

2023 Early September Update

Dear Friends and Customers

Fall Farm Day is 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday September 23rd. Details later in this letter.

Well, I was wrong about the weather. We are still in a “severe drought” as designated by the DNR.

The three cattle herds and the bison herd still have adequate grazing, but we will turn to feeding them at least 50% hay within two weeks. That is fine for the animals, just tough financially.

Fortunately, we bought 200 large round bales of excellent grass hay in June.

That is more than enough to finish the year.

The Fall Harvest is moving along each week.

That reduces the herd numbers steadily, which reduces the need for grazing and hay.

We will harvest beef and hogs weekly from now into November.

If you have not given your processing instructions go to Quality Meats website [Quality meats](#).

You can still order hogs, beef, bison, or lamb from the Fall Harvest.

We will make weekly Metro deliveries into January.

A third bison calf was born recently.

That is far out of season, but bison calves are extremely tough. They will get through the winter just fine.

We are happy to have them.

On a closely related topic, we will convert our bison herd bull, named Bill, into ground bison soon after Fall Farm Day.

We got him as a two-year-old, from the Blue Mounds State Park herd.

He is now twelve years old. That is not old for a bison. They often live to thirty, but it is time for him to go.

Maybe the late calving is a clue, but worse than that, he has taken to challenging our gates and fences.

This poor behavior is not unexpected. Cattle and bison bulls often get ornery, willful, and just plain “bull headed” as the get older.

(If you happen to be tempted to draw any human comparisons, don't.)

Bill's bad behavior has resulted in days of extra work for fence builders, Juan and Jannelle.

Fall Farm Day 2023 will be Bill's final event if he even decides to appear.

We plan to get a young replacement Bill, at the annual Minnesota Bison Association Auction in Albany Thanksgiving weekend.

Fall Farm Day is Saturday September 23, from 1 to 5.

For those of you who are new, or who have not attended a Farm Day, we have two Farm Days each year, Spring and Fall.

There is plenty of space to relax.

There are picnic tables and a campfire.

A large playground and lots of animals.

You can see lambs, cattle, lots of pigs, ducks, chickens, and turkeys.

There is a restored one-room school and a farm museum.

Wagon rides to tour the Farm and the bison herd.

Horse rides in the round pen.

These days are for customers and their families' interested neighbors and friends.

Farm Days are not open to the public. We would be swamped.

Rain or shine, but I ordered great weather.

Last Update I pasted a photo of an animal the I bought because it has beautiful horns.

Last week good customer and friend Tom S. sent a photo of an oil painting that he created from that photo. I have always admired people who have artistic ability.

I have none, but I am a good farmer.

Email me if you have questions.

Tom

Quality Meats website link [Quality meats](#) (to leave processing instructions.)

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