

2016 Mid December Update

**From:** SNAKE RIVER FARM  
**Sent:** Friday, December 16, 2016 9:47 PM  
**To:** SNAKE RIVER FARM <Tom@snakeriverfarmmn.com>  
**Subject:** Mid December Update

### **Dear Friends, Neighbors and Customers**

**December weather** has finally settled in. We have 4 inches of snow cover. The ground is frozen. Temperatures are staying below freezing. As I write this it is snowing gently. A beautiful tiny-flake snowfall. The kind that makes everything clean and white and magical.

I have established a comfortable daily routine for winter chores.

The herds are at their winter nadir.

Ten horses.

Nine beef animals. Two yearlings, four calves, three pregnant heifers, due in the spring.

Thirty bison. The bison herd is a little larger than normal. It will balance out next year.

There are ten pigs left. The sow and nine of her Red Wattle litter. They will be harvested Tuesday.

There are a few chickens yet available for sale, some ducks, and some rabbits. Call Nancy if you are interested.

Everything else is sold out.

#### **Delivery Schedule.**

I have a very full load for tomorrow.

I will make a trip Friday December 23<sup>rd</sup>. There is space available. Email me if you want delivery help.

I will make my last drop off trip sometime after Christmas and before New Year's Day.

Around January 1<sup>st</sup>, Gail and I will drive south to visit kids and friends in Florida.

Our good helpers will take care of the animals and watch the farm while we are gone.

I have a very full conference and seminar schedule for the winter. Some in Minnesota, some in neighboring states.

Ben is going with me to the National Bison Conference in Denver.

There is always much to learn.

Winters are like a sabbatical for me.

What a luxury.

#### **Winter Farm Day**

We will have a winter farm day as usual. I just have not set the date yet.

Probably late in February. It depends somewhat on weather and snow cover.

We will render lard and do all the funs things we normally do at the winter event.

I will send information in January.

#### **About the 2017 Farm Year**

In early January I will email everything you need to know to order for 2017.

You can assume that things will be essentially unchanged from recent years.

**I do not think I need to raise any prices for 2017** except possibly bison prices. That is just a possibility.

Go ahead and plan accordingly.

#### **Christmas Ham**

This is just a reminder. If you had your ham cured, that means it is FULLY cooked.

When you prepare it for guests take care to warm it slowly and at a low temperature.

All you want to do is warm it to serve.

Otherwise you will over cook it.

If overcooked, it will turn out crumbly.

That is true for commercial cured meats also but they often have so much added water and extra fat that overcooking is hard to do.

**I have written several articles for facebook in the past month.**

I will attach two to this letter. I will attach two to a second emessage. I hope that works OK. Each article contains one or more photos and less than 1000 words of text.

I know some of you follow the farm on facebook but others ask that I attach or paste the articles to my updates.

I hope that is not a problem for anyone.

One of the articles, with a photo contrasting grain fed and grass fed carcasses got 8920 hits or views or whatever that number means. You might find that one especially interesting.

As I finish out 2016, I think about how fortunate I am to have you as customers.

Without you we could not afford to farm in these old ways that I enjoy so much. Nor would we have a purpose to do so.

**Happy Holidays**

**Happy Hanukkah**

**Merry Christmas**

Best possible regards.

Tom

p.s. Thank you for all the lovely cards, notes and letters. I share everyone with Gail. We appreciate them immensely.