

What a delightful exploration of farming life today is contained in “Yorkshire Born and Bred – FARMING LIFE”. Valerie Mather takes an observers view of the intimacies of farming life in this evocative collection of black and white photographs.

From scanning the wombs of pregnant cows, feeding the calves, and gathering the herd in for milking, to putting prize specimens before the judges in the county shows, and finally bidding farewell in the sale ring, this collection of photographs has a particular and compelling beauty.

Not least among this photographic record of animals are the human ones, with studies in joy and in concentration from little children to weathered grandads. The faces of different members of the farming families captures portraiture at its best.

Pigs are obviously cared for with a professional affection. Sheep and lambs similarly feature in great detail. Farm dogs and chickens are not ignored.

This book gives me the impression that the animals seem more like friends of the farmers who care for them. This is a “friendship book” made with insight, sensitivity, and photographic expertise. It is a joy to look at, reflect on, and return to.

Michael Wright. Yorkshire. March 2021

Your pictures are really special and capture the life and characters in our world.

Claire Crabtree Farmer