

2016 Mid October Update

Date: 10/12/16 21:01 (GMT-06:00)

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

Cc: "Barthel, Tom" <snakeriverfarmer@gmail.com>

Subject: Mid October Update, Ducks, Turkeys

Dear Friends, Neighbors and Customers

The days are becoming amazingly short.

I never get used to that.

Each year I am awed by the rapid change of the seasons.

This is the very best time of year for the animals.

Cool but not cold.

No bugs.

Plenty to eat.

The pigs run and dig. Then dig and run.

The mustangs play-fight.

The cattle frolic and kick up their heels.

Animals do not experience life in all the ways we do, but they surely experience joy.

Ducks and Some Turkeys are available, also chickens and rabbits

All the ducks were processed Monday and are in Quality Meat's freezer.

I have been taking the biggest of the turkeys in for processing each month to keep them from getting too large.

There are ten turkeys at QM now. They range from 15 to 24 pounds. If you ordered a turkey and want one of that size, it would be a good idea to pick it up.

Or, I will be happy to bring ducks, turkeys, chickens or rabbits on my weekly drop off trips.

There are plenty of chickens. Most around five pounds but some closer to 10 pounds.

Lots of rabbits.

Harvest Update.

I am about 85% done with the beef harvest. All that remain are the "after deer hunting" orders.

I am about 20% into the hog harvest.

Next week we will harvest four more bison. Bison will then be over half done.

I have additional hogs to sell either by the ½ or by the 1/6th for ground pork.

I have plenty of bison for cuts by the ¼.

Plenty of ground beef by the 1/10th.

Let me know if you want to increase your order.

Casey and Jeremiah got Married

The wedding was here on Saturday.

The ceremony was in the pines by the cabin.

The reception and party was at the school house.

It was a delightful celebration.

The old kind of celebration that includes kids and grandmothers.

Both Casey and Jeremiah are blessed with wonderful families. People came from New York, Virginia, California and many places in between.

The School House

I wrote a short article about the school and posted it with a photo on facebook.

I will paste it to this letter FYI.

It is the busiest time of year at Quality Meats.

Please continue to pick up your meat from QM as soon as possible.
It is a serious hardship for them when the freezers get too full with old orders
Also, please get your processing instructions to Nancy BEFORE I harvest your order.
Otherwise Nancy has to waste a lot of time trying to reach you.
Enjoy these pleasant Fall days.
Email me if you have questions.
Best possible regards.
Tom
p.s. Thanks for the kind notes and cards.

Kragero School



Casey and Jeremiah are having their wedding reception at the Kragero School. The one room school is part of our Snake River Farm.

The marriage ceremony will be at the cabin in the pines. The cabin is near the south end of the farm. This will be the third marriage at the cabin.

Vandals grievously damaged the school in July of 2015. All the windows and doors were smashed. The blackboards, original water cooler, sink, tables and more were destroyed.

We have been working for a year to repair the damage and refurbish the school, inside and out.

The interior of the school is restored. The school was used as scheduled in June for "Life in the Past Lane." That is a three day summer school, supported by Becker Community Ed and put on by the Erickson Family. Many of the Erickson's involved in the summer school actually attended the Kragero School. The school and grounds are used for a number of annual events including an "Old-timers Reunion," each summer.

Kragero is a town in Norway. Many Norwegians including ancestors of the Erickson's, came from there and homesteaded here in the late 1800s. The school was founded in 1897. Elaine Erickson's grandfather, Jens Ellefson, provided the land. The state loaned money for materials. The pioneers supplied labor and craftsmanship for the building.

Initially, the building served as a school, a church, and a community center. This was the original Snake River Church. After a few years, the church moved downstream several miles to its current location.

Ernie Erickson was Elaine's husband and father to the local Erickson clan. Ernie was an admirable man and an expert farmer. He helped me with sound advice when I came here to farm almost 50 years ago. Ernie told me that two of his great-great aunts, both "Old Maids" are buried in our pasture just west of the school.

The two acre school site is bordered on the north and west by tall Red and White Pines. Those trees were planted as part of the forestation project in the early 1950s. Sherburne County suffered terribly from wind erosion during the 1930s and 40s. The tree planting was supervised by County Agent Enoch Buege and Extension Agent Ella Kringlund. I knew them both as a 4-H youth.

I have cared for the school for 40 years. Twenty years ago, Gail and I bought the building and its two acre site from the Becker School District. It has always been our intention to maintain the school in functional order until it becomes precious enough, rare enough and appreciated enough for preservation by the community.

In the photo, you can see the new roofing, the new flag, and the bell.

The original bell was stolen in 1968, shortly after the school closed. Ernie recovered the bell which was the property of the Becker School District. That bell was bronzed and mounted on a low frame. It has been on display for decades in the Becker Elementary School.

The bell that is in the tower now was donated by the Albertville Fire Department and my cousin Albert.

It rings out beautifully after almost 50 years of silence.

The pull rope for the bell hangs on the north side of the school. Anyone is welcome to ring it.

The school will be 120 years old in 2017.

We plan to have a grand celebration.

Tom

Link to our Facebook page.

[Snake River Farm Minnesota on Facebook](#)

Contact Quality Meats, Foley

Quality Meats phone # 320 968 7218