

The Philpot Farming Business

‘working with the countryside’



with a determination to succeed

Philpot Farming Business - The History

The Philpot family started farming in 1937 on Potton Island, comprising of marshland below sea level, with just 10 acres of arable land. Today, after three generations of Philpot farmers, careful strategic planning, land management and business diversification, the family now farms a total of 12,800 acres in Essex and Suffolk. It also owns one of South East England's most popular educational farming and craft centre attractions - Barleylands.

Since it's inception in 1937 the family has encountered many changes within farming life. As a result they have taken up the challenge of diversification whilst still maintaining a strong farming focus. We have continued to expand the farming business via farm and land acquisition, ensuring that the farming heritage continues to flourish. One of the family's first expansions was the manufacture of fish meal and protein concentrates for livestock, shortly followed by the development and production of powdered milk in Scotland. Since then the innovation has continued...

- 1967 - Acquisition of Barleylands Farm, with a conversion from dairy to arable
- 1976 - Opening of a farm shop and 'pick your own' enterprise. The former franchised since 2002
- 1984 - Conception of vintage machinery museum at Barleylands, now expanded allowing visitors to interact with animals, ride mini tractors and enjoy the miniature railway and adventure playground
- 1990/96 - Major development of the Barleylands project, converting farm buildings into craft units including a tea room and glass blowing studio
- 2002 - Barleylands awarded Rural Enterprise funding allowing further craft workshops to be constructed. The creation of a dedicated education officer to develop the vocational side of Barleylands, working with schools and children in their understanding of food and farming
- 2004 - Barleylands awarded a further Rural Development grant allowing further growth of the craft units, taking the number to 62. The earlier museum was remodelled and turned into the Discovery Centre; an interactive experience for children and schools. The centre is currently attracting over 5,000 school children a year, with planned growth through continued development with schools to upwards and beyond 15,000 a year.

In addition to the many other regular activities of farm management and Barleylands, the family also supports and maintains: grassland hired out for sports pitches, attracting over 1,500 people playing regular sports, operate a farmers' market, open twice a month and other activities listed opposite. It is also responsible for the formation and organisation of the Essex Country Show, an annual event held on a 250 acre site, which now sees visitor numbers in excess of 35,000 a year.



the innovation continues

The Farms

The Essex farms are mainly on London clay and chalky boulder clay, some of the Suffolk farms have a lighter sandy soil enabling a wide mix of crops including cereals, oilseed rape, peas, beans, potatoes, onions, and sugar beet. The total farming acreage exceeds 12,800 acres with the produce supplying UK and export markets worldwide.

Use of the newest and latest farming technology, from planting to harvesting ensures that the cleaning, grading and packing of all the produce is of the highest grade and quality.



Land Management & Contract Farming Services

Utilising the extensive farm machinery inventory enables the business to offer a partial or complete range of land management and contracting services from sub-soiling to harvesting, drying to storage.

All of the vehicles are driven and operated by fully trained staff, ensuring a comprehensive, safe, quality all year round service.



Office, Industrial & Storage Facilities

A large number of office, industrial and storage facilities are located on the farmland throughout Essex and Suffolk. Units vary in size, and the facilities are dependent upon their location.

All units and storage facilities are located on secure sites with good access roads and parking provision.



Stables, Livery & Exercise Areas

Situated at picturesque and quiet locations in Billericay, Runwell, Wickford, Chignal, Mashbury and Potton Island, offering a friendly and safe environment for your horses and ponies.

Facilities include: high quality stables with water and electricity, storage for tack, feed and horse boxes. All weather floodlit maneges, lunging arenas and hacking courses. Excellent grazing is accessible, managed by the farm; with hay and straw when available at some yards.



Mobile Thrones

Operated out of Barleylands, Mobile Thrones provides a superior range of mobile toilets with generator hire for any occasion: corporate or private, weddings, parties, concerts, sporting events, or any other special function.

