

Farmer's plea to sunseekers after litter left during Easter

A farming family have urged revellers who wish to bask in the sun on private land to take their litter home with them to prevent the risk of endangering livestock.

It comes after pictures of rubbish that had been left behind on Brook Farm in Wheelock during the fine weather over the Easter bank holiday weekend.

Farmer Ian Witter, (51), said that sunbathers access the land via a public footpath or by crossing over the River Wheelock. He said the amount of litter

being left had increased over the years and that he has discovered everything from alcohol and crisp packets to underwear and sanitation products.

A *Chronicle* reporter visited the farm and headed down the public footpath to near where the litter was left, while a herd of cows obediently followed.

Mr Witter, who has lived on the farm since he was born, said: "Oftentimes the wife and daughter will go and tell them that they shouldn't be over here but you know what kids are like. Sometimes they move sometimes they don't. And if they do they'll go to the playing fields and then come back over."

"Last year especially there were different groups coming on the same day and there was all sorts being left.

"They had left a log fire when the grass was dry, which we had to come down to put out. It's dangerous."

He added that his cows tended to go over to where litter had been left and lick some of the rubbish left behind out of curiosity.

He said: "The litter and what they leave is the main issue. It's no different from me sitting on their front lawn and leaving litter."

"It's just so annoying what they leave."

He added: "Especially with all the talk of environmental issues at the minute it's unbelievable that people still decide to just leave their litter."

With the summer months approaching, Mr Witter urged people to be more aware of whose land they were on, and not to get too carried away with drinking.

He said: "There's always beer cans being left behind and a lot of these people look underage. If they're chasing off or disturbing the livestock that's not on."

"They should realise they're on other people's property and shouldn't be there."

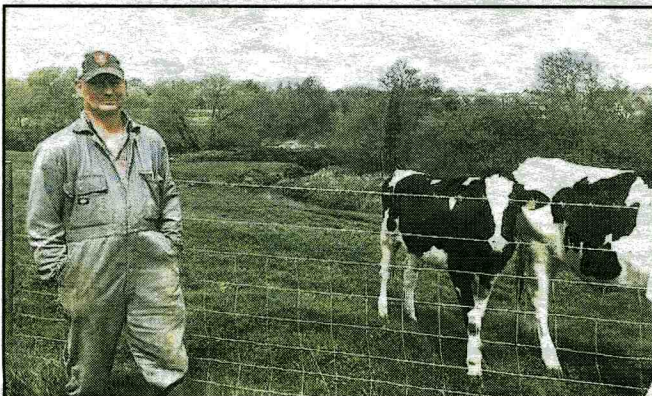
Mr Witter's daughter Cesca Beswick said: "We want people to enjoy the beautiful Cheshire countryside which we are lucky to farm but it should never be at the detriment to wildlife or livestock."



Some of the litter left behind on Brook Farm over the bank holiday weekend.

"Over the years it has got worse and worse with young adults trespassing onto the land."

(Submitted photographs).



Mr Witter, of Brook Farm in Wheelock.

