

2014 Early July Update

On Sun, Jul 6, 2014 at 10:39 PM, Tom Barthel <tbarthel@clarus-medical.com> wrote:

Dear Friends, Neighbors and Customers

I will make one last delivery run Friday and then the June harvest is wrapped up. Good thing too. Saturday we start harvesting chickens. We will harvest a couple hundred chickens in July but most will be harvested in September. I will send an emessage with details to those who ordered July chickens.

It is ten p.m.

I just went out one last time to close the chickens and ducks in their houses. Gail trains the ducks to come up from the river before dark. If they were to stay out, they would be recycled before sun-up. One night last week, I forgot to lock the chickens up and varmints got seven. Nice, big, pretty much ready to harvest chickens. The predators were wasteful so I guessed raccoons or possums but I was apparently wrong. Raccoons are easy to catch. Possums easier yet. I set traps the next night and caught nothing. Makes me think fox. Fox are too wily to enter a live trap. Not coyotes. Coyotes are hard to trap too but they seldom leave any remains. In any case, it is a jungle out there at night. Most people think that farmers pen animals to hold them captive. In traditional farming at least, that is not really true. Animals are penned to protect them from predators. Especially the young. I will write about that next winter when there is time.

We had a great Independence Day Horse Parade and picnic at the old schoolhouse. I will try to post some photos on our facebook page.

The grazing is terrific and the herds are as sleek and beautiful as they can be.

About 135 of you purchased June beef or bison. I was going through the list last evening and almost all of you have paid. I will send a reminder to the few of you who probably forgot. I mention that for two reasons. One, to tell you what great customers you are and two, to lead into a story that comes to mind. Some years ago, we had an old horse trailer for sale. The trailer was old and rusted out. A fellow came by to offer \$100 for it. The price was OK but he did not have any money with him. He said he would stop by later with the \$100. He took the trailer. A day or two later I realized I had neither his name nor phone number. A couple months went by. I never saw the man again. I did not give it a lot of thought. I just assumed I had made a mistake and was out \$100. One day when putting on my boots, a \$100 bill fell out. I felt a bit ashamed. The trailer buyer had paid as he promised.

No doubt he came by a day or two after he took the trailer. Finding no one home, he put the bill in my boot.

I broke that bill at the county fair. At a Tom Thumb Donut stand right next to the cheese curd vendor.

I figured that way no one would notice the \$100 had spent the summer in my boot.

Most people are wonderfully honest.

Enjoy your summer.

Tom

p.s. If you have questions, email me.

Link to our Facebook page.

[Snake River Farm Minnesota on Facebook](#)