This professional service ensures on time delivery and collection, that each unit is fully checked and left complete with consumables to cover the length of the hire, leaving you to organise your event.



Contract Farming & Land Management

With years of valuable knowledge and experience of farming, the business can provide a wide and versatile range of farming services and equipment to suit individual farmers and farms.

All motorised machinery is supplied with qualified operators and where appropriate satellite navigational equipment is utilised.



- Mole Draining
- Ploughing
- Spraying
- Fertilising
- Tractor & Trailer
- Combines
- Dumper Trailers
- Muck Spreaders
- Forklift Trucks
- Sub-Soiling
- Cultivations
- Combining
- Drying Facilities
- Trailer Hire from 2 - 16 tonnes
- 360° Diggers
- Potato Machinery
- Grass Cutting & Maintenance
- Snow Clearing & Gritting



The Essex Country Show

Proudly known as one of the UK's leading agricultural events, the Essex Country Show is built on traditional farming values. With over 35,000 visitors every year, it offers an array of old and modern farming displays, vintage machinery and vehicles, with opportunities for people to experience traditional working skills, country crafts and enjoy a large number of countryside market stalls.



- 70 - 80 Steam Engines
- 70 Model Steam Engines
- Over 200 Trade Stands
- Over 70 Craft Stands in 3 marquees
- Over 40 Rural Craft Demonstrations
- Spectacular Displays
- Large Food Hall
- 120 Vintage Tractors
- 150 Vintage Cars
- 80 Vintage Motorcycles
- 100 Vintage Commercial Vehicles
- Up to 35 working heavy horses
- Vintage Harvesting
- Threshing Demonstration
- Historic Road making demonstration
- Vintage Fun Fair
- Children's Amusements
- Model boats on the lake
- 2 Arenas with events running all day
- Access to Farm Centre





strong family values and farming ties.....

The Philpot family have very strong family values and part of their diversification has led them into the development of Barleylands: a farming experience and discovery centre with an educational bias, together with a large modern craft village.

Barleylands Educational & Discovery Centre

Barleylands specialises in offering great, hands-on experiences for children from the age of 2 upwards; giving them an opportunity to learn 'outside the classroom' and experience the many facets of everyday farming and rural life, past and present. There are a number of specifically designed itineraries, which can be further tailored to suit various age groups and areas of particular interest to the learning curriculum.

- All activities are cross curriculum
- Visits are well organised with specifically tailored itineraries
- Dedicated Education Officer with a trained team of assistants

At Barleylands the children have an opportunity to: learn about, feed and handle the animals, observe wildlife, ride the tractor trailer and miniature train. They learn the importance of Health & Safety on the farm before they start their day, allowing everyone to make the most of their experiences.

The Discovery Centre allows the children to fully interact with exhibits - discovering where our food comes from, how it is grown and harvested. Dependent upon the itinerary and, of course, the time of year, children can be allowed to learn how to make and bake pizzas, and/or plant seeds which they are able to take home.

The centre can accommodate up to 160 children at a time; divided into manageable groups, each group with a dedicated member of the Barleylands staff working with the group throughout the day.



To find out more about the facilities, why not visit Barleylands and experience it firsthand.

Visit the website www.barleylands.co.uk for further details

barleylands

- Indoor Play Area for under/over 5's
- Mini Diggers
- Ball Blaster
- Softball Cannons
- Bouncing Envelope
- Zip Line
- Trampoline
- Go-Carting
- Slide and Climbing Frame
- Picnic area for families



- Agricultural Farming & Crop Production
- Contract Farming & Machinery Hire
- Stabling & Exercise Yards
- Essex Country Show
- Craft Units for Hire
- Mobile Thrones
- Barleylands Educational Centre & Craft Village
- Office, Industrial & Storage Facilities
- Sports Pitches
- Show Ground Facilities for Hire
- Outdoor & Indoor Event Hire
- Modern Conference Facilities



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