirs on the farm benefit from the buffer of grassland and native trees. Reservoir 2 will benefit from the reduction of some of the bank side trees.

Pond

The pond at the base of the farm is maintained as a natural habitat for water borne flora and fauna. Some clearance has been required over the winter to maintain the watercourse and prevent the area silting up. The fallen dead timber around the pond has been left to rot as a benefit to invertebrates and insects.

Short Term Rented Land

When considering new cropping sites on rented land a risk assessment is made to consider the previous land usage and environmental hazards. We discuss our policy with regard to Wildlife and Landscape Conservation with the prospective landlord and ask them to sign a note of commitment to good land management practices and conservation of natural resources.



**R. K. PASCALL**

March, 2009.

**FARM POLICY STATEMENT**  
**USE OF POLYTUNNELS**

It is the policy of Clock House Farm to follow the NFU/British Summer Fruits 'Code of Practice for the Use of Poly tunnels for the Production of Soft Fruit'.

This policy is achieved in the following ways:

- Clock House Farm aims to implement the NFU/British Summer Fruits 'Code of Practice for the Use of Poly tunnels for the Production of Soft Fruit' and Robert Pascall, Managing Director, is fully committed to achieve full compliance as far is practical. Robert Pascall is also committed to ensuring his staff are fully aware of the Code of Practice and understand the importance of its implementation.
- Clock House Farm takes their responsibility very seriously and will comply with all local planning regulations as and when these apply.
- Clock House Farm only covers soft fruit crops destined for retail sales and all fields selected within our ownership or rented locally for cropping with soft fruit will be chosen with due regard for the position of the tunnels on the neighbours and the visual impact on the locality.
- The soft fruit crops are rotated as per our Crop Rotation Procedure in support of Good Agricultural Practices. Crops will be covered for the duration of their productive life during the production period only. In the case of strawberries this period is up to three years, whereas for raspberries the period could be five years.
- In line with our Conservation and Environmental policy and our ongoing Biodiversity Plan hedge planting and windbreak placement have been designed to screen the fields that have poly tunnels sited in them.
- With due regard for our neighbours and our Worker Welfare Practice, we endeavour to minimize noise from our farming activities during unsocial hours, i.e. before 7.00 a.m. and after 8.00 p.m.
- The farm endeavours to secure all loose polythene as soon as possible in order to reduce the impact of the noise on our neighbours, weather permitting.
- In order to lessen the impact of our tunnels on the landscape, we will use less luminant types of plastic wherever possible, providing our crop schedules allow.
- Our tunnel hoops are not covered with polythene for more than six months of the year. We remove polythene from the tunnel hoops immediately after cropping, weather permitting.
- Unused polythene is stored away from public view within the secure farm buildings.
- Clock House Farm supports best practices including good housekeeping and waste recycling through the Berry Gardens Recycling Scheme.
- All enquiries concerning our polythene tunnels will be dealt with courteously and promptly.
- All local issues raised will be documented and handled professionally and with sensitivity. Where possible, further action will be taken to minimize the issue in order to demonstrate good neighbour relations and concern for the local community.
- All Farm Policy documents are reviewed on an annual basis and amendments to this specific policy may be made in the light of local issues and following consultation with any new neighbours.



**R K PASCALL**  
Director

March, 2009.

MARSHALLS FARM  
HUNT STREET

PLANNED ROTATION FOR 2010

|           | BLOCK<br>1     | BLOCK<br>2     | BLOCK<br>3     | BLOCK<br>4     |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| January   | NO TUNNELS     | HOOPS          | HOOPS          | HOOPS          |
| February  | NO TUNNELS     | HOOPS          | HOOPS          | HOOPS          |
| March     | NO TUNNELS     | HOOPS          | HOOPS          | HOOPS          |
| April     | NO TUNNELS     | HOOPS          | HOOPS          | HOOPS          |
| May       | NO TUNNELS     | HOOPS          | HOOPS & COVERS | HOOPS & COVERS |
| June      | NO TUNNELS     | HOOPS & COVERS | HOOPS & COVERS | HOOPS & COVERS |
| July      | HOOPS & COVERS | HOOPS & COVERS | FALLOW         | FALLOW         |
| August    | HOOPS & COVERS | HOOPS & COVERS | FALLOW         | FALLOW         |
| September | HOOPS & COVERS | HOOPS & COVERS | FALLOW         | FALLOW         |
| October   | HOOPS          | HOOPS & COVERS | WHEAT          | WHEAT          |
| November  | HOOPS          | HOOPS          | WHEAT          | WHEAT          |
| December  | HOOPS          | HOOPS          | WHEAT          | WHEAT          |

