

2014 Spring Farm Day is Saturday

**From:** Tom Barthel <Snakeriverfarmer@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 15, 2014 10:18 PM

**To:** Tom Barthel <Snakeriverfarmer@gmail.com>

**Subject:** Spring Farm Day is Saturday

**Dear Friends, Neighbors and Customers**

This is a reminder. I sent a more detailed message about Spring Farm Day on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

If you wish to refer to that message, you can find it on Sarah's Blog.

**Sarah's Blog for all recipes, customer letters etc.**

[www.sandhillfarmsarah.wordpress.com](http://www.sandhillfarmsarah.wordpress.com)

Incredibly, the weather forecast is for sunny and warm.

Saturday could be the nicest day of the spring.

The Farm will be ready for you but perhaps not quite as neat as we would like.

We had all the water this country could hold and then it rained eight inches more.

The river crested twice and washed out some trails.

The delayed spring has put me behind on some tasks but our pastures look pretty good and that is the main thing.

I drove to the north and to the east to buy cattle recently and the farmers in those heavier, poorly drained soils have real problems.

We are fortunate to grow only grass.

Our crop is already in the ground and growing.

We brought the **little pigs** home this week.

They are acclimating well.

You can see some pigs photos and a pig video that Gail made on our facebook page.

**Link to our Facebook page.**

[Snake River Farm Minnesota on Facebook](#)

**Parking.** Brother Mike is on call this weekend and could not get off.

Mike is our parking director.

Most of you know where to park.

Please just follow the signs and your own good sense.

The Rebrovich family ( Lisa, Jim, John & Sarah) will help with the **chicks, ducklings and bunnies.**

Kids can hold these little critters, carefully.

There is a **wash station** nearby for cleaning up.

You are always welcome to wash in the house also, if you prefer.

The State of Minnesota encourages us to provide wash facilities when animals are handled.

The animals are healthy and clean. It is just that some kids grow up so far from common germs their immune systems may not be familiar with what used to be ordinary.

In any case, please use your own good judgment about washing.

**Bethany and Nick Orton, owners of Quality Meats** will be here with their kids.

They will be enjoying the day with you. They are always more than happy to meet you and answer questions about processing.  
Ask around for them.

Sarah will be here of course, and happy to talk with you about **tallow, lard, balm and soap**.  
Just locate her.

Terry Herman will be **milling lumber** near the Machine Shed.  
He will be turning logs into boards.  
You will find that very interesting.

There is a pile of self-serve **compost** near the end of the driveway. Bring your own containers.  
Sorry, the pastures have been too wet for compost loading into pick-ups and trailers  
The hog pastures are now seeded.

The **Red Headed woodpeckers** are back.  
These are the seldom seen, true red headed woodpeckers.  
They are spectacular, up close.  
Look for them.  
They nest in the dead elms north of the farmstead, but come to the birdfeeders many times a day.  
I put dog food out along with the normal bird seeds and sunflowers.  
Omnivorous birds like woodpeckers, blue Jays, crows etc. love simple, cheap dog food.

I will be giving **horse drawn wagon rides** out to see the cattle and bison herds.  
No bison calves yet. Last year we had seven from seven cows.  
I expect at least several from our six bison cows but not yet.  
I do not really know why they are late.  
Bill, the buffalo bull, has not confided in me.

Ryan will give **wagon rides drawn by a Farmall B**.  
Gail suggested trying that to see if the kids enjoy it.  
This little tractor was made in the 1940 s.  
My father owned it when I was boy.  
Like a lot of things around here, it is old but it still works well.

Jordan and Hazel brought **lambs home to Sand Hill Farm** yesterday.  
If it works out they will bring a couple lambs here Saturday.

The **One Room School will be open**. You may need to visit it from the highway.  
I might not have the trail from the farmstead to the school rebuilt by Saturday.

**About June ground beef**. I will send details next week. There is still time to order.  
**About poultry and rabbits**. I will send an update in a week or two. Everything is going fine, thus far.  
**About Fall orders for beef, bison and pork**. Almost all of you have ordered. Everything is going per plan.  
I will keep you informed as needed.

See you anytime after noon on Saturday.

Best regards.

Tom

p.s. email if you have questions. (About anything)