



Farm News from April

Waiting for Noah. Where's the boat?
The road to the north - washed out.
The road to the east - washing out.
The road to the west - ends in 4 miles.
The road to the south - impassable.
A couple days back we had to move a group of yearling cattle south down the road. The culverts for the creek crossing were unable to handle the flow so the creek was flowing over the road. Some of the unsuspecting cattle were washed off the road into the ditch where they quickly learned that they could swim. They had no choice. The spring floods have been a



challenge for sure. There was a lot of snow that needed to melt so flooding was expected.

We did what we could to prepare. It was the pigs I was worried about. Not that they were in any danger but access to the pigs on pasture is about 1/2 a mile through the field; the wet, muddy field that is ready to suck up any vehicle that attempts to drive on it. While the ground was still frozen we had prepared pig feed in advance and had stockpiled 15,000 kilos just to be safe. My new/old John Deere snow blower cleared snow off the higher ridges to allow for faster drying. The pigs we were to ship over the next month were moved close to the road. Pumps and hoses were set up to provide drinking water. The pig

houses were moved onto the highest ground.

Access to the pigs was limited to foot and ATV traffic only. Pigs do like mud but they prefer it on warm days, not cold spring days. We had big round bales of



straw set out to keep them high and dry. All this was no small task. We have a



total of 14 groups of pigs, each needing their own feed, troughs, water, bedding, fencing and shelter. The

volunteers (2 from Germany, one from Denmark) worked hard to keep the animals safe and content.

Those Red Wattle pigs I bought last month sure have been entertaining. The boar who has 6 Red Wattle lady friends decided to abandon his harem to fall in love with a black Berkshire. No fence



could keep the two apart. They would wander off to the far corners of the field and our attempts to bring them back would see them escape together to another corner. Their inseparable romance could have been the subject of novels. Spring is in the air. Jerry