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Message from National Boar Expert Dr Martin Goulding

Fw: Wild Boar Farm

1 message

PCD <yellowwood@blackberry.orange.co.uk>

2 February 2011 09:04

Reply-To: yellowwood@blackberry.orange.co.uk

To: pcdtreeman@gmail.com

-----Original Message-----

From: Martin Goulding

To: pcdtreeman@gmail.com

Subject: Re: Wild Boar Farm

Sent: 2 May 2010 09:58

Hi Paul,

Just to reiterate what we talked about on the phone yesterday.

It would be an idea to start with 1 boar and 2 sows. The typically litter size is 4-6 piglets, so within a year your 3 animals could become 10-18. The 3 adults would live quite happily in, say a 5 acre pen, with minimum environmental impact. They would root up the floor in places, but this will create a seed bed for other plants/dormant seeds, and you should see an increase in biodiversity if this is the first time the floor has been rooted for a while. However, as you obviously already know, if it is a coniferous floor, then not much will regrow due to the lack of light getting through, lack of a seed bed, etc.

Although it is difficult to be precise, 15 or so animals are likely to make an impact, and will turn areas of the woodland into a muddy bog, not throughout the whole woodland pen, but typically in the areas where they are fed. Wild boar free-ranged are typically seasonal breeders and will have their young in the spring. Wild boar mature more slowly than domestic pigs, hence the better flavoured meat, but for culling purposes the young can be ready for market at their first xmas. Also, as you will be farming at low density, you are very unlikely to have any disease problems and the meat will be of the best flavour possible - really top notch gourmet stuff. By all means start off at Craigs, but I would get the top restaurant chefs interested as well, as they will pay very good money for quality produce.

But it is very important to get good stock at the outset, and not have any animals they may be hybrids, as these will produce inferior flavoured meat. I know (names of suppliers deleted for planning application) have good stock, as I am familiar with their animals. It is difficult to the untrained eye to spot hybridisation, so it is imperative to buy from a reputable breeder, and not just go with stock because it seems cheap.

Wild boar will not eat the coppiced tree shoots/buds nor chew on any branches. They should have no detrimental effect on the trees at all, completely unlike deer. One or two trees may be used as rubbing posts, and some bark may eventually become removed, but it is unlikely to ring bark the tree, at least not for many years. You will also be able to work in the pens with the boar, but with all animals there is an element of unpredictability. And common sense dictates you don't go too near a sow when she has very young piglets, as you wouldn't with any animal, and keep a closer eye on the

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stud boar during the peak of the rut (October-November'ish). Boar are very curious, and will investigate everything you are doing, but if they are used to you they will not cause you any safety problems, but may chew on your climbing ropes if left lying around!

The above is just a few pointers, and please feel free to ask any further questions - especially before spending any large sum of money, and if the council or vet inspection are making you put in place what you consider to be unreasonable and expensive demands - let me know. For example, if you build more than one pen, which would be very useful for stock rotation/resting land, etc. the perimeter fence needs to be strong and high, but the internal fences don't, hence saving some money on fencing costs.

kind regards

Martin Goulding

Dr Martin Goulding CBiol MIBiol AIEEM

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----- Original Message -----

From: "PCD" <yellowwood@blackberry.orange.co.uk>

To: "Martin Goulding" <enquiries@wildboarconsultancy.co.uk>

Sent: Friday, April 30, 2010 2:06 PM

Subject: Wild Boar Farm

> Dear Martin,

>

> I have contacted you before and have yet to follow your lead to (name of supplier deleted for planning application)

> I have read your pages on Biodiversity, and was wondering what the minimum

> area of my 25 acres I could fence off to run a few wild boar extensively

> so that they didn't trash the wood, but perhaps added to biodiversity. I

> don't need to make a lot of money from the scheme. To cover fencing costs

> would be good. How many boar (gilts/sows/boars) would be a minimum stock

> on this land of say 10 acres...I realise we would have to cull to keep

> levels sustainable.

> Regards

> Paul Colley-Davies

> Herefordshire

> Sent using BlackBerry® from Orange

