

## Mid May Update 2013

### Dear Friends, Neighbors and Customers

One last reminder about the Spring Farm Day, Saturday.

I have pasted the original announcement letter below.

The **Log Milling Demonstration** will be ready shortly after noon.

Terry will be happy to answer your questions and show you how he makes beautiful boards from logs.

He has White, Red and Jack Pine in the log pile, plus Red Oak, Ash, Tamarack and Cedar.

He will set-up at the Old Schoolhouse just 150 yards from the farmstead.

Sarah has some small jars of rendered tallow for those of you who want to make your own **Magic Balm**.

Sarah will be around all day to answer questions about tallow soap, balm and related topics.

The **weather looks pretty good** right now. Possible but not likely thunderstorms. We can wait those out just fine. It will be good if we get some rain tonight. So far we have no measurable rain this spring.

Gail posted a video of the little pigs on Facebook, "Snake River Farm Minnesota". 2400 watched that video. Seems like a high number to me.

In any case the pigs are doing grand. We brought home 110 and only lost one to an unknown cause.

Keeping 109 piglets alive and comfortable through the recent temperature swings has taken some effort. Especially without the use of antibiotics or medications.

I am pretty happy about it.

There are 99 here now as ten have gone to Ryan and Ashley's to be pastured there.

Actually, there are 100 pigs here because Gail talked me into getting a bred gilt that is due in June. (A gilt is a female pig that has not yet had little ones.)

This particular pig is a special breed. A **Red Wattle**, look it up. Red Wattles are a "Heritage" breed.

Visit her when you are here on Saturday.

There are twenty beef animals here. More to come as the grass improves.

Jordan and Sarah's pastures look terrific so we will start putting animals there soon. They are developing their 80 acres into Oak Savanna. It is coming along very well especially the pastures that have been grazed for the past two years. Jordan will have the fences complete for the whole farm this summer.

The lambs are raised on their farm also.

The bunnies, chicks, little turkeys, ducklings and bison calves are all doing well.

I am pleased to write that we did not lose a single one.

I am going to write a short letter on animal handling, a topic that came up from the little pig video that Gail posted.

I will try to get it out to you tonight.

Hope to see you on Saturday.

Best regards.

Tom

**Farm Day Letter below.**

We have lots of **little pigs, 25 baby chicks. A few turkey chicks, ducklings, bunnies, and bison calves.** During the day we will be giving **horse drawn wagon tours** of the farm where we should be able to see the cattle and bison herds.

As of this writing, there are five bison calves, more on the way.

There will be horse and pony rides for the kids.

**A playground.**

The **one room schoolhouse** will be open as will the **farm museum.**

**Log Milling Demonstration**

Our good friend and neighbor Terry Herman will set-up his portable saw mill at the Schoolhouse. Terry will be sawing logs into boards throughout the early afternoon.

He will have oak, pine and tamarack logs to saw.

**Soap and Magic Balm**

Sarah says, "A small amount of 'leftover' tallow will be rendered and available in quart and pint containers for folks who want to try their hand at soaping or skin balm.

**Rope Making**

We are just getting the hang of this ourselves so if you are an experienced rope maker you can give Jordan some pointers.

Everyone can help make some rope from twine.

We will have a camp fire.

There is plenty of room to walk, play and relax.

You are welcome to bring your family, friends and neighbors.

It is helpful to us if you give an indication of how many are coming, but not required.

Dress for the farm and the weather.

Long pants, long sleeves, denim is good.

Solids shoes are good. Sandals are not so good.

A change of clothes for the kids. They play hard.

Because of the compressed spring, we did not have a Compost day. You can self serve from the pile near the end of the driveway.

There is a shovel at the compost pile, but bring your own containers. Boxes or pails work fine.

Do you need some spruce seedlings? Or white cedar? Or locust bushes?

There are many plants growing as volunteers under the spruce trees near where you park.

They are 12 to 24 inches tall.

You are welcome to dig some if you wish.

MapQuest is best for directions.

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Best regards and see you soon.

Tom

p.s. No one has ever been injured at a Farm Day. Help us keep it so.

Please help keep the kids safe by watching them as if they were all family.