

Rural Affairs

Support your farmers – Farmers’ Markets and Shops

Over this last year, with the introduction of the Single Payment Scheme and the serious delays and errors in payment to farmers in England, our farmers have faced high levels of stress and anxiety.

One concrete way in which we can show Christian love, care and concern is through our support of farmers’ markets and farm shops. These aim to help farmers sell goods to the public which are grown or baked locally, such as fresh vegetables, fruit, meat, eggs, bread, cakes, jams, fruit juices and dairy produce.

The benefits are both to us and the environment. As everything is produced locally there are less transport miles, food is fresh and very little packaging is used. This all comes to us at very affordable prices, as the middle-man is removed.

The price you pay goes straight to the farmers, helping them to further develop their businesses. Small farmers in particular benefit greatly from this; it gives them the opportunity to survive and keep our countryside alive for us to enjoy through our visits and recreational pursuits.

So why not search out a farmers’ market or farmers’ shop near you? Enjoy not only the freshness and quality of their produce, but also deepen your understanding of farming communities. At the same time through your visit develop friendships and understanding by standing alongside the rural community.

Over the coming months, please keep a look out for the Government’s new initiative: “Year of food and farming in education”. This aims to give a much clearer idea of the contribution farming makes to the economy, the environment, and how it can help combat climatic change through its integral part within rural life.



Hugh Baker and Dennis Handley