

Farm News - December

No sign of the missing bison. It's been almost two months since the tree fell on the fence allowing them to escape. Thirty yearlings are now where they belong but eight have not been seen in weeks. Just 4 miles west of us is the last fence line before the vast wilderness of BC. They are somewhere out there. Hire a plane (expensive)? Hope they remember where home is (cheapest)? If you stepped out of the back door of our house and started walking west, you could travel all the way to the Pacific Ocean without ever seeing another person! Hopefully the eight bison head east.

Turkeys pardoned! Obama isn't the only one who pardons turkeys. Five turkeys from our farm can now spend their lives never knowing what Christmas dinner is all about. The three toms and two hens will move in next to our house and become "greeters" for anyone who visits. Hopefully that's not the coyotes.

Christmas on the farm. Waking up on Christmas morning always amazes me. Somehow Santa was able to climb down the 27 foot chimney into a blazing wood fire, open the heater door from the inside without filling the room with smoke, take the time to wander to the kitchen table to take a bite of the cake and a sip of the juice left just for him, leave all sorts of presents under the tree and then be gone, all without the dog barking!

So when the family gathered by the tree on Christmas morning, we could not start opening presents. Not with all the farm animals waiting to be fed and watered. They had to be part of our Christmas too.

Dressed for winter we first met Joe the donkey and his two lady friends. Normally they eat hay but this morning were treated to oats and peas, their favourite.

"Jack" the Irish Wolfhound was given the largest bone he'd ever seen, the leg of a buffalo.

"Chevelle" the horse had been trying all year to get into the pig food. We had to build a special fence to keep her out. Pig food may not sound too appetizing but ours is a mixture of organic wheat, peas and spelt. Tasty! I've even eaten it myself. Made it into pancakes! Chevelle's Christmas treat? A bucket of pig food!

But what to give a pig for Christmas? Extra food of course! One group of Berkshire sows had a special treat. For the past 6 weeks they've been wanting to cross the fence to "visit" with their neighbour.

Their treat? We took the fence down! Now the sows can be merry with their old friend, the boar.

With the animal chores all done, knowing that Christmas morning was special for them too, we headed back to the warmth of the wood fire and the presents under the tree.

This year our family shared Christmas with two WWOOFers, "Ricard" from Barcelona and "October" from Amsterdam who each told stories of Christmas back home. A lot of fun and great times we had together. I wish the same for you. Jerry