

2016 Mid September Update

On Sep 15, 2016, at 9:21 PM, SNAKE RIVER FARM <[Tom@snakeriverfarmmn.com](mailto:Tom@snakeriverfarmmn.com)> wrote:

**Dear Friends, Neighbors, and Customers**

In the Spring and the Fall I interseed the pastures.

To "interseed" means to add seeds without tillage.

That way the pastures are improved without disruption.

I do that to increase the density and the variety of plants.

Pastures with a greater variety of plants are more productive. They can do well throughout the growing season and in different weather conditions.

For examples, some plants are most productive in the Spring; some are more productive in the Fall.

Some plants prefer cool weather, some such as the tall native prairie grasses, prosper in the heat of summer.

Some plants do well in wet weather. Some plants have deep taproots that reach moisture even in drought.

There are well over 100 different plant types, in our pastures. Grasses, forbs (flowering plants), legumes, herbs and sedges

Most of the forage volume is produced by a dozen species of grasses and legumes.

Nevertheless, it is now well understood that each plant species adds its unique vigor to the life of the soil.

I just finished interseeding yesterday.

Today it rained.

It has been that kind of a year.

**DELIVERY SCHEDULE**

My next delivery trip is Saturday morning.

As of now, my load is pretty light.

Email me if your meat is ready and you wish to have it on the Saturday load. Stops are Albertville. Maple Grove and Andover.

No run next week because of Fall Farm Day.

Thereafter, weekly trips will resume.

**FALL FARM DAY is Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> of September.**

From 1 to 5 p.m.

**For those of you who have not visited us before.**

Lots of space to walk and relax.

A campfire, with picnic tables.

Horse drawn and antique tractor drawn wagon tours all day.

Bison, cattle, calves, hogs, horses.

There are four pastures of hogs. Three that are on the normal diet of oats and corn (High roughage). A fourth group is fed oats and wheat (non-GM).

Lots of small animals.

The chickens, geese, and turkey chicks you saw in the spring are now grown.

The meat chickens have all gone for processing.

Gail's small flock of laying hens are here and they roam the yard.

They will swipe your lunch if you let them.

There are 18 White Emden geese and 45 Peking ducks in the pond.

Elegant but noisy birds.

There are two groups of colorful bunnies. They are just the right size to gently hold.  
Pony rides.  
A large playground.  
The One Room Schoolhouse.  
Farm museum.  
Corn to shell and grind.  
Almost 300 big round bales to play on.  
Rope making.  
No doubt I am forgetting some things but you get the idea.  
We do not sell anything on Farm Days.  
It will be relaxed and great fun.  
It is not necessary to RSVP, but it is helpful.  
An RSVP gives us some idea of attendance.  
Use MapQuest, not Goggle for a map.

18251 62nd Street SE  
Becker, 55308

#### **HARVEST & ORDERS**

We are about two thirds through the Fall beef harvest.  
I can take more orders of ground beef by the 1/10<sup>th</sup> and the Roast, Stew and Ground Option.  
Due to abundant pasture, all beef orders will be filled.  
Normal hog harvesting will begin October 2<sup>nd</sup> and continue until nearly Christmas.  
We will harvest a few pigs tomorrow to fill requests for **early ground pork by the 1/6<sup>th</sup>**.  
If you wish your ground pork now instead of in December, email me.  
**I can take more pork orders, both by the ½ and for ground pork.**  
Bison are sold out. Any orders now will go on a WAITLIST.  
Ducks will be harvested at the end of September, geese, and turkeys in November.  
There are plenty of chickens and rabbits available in QM's freezers.  
Email if you have questions.  
Best regards.  
Tom  
p.s. Many of you include thoughtful notes of thanks with your payment.  
Gail and I read and much appreciate every one. Thank you.