***A “Typical” Wedding Day at***

***Stanford Farm***

No wedding is ever the same at Stanford Farm … we pride ourselves on offering the flexibility to make your wedding as unique as you want it to be! However, having seen many happy couples tie the knot here, as a guide to help you plan your special day, we have put together a “typical” sequence of events of a wedding here at Stanford. Please don’t think this is how your wedding has to be … it is merely intended to help answer some of your questions and help you with planning your special day!

***The day before your wedding:***

You can arrive from 9am the day before (for a three day wedding) Get your bridal party, groomsmen friends and family to help you on the set up of your tables and chairs and decorations. Some couples get this done in a couple of hours, others are in there all day!

Remember to relax! Take time to stop and have a glass of fizz in the hot tub or chill in the tipi maybe tomorrow is a long day so don’t go over board

***A typical morning of the wedding day:***

The cake, florist and extra Wedding Decorators arrive to personalise the wedding to your theme

The caterers arrive to utilise the Kitchen Prep room to set up your food for the day (depending on the food you have chosen to serve your guests!)

The Bridal Party get ready for the big day in the Farmhouse -it’s time for hair, make up and possibly the start of photos and videos

***Guests start to arrive:***

An hour prior to the wedding ceremony, the groom and wedding party start to arrive, welcomed by our Events Manager.

The Bull Barn is open and drinks can be served for the wedding party who can mingle in the Courtyard prior to the ceremony

We have a license for you to legally marry at Stanford Farm, but you may have chosen to perform the legalities prior to your celebration, and therefore have booked a celebrant (chosen by you) for your ceremony. Should you have booked a registrar, typically they will arrive 30 minutes prior to the ceremony and they will have an initial meeting with the bride/groom in the summerhouse.

Just prior to the ceremony one of you will visit the summerhouse first (usually the bride with anyone who is giving you away) to meet with the registrar (a legal requirement should you be holding your wedding at the farm). The other partner and best man/woman will then attend the registrars

The Event Manager will direct the Wedding Party to the Stables or Lakeside (your choice.. and weather permitting!) for the ceremony.

We have portable speakers should you wish music to be played for the entrance indoors, but recommend hiring a full PA for outdoor weddings. A live singer may perform whilst you walk down the aisle, or should you wish to play recorded music we can supply a portable speaker. Please note this speaker is connected to phone devices by cable and is not blue tooth. We also advise that you download your music rather than rely on wifi. The playing of music is organised by one of the Wedding Party, according to your plans.

At your chosen time for the ceremony, the bridal party enters the Stables or makes their way to the Lake, depending on your choice of location for the ceremony to begin. We even have a buggy that can be dressed and utilised to transport your bridal party to the Lakeside if you prefer. (Please note no alcohol can be drank in side of the ceremony!) There is not a typical time a wedding may start… some weddings start at 12noon and others may start at 3pm… it depends on what celebrations you have planned for your day. (please note if couples don’t want to feed guests twice.. we typically recommend they get married at 4pm – the choice is yours) Whatever time your ceremony is, our event manager will be there to ensure everyone knows where they are going … and on schedule!

Your ceremony is for you and your guests. This is where we leave you to take your vows in private, and the Events Team prepare for the ongoing celebrations (But we are always on hand to provide any assistance)

A typical ceremony lasts 20 minutes… The signings take place and the couple are married/blessed!

***After the Ceremony***

On leaving the Stables/Lakeside, a welcome drink will be served to guests in the Bull Barn and the happy couple and guests are free to mingle in the Courtyard area, usually mingling for upto 2 hours from the start of the ceremony.

At this time there’s usually a confetti shot and the main wedding photography – either in the courtyard area, or any area of the farm, including Lakeside. The choice is yours – it can be formal or informal! Optional canapes can be served by your caterers, and music can be played either through the speaker system, or acoustic singer.

***The Typical daytime Wedding Breakfast***

Usually after about 2 hours from the ceremony, the Event Manager (or Master of Ceremonies of the couple’s choice) will call the Wedding Party into the Cow House for the wedding breakfast to commence.

The Cow House will be dressed to your theme. The bar will be open in the Cow House (and Bull Barn then closed) and the food choice/format is dependant on the couple’s preference... whether it be a 3 course meal, grazing board, buffet… it’s your choice. The food/drinks maybe served by your caterer’s waiters/waitresses or you may have chosen to hire one or more of our optional waiters/waitresses.

Allow 2 hours for the meal (Wedding Breakfast!)

Should there be speeches these can be done prior to commencing the meal or after the meal, whatever the couple prefers.. and we have microphones ready for you to use.

You can bring your own wine with no corkage – upto 1 bottle between 3 people though (provide your own glasses!)

***After the Wedding Breakfast***

After the wedding breakfast (typically the 2 hours allocated), the Event Manager (or your chosen Master of Ceremonies should you have one) will invite everyone to the “Cocktail bar “in the Garden Oval, allowing the Stanford Farm team to prepare the Cow House for the evening celebrations, and the DJ/Band to set up should the couple choose to have one. The Cow House bar will still be open.

Between May to September the Tipi is up and available as a chill out area (Subject to weather conditions) There is a fire pit in there and outside for your use, we will even provide the wood and light it

The Garden Oval is available for you to use how you wish. Garden games, entertainment, an acoustic singer or music through the portable speaker can be set up on the garden Oval whilst the Cow House is cleared ready for the DJ/Band to be set up in the Cow House.

***Into the Evening Celebrations***

Evening guests can arrive at times to suit the couple, either after the ceremony or after food is served.

Usually around 7-8pm the Event Manager will invite the wedding party back into the Cow House for the party to begin.

The cake is cut (should there be one) and the first dance takes place .. if you wish to have one!

This is where the party really begins. The band and/or DJ starts the evening entertainment and the dancefloor is open!

Evening food is usually served around 8ish. There’s no typical evening food choice – you may choose a traditional buffet, pizza, paella, hog roast, bbq….

The Cocktail bar closes when guests go back into the Cow House for the evening party. Weekday weddings have to finish by 11pm but we can apply for a late license for you which takes it to 12pm (at a cost of £99). If it’s a weekend wedding, bands are requested to finish at 11pm and bar & DJ can finish at 1am as standard…but the couple can decide to organise carriages earlier if preferred!

As a legal requirement, and for your guests safety, Stanford Farm provide 2 allocated Security Staff at each wedding until the bar & music has finished... these are usually part of our friendly Events Managements Team.

***The day after the wedding:***

The couple can organise catering for breakfast in the Cow House for guests the morning after the wedding, or have an in informal bacon sandwich in the grounds – they just have to organise this with their caterers and let the Event Manager know

Cleaning of the Cow House, and clearing of rubbish (we supply the bin bags and waste disposal) is the responsibility of the Wedding Party the day after the wedding – we will leave Henry Hoovers out too to help

We don’t stipulate an exact time the wedding party has to leave the day after the wedding – but as a guide most leave by lunchtime, but some continue their celebrations with an informal BBQ the next day

***Finally..*** just to say, we at Stanford Farm hope this guide is helpful, but please do not think this is how your day has to be!! You may be planning a shorter wedding, magicians, baybsitters, singing waiters, horse and carriages… our aim is to be flexible to suit your wedding here at Stanford farm!! Should you have any questions regarding your plans please do not hesitate to get in touch. We want your wedding to be how YOU have dreamed it to be!

**#TeamStanford**