

Bone Dry Ridge

A little bit of everything farm



Wagyu X Cattle
Icelandic Sheep
Chickens
Pigs

Winter News 2020 from Bone Dry Ridge Farm

Meat Sales: We still have a few pigs left. They will be harvested in February 2021. If you would like to order pork, please print and fill out the order form on the brochure and send that back to me with a deposit. If you do not have a printer, write the info I need on a piece of paper and send that to me. You can send the deposit either with a check or via Venmo. My Venmo account is called Selma Bjarnadottir and the picture is a ram lamb.

Winter pig Brochure: (Harvested in mid-February)



Pigs: Pigs are very clean animals. They choose a spot to poop and pretty much stick to that spot, although sometimes they may have more than one spot. When they are little they poop anywhere. But as they get older there comes a time when they decide that this is unacceptable and choose one location to use. This seems to be a collective decision. The spot is usually far from where they sleep and eat. It always happens the same way, but both Keith and I have had a peculiar situation this year. Both batches of my summer pigs, and Keith's winter pigs, seem to have decided to poop just about everywhere but in their bed. This did not start right away, but gradually one pig after the other felt that this was an acceptable behavior. It has us puzzled. This behavior creates extra work for us since we like to keep their place clean, so we are doing a lot of poop scooping. We have wondered if they need to have more space, although we are using the same amount of space as in the past. Or perhaps after one pig finds this to be OK we should hurry up and get rid of the first poop so as to prevent a pattern from being created. Animal farming is all about poop, vegetable farming is all about weeding, and working at a creamery is all about cleaning. That is the honest truth, not very glamorous.

Sheep: The first summer of our grazing experiment ended on a good note. We only dewormed the flock once and the average weight of the lambs harvested was bigger than what we have had in the past, although it is not the largest we have ever had, a good outcome nevertheless. We did harvest the lambs late this year, simply because we could not get into the butcher shop in mid-October but had to wait until mid-November. So that is also a factor in the larger animals. Now we will wait and see what happens next year, in the second year of this experiment.



I have a new ram. I call him *Guðni*. He is very attractive and has a long graceful build and magnificent horns. He is the son of my old ram *Smári*. It was time for me to get a new ram, but I could not find a ram from another flock this year. Every animal from all the farms I know was harvested for meat this year. So, I decided to keep one from my own flock. This kind of breeding is called In-Line breeding. I have never done this before, but I decided since I could not find *Smári*'s replacement I would use one of my own. I will only keep him for a year or two, during which time I hope to find another ram totally unrelated to any of my ewes. The only part about *Guðni* that I'm not terribly happy about is his forwardness. I would not call it aggressiveness and I hope it will not develop into that, but he struts around like a rooster and both the ewe's and I find that not very attractive. Since this is his first year as the ram in the flock, I hope he will calm down and realize that he is less important than I think he thinks he is.

Beef Cattle: We have bred many of our dairy cows to Wagyu this year in the hope of creating more Wagyu mama cows. We are not in need of more dairy cows, since we have many young ladies that will become a part of the milkers in the near future, but we do need more Wagyu mama cows. We do not intend to become mega beef farmers or anything, but a few more would be nice. As with every pregnancy, we never know if it is going to be a boy or a girl. The Wagyu semen we get is not sorted (girl semen that has been sorted from the boy semen). We will wait patiently and be happy with healthy babies and if we don't get enough girls, we will try again. One of the good parts about having a dairy/Wagyu mama cows is that they have a lot of milk for their babies. The Wagyu breed are known for low milk production but dairy cows certainly are not.



Creamery: We finally are in PCC. We currently are in PCC Fremont, PCC Ballard, PCC Central, and PCC Redmond. I had been trying to get into these stores for some time now and finally just gave up on them. I was in the midst of getting a permit to sell to Oregon when PCC contacted me. I am not able to grow in both directions so I picked PCC. Sales have been rather slow to take off since we are not able to do any in-store promotions, but hopefully sales will continue to grow. If you are able would you please pass on the word that we are in those stores. Early in 2021 we will expand into the rest of the PCC stores. That would help. I do not do much social media, no time for it.



Personal: This year has been exhausting. It seems like the busy season does not want to come to an end. Usually by this time of year things have mellowed out and I'm not working full steam, but having lambs harvested late, a second batch of summer pigs and having the

creamery very busy has left me rather pooped. My back cramped up twice this year and because we were so busy there was no rest. So, Keith and I are pampering ourselves these days and doing the very risky thing of getting massages. A local massage therapist comes to our house once per week for a few weeks in the hope to get our backs back into shape. We thought long and hard about doing this and then figured we could not go into another season without our backs being in good shape. A real must for any farmer.

Take care. Your farmers and shepherdess

Selma and Keith