

# Season's eatings «



# The producers

Claire Pitcher finds local food producers growing the best seasonal produce.  
**This month... everything for the barbecue at Saddleback Farm Shop near Newbury.**

### On the farm

The Whidborne family have farmed in West Berkshire for more than 60 years. They moved from Alton in 1946 when Edward Whidborne took on the tenancy of Manor Farm in Brightwalton and later purchased the tenancy of the farm and began to expand. As well as arable farming, Brightwalton has 100 acres of woodland and almost 100 acres of grassland. The woodland and parts of the arable rotation are managed as a pheasant and partridge shoot; perfect to supply the shop with wild venison, pigeon and rabbit as well as pheasant and partridge when in season. On the grassland you'll find beef cattle, reared for meats in the farm shop. This enterprising couple are always looking at ways to bring both the farm and the farm shop together by selling more products produced by the farm.

### Pick of produce

The farm shop opened in 2012. On the butcher's counter, all meat is either reared on the farms or from approved suppliers. In the fields in and around Brightwalton they have their own beef. Conservation and environmental integrity important to Clare and David, so stock is mostly grass fed, supplemented by homegrown winter feed. Animal welfare is also a priority, as well-handled, calm, happy animals produce tender, tastier meat.

### From the farm shop

The family have transformed a redundant pig unit and rundown area of the farm into a farm shop to sell their beef and homemade range as well as promote and supply local quality food from producers in the area. From the beginning it's been Clare's policy to buy from as many local farmers and small, specialist suppliers as possible.

### Pay a visit

California Farm, Brightwalton, Newbury RG20 7HR. Call **01488 638806**.  
**[www.saddlebackfarmshop.co.uk](http://www.saddlebackfarmshop.co.uk)**



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