

2022 Early August Update

Dear Friends and Customers

Wow! It is August already.

The weather continues very dry.

The DNR lists us as “moderate drought”. Not yet as bad as 2021 when we suffered “extreme drought” but it is not over yet.

Our upland pastures will suffer the most if the dry continues. We have been able to provide good grazing for the herds thus far. We have developed the upland pastures with many varieties of deep-rooted plants including legumes and native grasses.

That pays off in dry years.

And dry, hot summers may be the future.

The cattle and bison herds are both grazing lowland pastures this week and for the next several weeks.

Those paddocks have abundant growth of course grasses. The course grasses, mostly a type called Canary Grass, produce tons of grass per acre. Unfortunately the beef animals do not prefer it.

It is less palatable to them than finer grasses.

Bison, who have superior digestive systems can do well on such course grass.

For the cattle, we supplement the Canary Grass with fresh, 2022 hay.

They must be satisfied and fill their bellies full many times each day to properly fatten on forage.

If we get rain in August or September, as we did last year, the upland pastures will regrow terrifically in a couple of weeks.

Farming is always a gamble.

The Fall Harvest is fully underway.

We will have harvested 49 hogs by Monday. Still more than 100 to grow and harvest by November.

The beef harvest has also begun.

We will harvest cattle weekly until November.

The dusks and geese will be processed the week of September 19th. Plan to get you ducks and geese on Friday, September 23rd.

I will communicate directly with you who ordered these birds.

The Jopp Kids tell me that the second batch of chickens will be available August 19th, and the third and last batch September 30th.

Those of you who ordered chickens must pick them up on one of those two dates.

Again, I will send separate email to those who ordered.

Minnesota Grown Booth at the State Fair.

We will again staff the booth in the Horticulture building on the first shift of the first day of the State Fair.

That is from 9 to 1 p.m., on Thursday, August 25th.

Stop and say “Hi” if you are there.

We hosted several education/tours in July.

Staff members from the Dakota County Parks visited us to learn about savanna restoration with bison.

They are starting a bison herd this Fall.

Their animals will come from the Minneopa State Park herd.

The Minneopa herd was started from the Blue Mounds State Park herd.

Our herd bull, Bill, was born in Blue Mounds.

Dr. Perle Zhitnitskiy, from the U of M Veterinary School brought nine new vets out for a tour.

There are few farms where animals are raised in natural, outdoor pastures.

Metro drop off trips will resume next Friday and continue most weeks until Christmas. If you wish to be included, email me after your meat is ready for pick up.

The response to Quality Meats online processing instructions has been excellent.

If you are getting ½ or ¼ of bison, beef, hog, lamb or goat use this link to submit your instructions.

[Quality meats](#) link here.

NO instructions are necessary for ground beef, ground bison, ground pork or beef and bison by the 1/8th for "Roasts and Ground".

No instructions are necessary for poultry. They all come dressed, frozen whole.

Fall farm day is Saturday, 9/17, from 1 to 5 p.m.

I will send reminders as that day draws near.

Stay cool.

Tom

p.s. Email me if you have questions.

Quality Meats website link [Quality meats](#)

Quality Meats eaddress, qualitymeatsmn@gmail.com

Quality Meats phone # 320 968 7218

Snake River Farm Website www.thesnakeriverfarm.com

Snake River Farm Facebook page [here](#).