

Pig Week at Snake River Farm.

A week ago, Saturday, Gail and I drove to Wanamingo Minnesota to get a “soon to farrow” sow. As planned, she gave birth to a fine litter of piglets on Thursday. The sow and newborns are shown in the first photo. Gail stayed up most of the night to help with the birthing. The sow, who has been named Beatrice, is a Duroc. Duroc is the only breed of hog developed in the US. The breed was established in the 1880s in and around Ohio. This pig was raised by the Steve Boyum and his daughters Kristin and Kari. They are excellent producers of “show stock”. Those are animals that are sold to 4H and FFA students who show the animals at county and state fairs.

As we visited with Steve we learned that he had 27 piglets available for sale. We brought those pigs home also. They are shown in the second photo. They are in the East Hog Pasture.

As you see, the pigs are of multiple breeds. The white are basically Yorkshire, the red are Duroc and the black with white belt is classic coloring for a Hampshire. The suffix “shire” identifies these breeds as old English types.

On Thursday I picked up 50 piglets from our normal supplier near Dalbo, Minnesota. Those pigs are only three weeks old and are from a confinement operation. The third photo shows these 50 white piglets sleeping comfortably in the shed of the Northwest Pig Pasture. These pigs are very good genetically. They are a proprietary hybridization of Yorkshire, Spot and Duroc. Mostly Yorkshire. The owners of the confinement operation have been good to work with. The supply of little pigs varies from year to year. Some years the confinement folks have been our only source of pigs. Nevertheless, Gail has long wished that we could get our pigs from farmers that raise them in ways more compatible with our own. We may be able to do that from now on.

This Saturday, we picked up 52 Poland China pigs from David Steel near New Richmond, Wisconsin. I had contracted with David for these pigs last fall. David and his son also raise “show pigs”. The fourth photo is of the Poland China pigs in the South West Pig Pasture. I wanted some bigger pigs so I could begin the fall harvest sooner. These pigs are BIGGER.

Next week is poultry week. Turkeys, ducks, geese, and chickens all arrive from the hatchery. I will post photos. Best regards. Tom



