

2022 Spring Farm Day is May 21, 1 to 5 p.m.

Dear Friends and Customers.

Spring Farm Day is May 21, 1 to 5 p.m.

The weather forecast is good.

The baby chickens, ducklings, goslings and baby turkeys came last week.

We brought home five baby goats yesterday. I pasted below a photo of the kid goats and great-grandson Arthur.

Daughter Amy intends to set up a petting zoo of sorts on Farm Day.

The bison herd has produced five calves thus far. That is actually all I expect but a heifer was looking suspiciously pregnant this morning.

Brother John will be here on Farm Day to talk about and demonstrate blacksmithing. Not sure if he will bring his forge.

Neighbor Terry Herman, will set up his log to board mill as he has for many Farm Days.

Grand-son- in-law Juan, helped cut several oak, pine, and ash trees for Terry to convert to boards. Most of the trees were windfalls from recent wet and windy weather. A strong storm can bring down a dozen mature trees across the farm. That is not bad, just the cycle of life, but it does initiate some clean up work. Especially when the trees fall on fences. The Farm has over ten miles of fences, so if a dozen big trees fall, at least a couple will hit fences.

I pasted a photo of Juan preparing to fell the 80-foot-tall ash tree. We have 100s of ash trees in the pastures. The invading ash borer will kill them all, so we are harvesting what we can.

The ash logs will make particularly beautiful lumber.

There will also be horse rides for the kids on Farm Day and wagon rides to see the bison, weather permitting. Granddaughter Ella is managing the horses. The Jopp Family normally does that but the girls have a dance recital. The Jopps are raising the chickens you ordered plus most of your turkeys. The recent deluges have supplied the farm with more than enough water. The river flooded and washed out a couple of our river crossings. With luck and no new torrents, I will be able to restore the crossings by Farm Day.

We also were hit with a "once in 40-years" hail storm Monday. We still had ice drifts 24 hours later.

Although dramatic, the hail storm did not significantly damage our perennial pastures. Such pastures are wonderfully durable.

It did set back the emerging pig pastures which are annually seeded. They will come back. Sort of.

It is a different story for Gail's and daughter Shannon's 100s of garden seedlings. They each grew seedlings under grow lights then planted them a few days before the hail.

Total destruction there.

Gail says she will patronize the local greenhouse for replacements.

Orders.

About 90% (or 450) of you have ordered.

We are running out of some things.

Ground beef is always available and we do have a couple lambs yet available.

Hogs are not sold out, but close.

June Harvest.

The June harvest will actually begin on May 26th. That is a week early because a bunch of you are running out of ground beef.

I hope to see many of you next Saturday.

I am to the part of the letter where I get the feeling that I am forgetting something.

Email me if you have questions.

Enjoy these delightfully long days.

Best regards.

Tom

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