

CASE STUDY

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For more details about this project:

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Last year, Sussex Saddlebacks won the West Sussex Social Enterprise Innovation Award promoted by the Social Enterprise Network in West Sussex. The £5,000 award made all the difference in terms of enabling the idea to become a reality and the project has gone from strength to strength since its official start in March 2007.

The proposal is developing a small scale pigkeeping project that involves people with learning disabilities in the day-to-day running of the project, as well as in the social opportunities that arise from the activity. All those concerned are at the moment volunteers.

The key objectives are to:

- promote the continuance of a rare breed
- rear animals humanely
- involve people with some form of disability in the activity
- create opportunities for the development of skills, interests and friendships which may lead to employment opportunities

Achievements of the project so far are:

- registration of 4 pigs as pedigree: 1 boar and 3 sows. They have been registered individually but the herd has also been

registered with the National Pig Association as the Blackthorn Herd Sussex Saddlebacks

- the team cleared a lot of land to ensure the animals have large areas in which to roam

There has been a great deal of interest from people wanting to get involved in the project. At the moment, people with a learning disability are a key part of the feeding rota. At the Walberton site, the organisation that supports the people with a learning disability owns a pig that will be used to provide meat for the organisation's clients. At Aldingbourne, a person with a learning disability owns one of the pedigree sows. The target group has also been involved in work days to build up the infrastructure to home the pigs.

Latest events for the project include:

- a 4th paddock was created in September
- mating took place in October
- new piglets will arrive in Feb/March
- 11 pigs slaughtered in October; the meat was described by the local butcher as "perfect".



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