

2014 Mid June Update

From: Tom Barthel
Sent: Saturday, June 14, 2014 9:16 PM
To: Tom Barthel
Subject: Mid June Update

Dear Friends, Neighbors and Customers

There have been some weather challenges.

In fact, I can hear a thunderstorm approaching as I write. Nevertheless, it is an excellent growing season for grass farmers..

Our pastures are absolutely beautiful.

The grasses and flowers are spectacular. I will try to get some photos onto facebook soon.

The bison and beef herds and the lamb flock are doing great.

The little pigs are in their summer pastures.

They run, dig and play with wild joy.

It is impossible to watch them without smiling.

On Thursday evening, Gail and I were at Sarah and Jordan's farm to see the grandkids, (Saul and Hazel) and to view that cattle herd.

While we were there, Sarah led the herd into a new paddock. The animals enjoy fresh pastures. They ran, jumped and frolicked for ten minutes.

The most animated was a 1400 pound cow. The big red one that we kept to be a matriarch for this new herd.

She bounced on all fours and spun around like a calf.

Just feeling good and overflowing with joy.

Next time we will try to get a video.

Poultry and Rabbit raising is going well.

Briefly, Ryan's first batch of 130 chickens and my batch of 115 are both doing well. Losses have been minor.

Two bald eagles perch over our chicken coup each morning but I do not think they are getting any.

In my last message, I mentioned that the eagles go off to look for road-kill-raccoons when they are thwarted at chicken hunting.

They do.

Really.

Wednesday night, Paula, flattened an unfortunate raccoon on the township road, near the end of our driveway.

Thursday morning the eagles breakfasted there.

On Friday three vultures finished the clean up.

Mother Nature is a super recycler.

Quality Meats will process the first batches of chickens in early July.

They will go to those of you who requested earlier chickens.

Then, Ryan will raise a second batch for harvest in mid- September.

Sarah K. and Wellspring Farm will also have 200 chickens for you in that same September time.

It appears that we will be able to fill all chicken orders. About 550.

Ryan started 30 turkeys. In general, they are doing well but he has lost some.

I started 20 Bourbon Red turkeys. I have lost five of those so far.

Turkeys are touchy to raise off medication.

My daughter Sarah started 10. All 10 are doing well.

I think we will fill all turkey orders but that is not certain.

Rabbits are doing well here and at both of the Sarah's farms.

All rabbit orders will be filled.

The June harvest of bison and beef for ground meat is over.

The meat is in process. Everyone should be able to get their ground meat before the end of June.

Those of you who ordered for June are getting information via separate emessages.

All new orders for bison, beef, pork and lamb are now being Waitlisted.

You have already ordered more of each species than we produced last year.

Thank you.

Fall harvest (as in other years)

Bovine harvest will be from September to December.

Hogs in late October and November.

Lambs probably November.

I will send the information you need as those times draw near.

If you have questions, please email me anytime.

Have a great summer.

We are.

Tom

