

Lockdown Livestock

Over November I found myself in the position, like many others, of being on furlough for a few days a week. Whilst I see myself as being very lucky in the sense of living in real rural England, there is very little to do in the middle of nowhere on your own, especially in lockdown 2.0. I therefore decided to undertake a project to keep busy and fill the time off. With Great British Bake Off (popular tv show for the non UK peeps) reducing the stocks of fresh eggs in regional supermarkets I thought what would be better than getting chickens.

Unfortunately one of my dogs has been literally bred to chase and pick up birds so I had to create something that wasn't just fox proof, but also big dog proof. My wife didn't think that I could do it but anything to keep me from interrupting her working was good so I was left to my own devices.

Firstly I did the outside fencing. Digging into the ground about 1ft so that the cunning Mr Fox cant dig his way under, laying planks down and cementing them into place with the uprights so that the chicken wire could go around. The coup itself can house 6 lady chickens with a little trap door to get the eggs from. Hopefully watertight and nice and cosy for them.

Unfortunately they were named by my daughter so all have Strictly Come Dancing names (another UK tv reference). We therefore have Shirley, Motsi, Oti and Janette. The first egg arrived the first morning today and was then dropped by my daughter as soon as we got inside. It looked delicious though as the dogs lapped it up. Hopefully more to come and perhaps there will be so many that I will offload them around the office.

Alexander Angus

