

First Nature Farms is a family farm in the Peace Country. Once a month, First Nature Farms owner Jerry Kitt writes about his experiences on the farm.



First Nature Farms
certified organic since 1990

Farm News - August

New bison bull arrives. Those in the "know" in the bison industry say that when you introduce a new bison bull to your herd, he should be fairly young. "Two or three years old but nothing older". "They get too set in their ways". When I picked out my last bull, he was thirteen years old. "Son of Tee" bred every cow there was on the place and even some of the heifers. He did well the next two years but last year there were more bison cows than ever and some of them did not calve in the spring. Fearing that there was now too much work for one old bull I introduced another into the herd. The new guy is only four and when I drove up to the herd with him on my trailer, he had every cow's attention. He must have thought he was pretty lucky when he stepped off the trailer. Every cow was staring at him. Then he met "Son of Tee". Anything could have happened - big fight, ripped down fences, herd escaping and running for miles. Instead they had a good look at each other. "Son of Tee's" tail went up, the new guy's tail went down and it became clear to everyone there that "Son of Tee" is still boss.

Turkeys loving their freedom. The mobile shelters they moved to are over 4300 square feet each and also work well for chickens. Every couple of weeks we move them on to fresh pasture.

Born with horseshoes up where? At last report we were in a severe drought. The pasture and hay situation looked pretty slim. Then it started raining and didn't quit until we had seven inches soaked in to the ground. A month later the pasture is recovering, the alfalfa for hay has taken off and the first crop of barley I've planted in twenty years is starting to look pretty good.

Hats off to our neighbours, The Nature Conservancy of Canada. When the grass started getting down and I was beginning to worry where our Plains bison would find enough feed to keep satisfied, the Nature Conservancy offered one of their pastures.

Off to Vancouver! My daughter & I will spend a few days in "the land of traffic". In one minute I can see as much traffic in Vancouver as I would in 10 years at home. There was a time when if a vehicle was heard we would stop what we were doing and walk out towards the road to get a better view. Chances are it was a neighbour or someone who was lost. I plan to check in with all the stores I send my pigs to and make sure they are appreciated as much there as they are here. Hope to meet you.

Jerry