

Bone Dry Ridge

A little bit of everything farm



Spring News 2017 from Bone Dry Ridge

Happy Summer

The weather report: When it rains it pours and then it just stops. Not much rain here since the soggy spring. My fields are almost dormant. It would be great to get some rain so they do not go totally dormant. It is not so pleasant to live in a sea of brown grass. Green is so much nicer.

Meat Sales: We are getting down to the wire on Pork sales. The pigs are going to be slaughtered on September 9th and I still have a few available. If you plan on ordering a pig, now is a great time. Also, I would greatly appreciate it if you would help spread the word. I also have a few more lambs available. I have fewer lambs this year than last year, so if you are planning on having lamb in your freezer this fall, you may want to get your order in ASAP.

Pigs: This year's pigs, the Red Waddle/ Gloucestershire Old Spot cross are just delightful, so mellow and well behaved. I would put pigs in general in the category of rascals and sometimes total trouble makers, but these pigs are so mild mannered. Not as much pushing and shoving like many other breeds. They do not go bonkers every morning when I bring them the milk soaked grain. They are excited yes, but do not go insane. This makes life easier for me. On hot days, I give them showers. Yes, even Bone Dry Ridge has enough water to give the pigs showers. It is so much fun to give them a shower. They are happy and frolic about under the water. So much fun.

Sheep: The sheep went down to the lowlands later than in past years. This was due to more grass here on my hill and also because of my trip to Iceland. I was not able to move them before I left, because the field they were going to was not ready. Not enough grass had grown back after it was hayed, so, they were supplemented with hay for the week before I came back. The day after I arrived home we brought them to the nice lush green pastures behind the Creamery. I can report that they are delighted. They have not made a peep since going to this new field. Quiet sheep are happy sheep. They are all doing well. The bottle baby is just as big as his brother. I feed my bottle babies much longer than what is considered necessary, but I do not like to do the minimum, I like to do what is best for them.

Cows: The four Wagyu calves are growing wonderfully. They are grazing the fields with their mothers and a bunch of dairy calves. Lots of playing going on with all these youngsters. It is interesting to me how cows are more heat tolerant than sheep. My sheep go into shade as soon as it gets hot, but the cows stay out in the heat and even lay down in the hot sun. They have shade to which they can go, but do not always use it. I do not understand it, especially since the thick wool of the sheep keeps them insulated from the heat just as it insulates them from the cold. Any ideas?

Personal note: On our first wedding anniversary my husband Keith, surprised me by giving me a new tractor. I have only wanted one for 17 years. It is so fantastic to have a

tractor with a scoop. Makes many tasks so much lighter on my back. I call my new tractor, The Scoopy Do. My trip to Iceland was very nice. We celebrated my mom's birthday three times. Two dinner parties and one brunch. It was great to see friends and family again. It had been 12 years since I was there last. Huge changes have taken place in these 12 years. Iceland has little forests now. Temperature has gone up and that makes just about all the trees that were planted, grow well and even self-seed. This makes a huge change in the landscape. City transportation has greatly improved, and Icelanders have become better drivers as a result. Much more polite while driving then I remember. My dad has a little fishing boat and he and I went fishing out on the ocean. What a great treat. But I'm very happy to be back to my lovely little life here in Independence Valley, Washington. This is where I belong now.

Take care. Your farmer and shepherdess Selma