

## 2014 Early September Update

**From:** Tom Barthel [<mailto:tbarthel@clarus-medical.com>]

**Sent:** Sunday, September 07, 2014 8:36 PM

**To:** Tom Barthel ([snakeriverfarmer@gmail.com](mailto:snakeriverfarmer@gmail.com))

**Subject:** Early September Update

### **Dear Friends, Neighbors and Customers** **Fall Farm Day is Saturday, September 20.**

I will send details in a separate message.

The fall harvest is going as planned.

Generally.

I sent a message several weeks ago with the fall harvest schedule and related details.

If you missed it, you can find that letter and all customer letters on Sarah's Blog.

[Fall 2014 Harvest Schedule](#)

A few of you have asked to **change or cancel your order**.

That is fine and you can do so without explanation. I know from experience that 3% to 5% of the orders get cancelled.

That is manageable. There is a waiting list.

I only ask that you cancel as early as possible and certainly before I harvest your animal.

Late cancellations get pretty messy.

### **Weather and Wildlife.**

We have been getting better than adequate rains.

I have more interseeding to do. Cool temperatures and moisture are just right for that.

The pastures are going into fall in excellent shape.

That will help next spring.

I am seeing more monarch butterflies than I have for several years.

The DNR tells us the deer population is down. Not here.

Incredible numbers of toads and frogs. That should bode well for the wildlife food chain.

The fall wildflowers are in full color. There are fall flowers of every color and shape. I do not know why but the blue asters signify fall to me more than any other.

I have lived through the Minnesota change of seasons nearly 70 times. I still find it astounding how fast those changes occur.

When I begin the fall harvest it is hot and humid. Sweat burns my eyes.

When I finish a few months later, my fingers freeze to gun and knife.

I love it.

### **Fresh Horses.**

We traveled to Iowa this weekend to adopt mustangs. Gail and I adopted two. Sarah and her family adopted the third.

All from wild herds in Nevada.

You can see photos and read more about them on our facebook page.

Link to our Facebook page.

[Snake River Farm Minnesota on Facebook](#)

The new horses are all males, one and two years old.  
I have learned from experience that it is best to start with young horses.  
We keep around ten horses on the farm. All of our horses are geldings.  
Day to day life in the pasture a lot calmer that way.  
I train all our mustangs to ride and drive.  
We adopted our first mustangs in 1993.  
Most of our horses live into their 30's.  
I prefer mustangs.  
They are healthy, rugged and energetic, with good judgment and a certain reserved dignity that I admire.  
Gail and Sarah like "gaited" horses to ride. Gaited horses are domestic breeds developed for smooth motion.

**Delivery Help.**

I will begin metro drop-offs next week, Saturday.  
I will then make one or two trips each week until Christmas.  
Stops in Albertville, Maple Grove and Andover. I will make trips on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.  
Email me **after Nancy tells you your meat is ready** and we will work out the details.

**Please email me if you have questions.**

**This can be especially confusing for first timers.**

**Best Regards and see you on September 20.**

**Tom**