

Farmer uses guard dogs to protect his prize turkeys from foxes You looking at my bird?

BY ANTHONY PHILLIPS

POULTRY farmer has found a new way of out-foxing predators. Paul Kelly's turkeys roam free in woods - and are saved from coming a pre-Christmas lunch by a pair of guard dogs.

The collies grew up with the flock they have been 'brought up like brothers and sisters', Mr Kelly said. He added: 'We are really, really pleased with the way it's worked. The rest of the dogs puts the foxes off.' Mr Kelly tried rearing puppies with turkeys on his farm in Danbury.



Dognap: The friends snooze

Essex, after finding out Italian farmers used them to ward off foxes, too. He worried about the dogs to begin with but said: 'They were fine. You've got to get them really young.'

It went so well that Mr Kelly has

been looking at making all his birds woodland-roaming.

'The theory is you need to grow turkeys in a shed. I always thought that's not right, animals live in the wild,' he explained.

'Everyone said you can't grow turkeys in the wild.'

But Mr Kelly, who was named poultry farmer of the year by Farmers Weekly last month, has already tasted success.

His Kelly-Bronze flock is the 'Rolls-Royce of turkeys' for celebrity chefs and he will present Gordon Brown with one for Christmas.



Double trouble: The dogs have grown up with the turkeys

Picture: Kelly Davis