

LOWER HURST ORGANIC



Lower Hurst Organic Farm

Lower Hurst Organic Farm in Derbyshire supply British, organic beef mince, organic meatballs and organic beef burgers into schools across the UK. Seven years ago, a Local Authority asked the business to supply organic meatballs to all their primary schools. Demand for the farm's meatballs and burgers grew and the farm soon needed to source from other organic beef producers.

Today, Lower Hurst supply around 1100 primary schools in the country with organic beef products. 420 of these schools are being supplied with Food for Life Catering Mark Standard meals through either their Local Authority caterer or contract caterer; including The Farm Kitchen, Baileys and SK Solutions.

Lower Hurst Organic are Catering Mark Supplier Members, meaning that they are well-placed to support caterers with the Food for Life Catering Mark; and are able to provide technical, operational and supply chain support to their catering customers.

Nicky Stonebridge says: "Feedback from caterers and schools has been very positive; with our catering customers having a positive story to talk to parents about. Schools are proud to show they provide organic and British products on their menu's. They can verify the quality of school meals, reassure parents of the provenance of the food, and that meals contain no chemicals or additives."

"Organic certification confirms the UK origin of the beef we use, the farm of origin, and the high standard of animal welfare livestock is kept to. There is no more traceable produce in the UK than certified organic produce."

"We keep our costs down by producing in volume and using - where possible - the shortest supply chain. We communicate with schools, parents, pupils and local authorities through Parent Teacher Associations, school menus, by bringing schools to the farm or showing them the film about the farm. A typical school visit will last for 3-4 hours and include a tractor ride around the farm a visit to the production unit and opportunity for children to have a go and make their own meatballs."

"It's important to share the benefits and quality of our meat products, as this plays important part in engaging pupils to eat what's on offer, to engage with the wider benefits of British, organic food, and ultimately to help drive school meal uptake. ."

