



Farm News from August

On route to visit the pigs I couldn't help but reflect on the field of wheat we seeded in the spring. Now it's fully mature. The large plump heads, densely waving in the late summer breeze were beautiful to see. A couple hundred meters away, the pigs are all grazing but last year they were grazing on the same spot where the wheat is planted now. I couldn't help but think about other pork operations, all over the world. Densely packed in their cages, the by-products had become not fertilizer but pollution problems; killing land, killing rivers and creating dead zones in the ocean.

But back in Goodfare, the opposite is happening. The nutrients are being recycled back into the soil and



eventually growing more food, maybe flour to make pasta or maybe chicken food to make eggs or maybe more pigs!

It's been a good month for the Red Wattles with new babies born. When I bought the Red Wattle stock they came as a package which included 2 other rare sows, the Mulefoots. Like the name, they have a solid hoof like a



mule or horse, unlike the split cloven hooves of cows and other pigs. As a breed they are described as "critically rare". Having no Mulefoot boar to do the breeding our Red Wattle boar jumped into action so now we have some little black pigs with black wattles.



The 102nd Ranch BBQ happened again on the 4th weekend in August. This year we served a stout made in Grande Prairie by the Grain Bin. Their beer just won an award as the "Best Stout in Alberta". Cheers! Another great BBQ!



I wasn't worried but others were. I opened the door to the turkey shelter and then left. Upon return around 75 were wandering in the field. Next, we had to herd them into the neighboring shelter to increase their pasture. Turkey herding is a rare skill involving tai chi type moves. After about 4 minutes they all had happily moved into their new home. Next they'll need Thanksgiving homes. Jerry

