

2015 Early March Update Winter Farm Day is Saturday March 7 from noon to 5

From: Tom Barthel

Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2015 10:59 PM

To: SNAKE RIVER FARM <Tom@snakeriverfarmmn.com>

Subject: Early March 2015 Update, Winter Farm Day is Saturday, March 7 from noon to 5

Dear Friends, Neighbors and Customers

Winter Farm Day is Saturday, March 7 from noon to 5.

We got a beautiful snowfall this morning.

About two inches.

There may or may not be enough for sledding on Saturday.

The horses will be saddled and hitched.

There will be horse drawn rides around the farm and out to see the buffalo.

Either by sled or by wagon.

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The barn will be warm and full of activities.

1. **Lard Rendering** or course. Both over the wood stove and in a crock pot.
Darrell and helpers will be rendering on the stove. Darrell will be happy to talk with you about using lard and cracklings.
Rendering on the stove is fun but the crock pot technique is what most of you are now doing at home. That yields the most and type best lard. Sarah will be demonstrating that method. If you have your pork fat at home and do not intend to use it or if you want to have us render it on Saturday, take it out of the freezer now and let it start to soften.
2. Sarah will demonstrate **soap and balm** making. Both from beef tallow. The balm is incredible.
3. Gail and helpers will be deep frying **old fashioned donuts**, potatoes and sweet potatoes.
4. There will be a **broth soup demonstration**. Phyllis has a family event of her own that day.
5. Sarah will make crackling cookies. Recipes for those and everything else mentioned above can be found on Sarah's Blog
Sarah's Blog for all recipes, customer letters etc.
www.sandhillfarmsarah.wordpress.com
6. Bethany and Nick from **Quality Meats** will be here. They will bring samples. Be sure to talk with them about processing and ask questions. We and you are fortunate to have butchers who care enough to come here to meet you.

Plenty of parking space. Brother Mike will be here to help with that.

The weather should be perfect.

The forecast for Saturday is 34 and sunny.

Last Friday I drove to Shawano Wisconsin.

I went there at the invitation of the Wisconsin Bison Producers Association.

Their annual meeting was in Bonduel on Saturday.

Shawano is on the far eastern side of Wisconsin. Bonduel, a smaller town is a few miles away.

It was a nice drive through Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Highway 29 is a four lane. Unlike most freeways it passes close by the farms.

Unfortunately, just like here, most of the farmsteads are in disuse and decay.

From time to time you can see a huge confinement barn.

One confinement barn looks much like another from the outside.
In Minnesota most of those barns confine hogs, chickens and turkeys.
In Wisconsin they confine dairy cows.
It yields a poor life, no matter what the species.
I was the first speaker Saturday morning.
That does not mean my presentation was the "Keynote" address.
It just means I was the guy who started talking when people were finding a pastry and a seat.
I was there to represent the National Bison Association.
They had a lot of questions.
When I was done, the Wisconsin folks graciously gave me a bag filled with delicious Wisconsin cheeses.
What else would you expect?
They've heard the Cheesehead jokes too.
Gail sent me off with snacks when I started the drive on Friday.
That included a bag of whole grain crackers.
I keep a folding knife in my pickup.
On Saturday evening I drove across Wisconsin dining on cheese and crackers.
It seemed fitting.

See you Saturday.

Tom

p.s. Email if you have questions