

266 of 678 DOCUMENTS

Western Daily Press

August 24, 2006 Thursday

Welcome to our tiny land of milk and honey...

BYLINE: Tristan Cork t.cork@bepp.co.uk

SECTION: Pg. 16

LENGTH: 400 words

North Wiltshire Food Festival kicks off for the first time next week, with a host of events linking small-scale food and drink producers with local restaurants and shops.

With its good transport links and lush green pastures, North Wiltshire has long been known as a rich agricultural area.

The dairy country and its historic association with cheese-making coined the term 'chalk and cheese', in comparison with the county's more sparse and chalky southern half.

The resurgence of locally-produced food, smaller specialist shops and farmers' markets is reflected in the district's booming food economy.

The festival, which begins at the Brinkworth Country Show next Friday, will join together restaurants and stores with producers, through special tasting events and tours to give people the chance to find out more about food production in the district.

The festival will feature everything from wine (north Wiltshire has its own renowned vineyards) and cheese to suckled veal, vegetables and preserves.

Vineyard owner Keith **Willingale**, who runs the Bow-in-the-Cloud vineyard in the hamlet of Garsdon, has been producing wines for 11 years.

He said: "I am very pleased that North Wiltshire will be holding a festival this year, and very much want to be part of it. I was delighted to be asked, as I feel this will only increase the profile of our local produce."

Perhaps the most startling attempt to highlight local produce will take place at the Three Crowns pub in England's longest village, Brinkworth.

Chefs there will make up a meal of suckled veal, cheese and honey, all produced within 250 yards of the pub's front door at the home of award-winning cheese producer Ceri Cryer.

She said: "The festival is a great way of showing people just what excellent local food is being produced in this area.

"It's such a support to have things like this going on, getting our produce into shops and on to restaurant tables."

Dale Ingram, from the Whitehall Garden Centre in Lacock, sits on both sides of the fence as a chef and as a producer of lamb from the centre's farm.

He said a festival showcasing the food produced was due. "We have extremely good local produce here in Wiltshire and it is important that we tell our customers exactly where their food is from and that buying locally is good for the local economy," he added.

Welcome to our tiny land of milk and honey... Western Daily Press August 24, 2006 Thursday

For more information on the food festival, log on to www.northwiltsfoodfestival.co.uk

LOAD-DATE: August 25, 2006

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Newspaper

Copyright 2006 Bristol United Press
All Rights Reserved