



Farm News from June

The Rio Grande Rodeo has been going on for 102 years and originated on our farm that long ago. I look forward to going every year since it's only a 20 minute drive from home (and only \$20). The day came and just before leaving, the phone rang. "Your cows are out!" And they were really out, just 2½ miles from the BC border. It took an 8 km. quad ride just to find them.



"What to do, what to do?" Things can go terribly wrong when you're trying to move a herd of cows along a road through a wilderness forest.

If they get spooked they could scatter, calves would separate from cows splintering off into small groups all running different directions through the trees. "Keep them calm". I brought a pail of oats with me and when I caught sight of them I called them "Come Boss!" (If the boss cow comes the rest will follow). Sure enough she started to follow and soon the whole herd was following her, heading in the right direction. I kept calling and dropping little piles of oats all the way to the gate which lead them back to their home pastures. Every animal back home safely! If this would have been a rodeo event I might have placed pretty high.

Grass fed beef? There is a program which guarantees that beef is 100% grass fed all through their lives, no grain. I do not subscribe to that for the reason I just described. Cows love oats and I use oats as a tool to train them to come when called. First Nature Farms Beef - 99.999% grass fed!

Last "Farm News" I mentioned the sad state of poultry processing in Alberta. The last plant had closed down and was sitting for sale. Things have changed and now the facility has a new owner! As soon as I heard this I ordered some turkey chicks however it was too late to start chickens. Too bad the government is now wanting to reduce the number of turkeys a farmer can raise from 299 to 100.

Even though my plan was to get out of bison I did keep back a few young animals to sell this spring. Around 15 of the females decided that they did not want to move on and ended up with calves by their side.

August is breeding season so as a treat I bought them an unrelated, expensive, super stud bull. More calves next year.



Fabio and Marvin were two WWOOFers who visited the farm last winter. They just sent this great 7 minute video of their adventures on the farm including Donovan and Lisa's wedding. Thanks Guys!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CrYwWNwhAk>

"Bucket of Chicken", country style: Jerry

