

Thirty healthy, happy, lambs.

We brought home 30 lambs yesterday.

Gail keeps a few spotted ewes over the winter.

Mostly so that she can have lambs born here.

Because our customers order many more than that, we buy additional started lambs from a farm near Montgomery, Minnesota.



Yesterday was the day to pick up those lambs.

Samantha, Juan, Arthur, Ella and Ella's friend Jack helped.

We combine the purchased lambs, the native lambs, and the ewes into one flock. The ewes provide a lot of leadership and local knowledge to the new lambs. That maturity and leadership helps calm the lambs. It provides a social structure that is necessary for all herds and flocks. All of the lambs, the purchased lambs and the several born here, will spend the next six months growing in our pastures. All but Gail's ewes will be harvested in November, just before the weather gets nasty. In the first photo the lambs are running. They are excited to investigate their new space and pasture. In the second and third photos they are meeting Gail's resident ewes and lambs. It will take a week or two before the sheep and lambs feel like one flock. Gail's sheep are "hair sheep". They have more colorful brown and white coats. Hair sheep do not grow harvestable wool. That eliminates the need to shear them each spring. Within half an hour the new lambs have settled down enough to eat hay. The sheep have new grass which they nibble on, but new spring grass is high in water and low in nutrition. Dry grass (hay) helps to balance their stomachs and increases their energy intake. The red and purple marks on their backs are temporary colors used for identification during sorting. The fifth photo is from today. The lambs are calm and comfortable. They will have a grand summer. And a good life. Tom