APPENDIX 2  
AMENDED

MARSHALLS FARM  
HUNT STREET

PLANNED ROTATION FOR 2011

|           | BLOCK 1        | BLOCK 2        | BLOCK 3 | BLOCK 4 |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|---------|---------|
| January   | HOOPS          | HOOPS          | WHEAT   | WHEAT   |
| February  | HOOPS          | HOOPS          | WHEAT   | WHEAT   |
| March     | HOOPS          | HOOPS & COVERS | WHEAT   | WHEAT   |
| April     | HOOPS          | HOOPS & COVERS | WHEAT   | WHEAT   |
| May       | HOOPS          | HOOPS & COVERS | WHEAT   | WHEAT   |
| June      | HOOPS          | HOOPS & COVERS | WHEAT   | WHEAT   |
| July      | HOOPS & COVERS | HOOPS          | WHEAT   | WHEAT   |
| August    | HOOPS & COVERS | HOOPS          | WHEAT   | WHEAT   |
| September | HOOPS & COVERS | HOOPS          | WHEAT   | WHEAT   |
| October   | HOOPS          | HOOPS          | FALLOW  | WHEAT   |
| November  | HOOPS          | HOOPS          | FALLOW  | WHEAT   |
| December  | HOOPS          | HOOPS          | FALLOW  | WHEAT   |

APPENDIX 2  
AMENDED

MARSHALLS FARM  
HUNT STREET

PLANNED ROTATION FOR 2012

|           | BLOCK 1        | BLOCK 2        | BLOCK 3        | BLOCK 4 |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------|
| January   | HOOPS          | HOOPS          | HOOPS          | WHEAT   |
| February  | HOOPS          | HOOPS          | HOOPS          | WHEAT   |
| March     | HOOPS          | HOOPS          | HOOPS          | WHEAT   |
| April     | HOOPS          | HOOPS          | HOOPS & COVERS | WHEAT   |
| May       | HOOPS          | HOOPS          | HOOPS & COVERS | WHEAT   |
| June      | HOOPS          | HOOPS          | HOOPS & COVERS | WHEAT   |
| July      | HOOPS & COVERS | HOOPS & COVERS | HOOPS & COVERS | WHEAT   |
| August    | HOOPS & COVERS | HOOPS & COVERS | HOOPS & COVERS | WHEAT   |
| September | HOOPS & COVERS | HOOPS & COVERS | HOOPS & COVERS | WHEAT   |
| October   | HOOPS          | HOOPS & COVERS | HOOPS & COVERS | WHEAT   |
| November  | HOOPS          | FALLOW         | HOOPS          | WHEAT   |
| December  | HOOPS          | ARABLE         | HOOPS          | WHEAT   |

APPENDIX 2  
AMENDED

MARSHALLS FARM  
HUNT STREET

PLANNED ROTATION FOR 2013

|           | BLOCK<br>1     | BLOCK<br>2 | BLOCK<br>3     | BLOCK<br>4 |
|-----------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| January   | HOOPS          | ARABLE     | HOOPS          | WHEAT      |
| February  | HOOPS          | ARABLE     | HOOPS          | WHEAT      |
| March     | HOOPS          | ARABLE     | HOOPS & COVERS | WHEAT      |
| April     | HOOPS          | ARABLE     | HOOPS & COVERS | WHEAT      |
| May       | HOOPS          | ARABLE     | HOOPS & COVERS | WHEAT      |
| June      | HOOPS          | ARABLE     | HOOPS & COVERS | WHEAT      |
| July      | HOOPS & COVERS | ARABLE     | HOOPS          | WHEAT      |
| August    | HOOPS & COVERS | ARABLE     | HOOPS          | WHEAT      |
| September | HOOPS & COVERS | ARABLE     | HOOPS          | WHEAT      |
| October   | FALLOW         | ARABLE     | HOOPS          | WHEAT      |
| November  | ARABLE         | FALLOW     | HOOPS          | WHEAT      |
| December  | ARABLE         | FALLOW     | HOOPS          | WHEAT      |

AMENDED