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Season's Greetings to all,

We hope this newsletter finds you relatively organized for the Festive Season, unlike me who is a bit late in getting this newsletter to you I hope you find it interesting and gain something out of it.

Small Local Businesses: We have 2 for you this newsletter.

Willow Bend Handmade Soap is made by Rhea and her young daughter Siena from 100% natural ingredients and looks, smells and feels amazing. Their number is 0433039716 and I've attached a flyer that gives more information. They'll be at the markets at St Joseph's Church on Mannum Rd, Murray Bridge this Sunday the 17th December.

Heritage Lorimer and Leathercraft where Katrina does leather creations that are hand tooled or with detailed stitching for gifts (belts, book covers, bags etc). She also does harness and bridle repairs, relines collars and dray saddles, rug repairs and much more. A very handy lady. Contact Katrina Klemm at kklemm82@gmail.com. Ask her about her Clydesdales, they are beautiful 🐾

Average Weights: Over the last quarter the beef has averaged at 84 kgs a side whilst a trimmed whole lamb has been 29 kgs.

Beef and Lamb availability: Due to our drop in numbers whilst trying to get the perennial pastures established, there will be limited beef throughout next year. Our pre-organised clients will be right, although you may not get your beef in your designated month, but will soon after. There will be no beef going off till March and I will be in touch shortly with the clients that were due for beef in January or February. Our lambs for January are booked out, with a few still available in February and March. I will get in contact with those that are on the pre-organised list to confirm with you, once I get this newsletter out. We apologise if this may cause any inconvenience to you.

Revisiting Dressed Weight: Dressed weight is what the carcass weighs on the hook when it comes back from the abattoir and it is how we sell our beef. This, at times, does result in some confusion for new clients. So hopefully, I will be able to help make sense of it up for you. Dressed weight does include the bones, cartilage, kidneys and trimmed fat which on the belties, is very minimal. A recent client was able to provide some figures for us to help others understand.

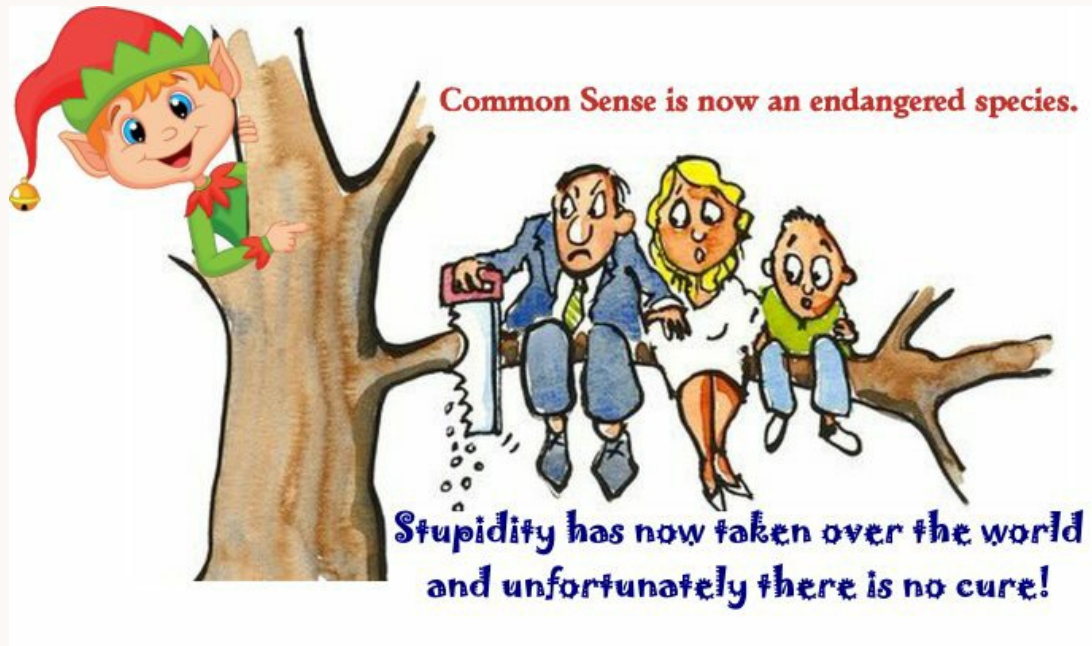
For example, if a client is after a mixed quarter we get the cold weight for the whole carcass from the butcher, take off 3 to 4 kgs for our very small sample steaks and the kidneys and divide by 4. This example is a 47 kg Mixed Quarter. They had 30 kgs meat and 9 kgs of good dog bones. As we get our beef hung for a minimum of 10 days, normally 12, there is a moisture loss of at least 250 gms (1 cup) a day = a minimum of 3 kgs leaving around 5 kgs that is has gone to the excess fat trimmed, unusable bone ends and other bits and bone dust etc from the carcass being cut from going through the power saw.

To sell on a “meat weight only basis” is more expensive as every animal’s final meat weight is different and the butcher can’t use the same rule for all animals, so to put their time into this, it is not worth it.

We hope this has made it clearer for those that were unsure and if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Price rise as at the 1st January 2017: Unfortunately, due to increasing ongoing expenses, there is a need to raise the price of Sides of Beef to \$8.50 and Mixed Quarters to \$8.70 a kg dressed weight whilst lambs will be \$8.00 and hoggets/mutton (when we have them) will be \$7.00 a kg trimmed weight. We apologise if this causes any inconvenience for anyone.

I will now leave you with our December thought from our website. As time goes by, it is sad to say that this is becoming more common and we see it too often in our job 🙄



Despite that, on behalf of Tony and the rest of our family, we wish you all a fantastic and safe Christmas. Enjoy your loved ones and have a prosperous 2017.

Joanne and Tony Kreher
Bonnibelt Stud,
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Willow Bend Handmade Soap



Have you ever wondered what's in your soap? Most of us use store bought soap that are mass manufactured and made with petrochemical/synthetic ingredients. Glycerin an important by-product of saponification process is removed from the soap hence the soap is very drying to your skin. A good bar of soap can be made using natural ingredients such as quality oils, water and lye.

Extra natural ingredients can be added such as goat milk and fragrance oils to pamper and nourish skin. **Willow Bend Handmade Soap** is made from 100% natural ingredients and formulated to be mild and nourishing to your skin. We use mineral and clay colorants in our soap. For people with very sensitive skin the **Willow Bend "Unscented" Goat Milk Soap** is perfect as it does not contain any fragrance oil or other natural additives. Willow Bend Handmade soap is priced at around \$2.50 per bar and best of all the soap is tried and tested by a family of four.

CONTACT RHEA AND SIENA MOB: 0433039716