

# THE MAYFIELD HERD

Bungehurst Farm is situated on the outskirts of Mayfield in East Sussex. The land extends to just under 400 acres and lies amongst undulating hills and water meadows of the Rother Valley.

Up until the early 1990's, Bungehurst Farm was predominately a thriving dairy farm with upwards of 200 dairy cattle .

We purchased the farm in 1999 bringing with us 10 pedigree Simmentals together with a bull from our previous farm in Wadhurst.

For the first three years we set about restoring some of the farm's former character.

In 1999 we purchased our first ten Sussex heifers from Maplesden, Stonegate.

This was just prior to the sad death of Mick Reid. Unfortunately for us we never actually met him but he went to great pains to telephone me several times to ensure we were looking after his heifers correctly!



This proved a significant time in our new found career when we had the opportunity to purchase a number of the Maplesden stock at the dispersal sale.

Before too long we were fortunate to acquire the services of Brenda Hide who it goes without saying, has been invaluable in the development of the Mayfield Herd.

In the early days we crossed the Sussex with Simmental. The bull calves were sold to the local butchers and the heifers were in great demand to go to Yorkshire for the new Stabilizer Breed. This venture made us very aware of the necessity to join the Herdcare Health Scheme as only cattle from BVD free herds were eligible.

The herd now consists of 40 spring calving and 15 autumn calving pedigree cows run alongside 30 Sussex, Angus and Simmental crossbred cows with 20 pedigree Simmentals. The Angus cross cows being the result of the progression of the polling of the Sussex Herd. We started polling six years ago with the purchase of a Red Angus bull. We are now using both a 75% Sussex Angus bull and a Pure Sussex bull. Also we Signet record all our youngsters and with the data produced and a stockman's eye select the followers to stay in the herd.



It is a credit to Brenda and her team that has allowed us to compete, not without some success, on the show circuit and we hope by introducing the Novices Exhibitors Program that this will encourage more members to participate round the shows.

*Michael Hind, April '10*