



## Farm News from July

Most people who keep pets have either a dog or a cat. We have Jack the dog along with three cats, Jesse, Dudley and Purr.

I had no idea what kind of pet a goat might be but Edith has become a great companion and source of entertainment.

Edith is almost 3 months old, barely knee high, all white with little nubby goat horns. Young goats technically are referred to as "kids" and this kid is supercharged like she's fuelled on espresso. We hear her hooves racing around the deck, jumping against the back door, climbing on chairs, trying to peak through the windows. I've learned a bit of goat language and "baahh" actually means "I'm here! Look at me! Let's play! Feed me! I'm still here! Look at me more! ....."

She "baahhs" all day. But when you go outside and give her some attention, she's like your best friend. Where ever you go, she wants to follow. Hold something and she wants to know what it is. Stop to chat and she stands beside you. Hold her in your arms and she'll mellow right down. Ask her "are you my friend?" and she'll nibble your ear. Drive away and she'll cry.

Goats however are not necessarily noted for their angelic qualities and Edith is no exception. She was hanging out with the guys as we were doing some construction in the shop. I should have paid better attention while Edith was entertaining herself, ripping out pages from the phone book, probably with the phone numbers I'll be looking for. Next she was picking screws out of the box and dropping them on the floor. My Toyota car which up until now was the only thing I owned that did not

readily identify me as a farmer is now covered with goat scratches on the sides, hood and roof. I'll going to have to post signs at the end of my driveway warning visitors about the goat but I haven't figured out what to say. Ideas?

First there was Joe, then Julia, then Jessica, then Joe and Jessica had Jasmine. Now Joe and Jessica are proud parents again. It's a boy! Welcome J--!?! This brings our donkey count to five. Donkey anyone?

Buttercup freshens! This may sound like a new fragrance from a flower but it means that Buttercup (our milk cow) has had her calf and will be producing fresh milk for several months now. The birthing event was not without incident however. I was eleven hundred km. away at a Sundance Ceremony when I noticed a number a new messages on my phone.

"Buttercup is really sick! We found her this morning with her legs in the air." That is really sick! My fear was "milk fever", a condition where the blood calcium levels drop drastically after birth. Jersey cows are quite susceptible and both us and our neighbour had lost cows to milk fever. "Call the vet!" was my response, helpless to the situation.

I returned home the next day to find Buttercup recovered and nursing her new calf. Now she producing so much milk that she's also nursing a seconds calf, Tim (last Farm News) plus giving us nine to twelve litres of milk per day.!

Jerry