

2015 October 10 Update

From: SNAKE RIVER FARM
Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2015 9:59 PM
To: SNAKE RIVER FARM <Tom@snakeriverfarmmn.com>
Subject: October 10, 2015 Update.

Dear Friends, Neighbors and Customers

It might rain tonight.

We could use it.

We did a lot of pasture interseeding in late August and September. The tiny plants, especially clovers, have sprouted, but they need moisture soon.

Without at least one more good soaking, the seedlings will not be strong enough to survive winter.

The first twelve hogs went to Quality Meats on Monday.

That will be a weekly occurrence for the next two months.

There are 136 hogs to harvest.

I took several beef to Quality Meats today as I do each Wednesday.

Nick and Bethany asked me to encourage you to pick up your meat.

That is, you who have been called by Nancy with the message that your meat is ready for pick up.

This is a very busy time of the year at Quality.

Their freezers are essentially full.

Please pick up your meat as quickly as possible after Nancy calls you.

Small butcher shops like Quality are in a seasonal business.

Nick said they will need to turn down business if more meat does not move out of the freezers.

I drove to Foley trice today hauling beef.

It is a beautiful country-road drive.

Quality is open 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday.

I am delivering both Friday and Saturday this week.

If you cannot get your meat this week, I still have open space on Saturday.

Wild Turkeys and Sandhill Cranes.

Each morning I see several flocks of wild turkeys between the farmstead and the south pastures.

In 2014, the turkey hatch was way down.

I suspect that the extreme and heavy rains flooded the nests.

Turkeys and other ground nesting birds have a nesting problem if the rains are too frequent and too heavy.

This year was different.

We had good rain but not extreme deluges.

Summertime turkey flocks commonly number fifteen to twenty birds.

Most flocks consist of two or more hens with their combined hatchlings.

The hatchlings are frequently of different ages, hence different sizes.

Those differences even out by Fall.

One flock hangs out in the wooded pasture west of the farm buildings.

I grind feed there once or twice a week.

A little grain spills on the ground but the turkeys clean it up for me.

The pastures and open fields are filled with Sandhill Cranes each morning.

There are tens of thousands of the elegant birds between here and Foley.

Some are raised here.

Sarah and Jordan have had a pair nest in the pasture near their house for a couple years. When I drove by those birds this morning, I could not tell the colt from the parents. Yes, young cranes are called colts. I think because of their long legs at birth. Many of the cranes here now are on the first leg (no pun intended) of their migration south. Each morning the cranes form enormous, fantastically beautiful and loud flocks. I suppose they are making social contacts and getting in condition for their big trip. Flocks of cranes are called sedges. I do not know why.

Harvest Schedule

A majority of the beef have been harvested. I harvested four today and will harvest about ten more before the deer hunting break. These animals are mostly for those of you who asked specifically for October. Another group of beef, including ground beef, will be harvested late in November, as you requested. I will harvest several bison later in October and finish late in November. Ground bison will be in November. Hog harvest will continue until December. Nancy says that the ducks are almost all gone. I am amazed that you gobbled up (that pun was intended) 70 ducks so quickly. The last batch of chickens went into the freezer at Quality a week ago. They are going fast, thank goodness. Get yours soon. Geese and turkeys will be harvested mid-November. These fine Fall days are terrific for working. The animals enjoy these days also. The hogs are playing constantly. The beef and bison fill their bellies until they look like balloons. Enjoy your Fall. Tom
p.s. Email if you have questions.