

Bone Dry Ridge

A little bit of everything farm



Winter News 2018 from Bone Dry Ridge Farm

Happy Winter

The weather report: Rather uneventful winter weather other than that we have hardly had any frost, and I hardly have any mice in the garage. Last winter I had loads of mice. It was not even funny.

Meat Sales: Only one pig left. They go to slaughter in late February. To order, click [here](#) to get to the brochure, then print and fill out the order form and send it back to me. Since there is only one pig left it would be wise to email me first to make sure it has not been taken.

Pigs: These have been very easy pigs to keep. Their mellow disposition just makes them a delight to have around. They do get rambunctious every morning however, when they receive their treat of milk-soaked bread. Yum yum.

Sheep: Remember last winter when my ewes stopped eating for five days and I then had a record number of single lambs last spring? Well, it happened again. Again, the veterinarian is perplexed, and Keith and I cannot come up with any explanation. I responded to this incident differently than last year. This time I fed them oats and barley right away. No sheep can resist these treats. Every morning each animal got about one pound, plus they had hay in the manger all day and they nibbled at it. They did not completely stop eating like last year, but it also appeared that some were more listless than others. After a few days they were all back to normal. So, now we are waiting until spring and see what the lambing season will bring.

Cows: One of the Wagyu calves had an incident this winter. He is the short, stocky one I mentioned in the last newsletter. We call him Shorty. He got his head stuck under the lowest board on one of the cow stalls. These are individual stalls, filled with sand, that the cows can lay down in, chill and chew their cud and not be bothered by the others. Somehow little Shorty managed to shove his head under the lowest board and get stuck. When Keith came to feed them in the morning he noticed the little fellow trashing about and went to investigate. Shorty simply needed to bring his body forward to get out of this bind, but there was no way he was going to do that, even when Keith tried to pull him forward. Keith is a strong guy, but he was barely able to move the calf. He had thought of Shorty as small, but Shorty is heavy and actually not little at all, just short. The only solution was to remove the lowest board and get the little fellow out. Shorty was thankful to be free, but he was kind of dazed for a while. One side of his face was swollen. But after a few days all of that went away. His mom was very upset when we moved Shorty to a small paddock, and it took us a few tries to get her in there with him. A mama cow in distress does not think very rationally and it can be tricky to get her to walk out of sight of her calf, even when we were trying to get her to him. But it all worked out in the end and mother and son are doing just fine.

Personal note: My new woodshed is finished. So nice and lovely. When we were moving the wood out of the old woodshed into the new, we came across a Wood Rat's nest. These guys are also called Pack Rats, because they bring in so much stuff to make the nest. And anything shiny goes very well with their décor. We did not identify it as a Wood Rat right away, but after we put up a wildlife camera we were able to identify it in a photo. I was happy when I noticed that it simply seemed to have moved back to the woods after we moved all the wood over. But of course, the Rat simply moved into the new woodshed. I'm sure she thinks this is great improvement in her accommodations. Not just more weather proof, but more attractive too. And with this warmish winter, I'm not using as much wood, so she feels rather safe and undisturbed.

More in the spring

Take care. Your farmers and shepherdess *Selma and Keith*