



## Farm News from July

Tough month for vehicles on the farm. One would think that driving in places like Barcelona, Tel Aviv, Paris, etc. might be more difficult than driving on the farm but apparently not so. This month set the record for the number of accidents our volunteer helpers had.



The road was straight but the gravel was loose. That's what sent my VW Jetta into the swamp. Aside

from all the plastic left behind there are 3 warning lights flashing. Oops!

What to do when you want to drive to the shop but there is a tractor in the way? Drive into it! Which pedal was I supposed to press? Oops!



When you are sitting in the seat of the tractor it is easy to tell how wide the tractor is. An important thing to remember is that the equipment being pulled might be wider than the tractor. Oops!



Rather than working on vehicle repairs I think I will focus on bicycle repairs.

If you get up early before the pigs do you can find them all sleeping, cozied up in their shelters. There may be the odd early riser who is up for a drink or maybe a morning pee. When I went to check on my group of Red Wattle pigs, everyone

was sleeping outside, almost. Inside was the previously pregnant sow, now with 7 brand new babies. Pigs like to farrow (have their babies) in private. Usually I move them to their own private farrowing house (if I'm quick enough) but this time I was caught unprepared. I don't know how pig communication works. "Could you leave, I'm just about to have my babies!" or "Sounds like Preggo over there is about to pig out, let's give her some space." But the sow's pen mates, all 11 of them in this case respected the birthing process and left the shelter they've slept in every night for months to sleep outside. I admire that.



Our two milk cows, Brittany and Clara both freshened (had their calves) this month. We just missed Clara's birthing by two minutes. Unlike the pigs seeking privacy, Clara gave birth right alongside the driveway. Also unlike pigs, cows often require assistance in the process.

So now we have lots of milk, Clara is giving us 6 liters per milking and has the front left teat reserved for Clair her new heifer calf.

