



Is Mudchute Park & Farm a Working Farm?

Yes it is. Here at Mudchute we farm using high welfare, ethical methods and extensive farm systems to provide the best life for our native and rare breeds of farm livestock.

Farm animals were domesticated over thousands of years living side by side with people to support our needs. The breeds that we farm at Mudchute tell a story about farms and their function, and about where food comes from, which many children struggle to relate to. This is an important educational part of what we do, and our animals help tell this story, as well as having a high-quality, natural life.

As well as rearing farm animals that help children understand more about animals and the food chain, Mudchute is a Rare Breeds Survival Trust Approved Conservation Centre, conserving some of the rarest farm livestock in the world. As part of this we share breeding animals to ensure traditional genetic lines are preserved. Without farming, many of these specialised breeds would simply disappear and we are conserving breeds of the past for generations of the future.

Being a working farm means some of our animals are part of the food chain, although only a small percentage of the total young stock bred at the farm. The majority of our animals are of a high enough standard to be sold to other farms around the UK, and even globally, to continue conserving their breed numbers as a whole.

We are committed to high welfare standards, including the following commitments:

- Mudchute's animals have the opportunity to feel the sun on their backs, to taste grass, to feel the wind through their fur, fleece and feathers.
- Mudchute's animals are kept where possible in groups to enable social interaction. Occasionally there may be some behavioural or medical reasons as to why this is not the case, but this is always an exception.
- Mudchute's animals have the ability to express instinctive natural behaviours which are sometimes denied in more intensive settings. For example, mud wallowing, wing stretching, foraging, mutual grooming, family and pair bonding and swimming, to name just a few.

The best way to have a positive impact on the planet's survival is to eat seasonally locally-sourced produce and support British agriculture. Mudchute's produce is seasonal, traceable and a premium end product, and above all else has the animal's welfare at its heart.

Farming in the way that we do here at Mudchute encourages wildlife and improves the biodiversity on the site using old native breeds in ways that they were intended. This supports our ambition to create a symbiotic relationship between agriculture and the natural environment, so that they work together.

Mudchute Park and Farm Team

www.mudchute.org