



Farm News from March

How could one broken wire lead to the creation of a search party?

It happens. Animals sometimes figure out how to escape. The group of beef calves did just that when the one wire holding them in broke. No big deal. They got out and they would be back. With lots of snow still on the ground they would be easy to track. When my helpers asked me what was next on the list I said "see if you can track those calves and bring them home".



I knew tracking them would be simple. Bringing them home a bit more complex but they would have a good adventure.

I didn't anticipate a problem until only one of the two came home. "Where's Alex?" "I dunno, I thought he was back." Soon there were 3 of us looking and the tracks in the snow started getting confusing. To summarize a long afternoon, I finally located him, 3 miles from home and happy to see me. He thought if he kept walking he would find a "house or something". The fact is, if he kept walking west he wouldn't see a soul and could walk through wilderness all the way to the Pacific Ocean. I didn't tell him about the bear tracks.

Comedian Howie Miller came to our local hall, donated his time and helped raise \$9000 for our Uganda School project. The hall was packed with over 200 people.



I thought it was just one but it turns out, last summer a few of the horny cows couldn't wait for the appearance of Randy, our super bull. They must have found a break in the fence and connected with some foreign bulls who happened to be in the neighbourhood. The early deliveries came a surprise. Unfortunately, the coyotes had it figured and we lost a couple of calves.



There are 40 less bison on our farm. It was a tough decision that had to be made. I knew that once the grass started turning green there wouldn't be enough of it to feed everyone. I had to look those bison in the eyes and apologize. A couple had been on the farm for 25 years.

The good part was the man that bought them, one of the very few organic bison producers in the province. I know they'll be well taken care of.



Scary mud returning. Last fall I moved the pigs to their winter pasture but the ground was soft from all the rain. They turned it into boot sucking mud. What a relief when it finally froze. Now with spring here the frost is leaving and inch by inch the mud is getting deeper. Once the ground dries they will move again to fresh pasture, part of an eight year rotation.



Jerry