

A heifer had a calf this week.

Expected but not planned.

The heifer was not supposed to be pregnant when I bought her. Nevertheless, in recent weeks I could see that the heifer was going to give birth. I bought nearly 100 heifers ranging in age from 9 to 18 months to finish on grass. Cattle are in short supply and hard to locate this year. Most of them came from small farms in eastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Sometimes there are unplanned pregnancies. You can imagine a few scenarios for that. Each year, several “not pregnant” heifers that I buy give birth. That is not a bad thing for the new mother. Normally, we keep the new cow over the winter to nurse the calf. This calf is a Black Angus. I took the photos when the calf was just two hours old.

The cow and calf are part of a herd of 40 heifers that we are raising on grass. When the calf was two days old, I needed to move the herd to fresh pastures. By then the cow had taken to hiding the calf while it grazed. That is normal. Six of us spent more than an hour walking back and forth in the 20-acre pasture and could not find the calf. The pasture was pretty well grazed and the grass was not long. They lie down flat like deer when hiding. Several of us walked very near the calf without seeing it.



We moved the herd, and the new cow as needed. I then went back to wait for the calf to appear. About an hour later it raised its head up from the grass.

I suppose it was time to nurse.
Tony and I approached quietly and were able to capture it in its hiding spot.
We took it to the cow and reunited them.
It is healthy and doing well.
Calf was born on August 5, 2014.
Tom.

