



Farm News from February

What can turn a bar of soap into something special? When it's a gift, when it's homemade and when it's made from the fat from one of our animals. What can make cheese special? When it's a gift, when it's homemade and when it is made from the milk from our milk cow. The delicious selection



of organic cheeses included a camembert, gorgonzola, tomme and a brie which happens to be the name of the milk cow, Brie.

It's great having good help on the farm. Sometimes the help gets so good that I can actually leave the farm and all its occupants (the pigs, cows, bison, donkeys, turkeys, chickens, ducks, dairy cows, cats, fish and turtle) to the capable hands of my helpers. That's what happened this month and along with my daughter we headed south. Our goal? The Amazon. Why? 20% of the oxygen we breathe comes from the rainforest. I wanted to go there and say "thanks".

We arrived in Colombia to the greetings of our Goodfare neighbours who have both an apartment in Bogota and a farm close to ours and also a good grasp of the Spanish language. Colombia is noted as the country that speaks the least amount of English and has the most honest culture in South America. That was demonstrated to me when I tried making a purchase and gave the vendor 10 times the money needed. They laughed and handed the money back taking only

the amount required. It happened 3 times.

It's impossible to summarize the trip in these few lines but here's some words that come to mind: heat (-43 C to +32 C), humidity, air conditioning, fans, showers, flowers, monkeys, trees, massive leaves, flooded



forests, parrots, piranha fishing, steak dinners, indigenous culture, boats, dolphins, frogs, sloths,



smiles, sunsets, anaconda, ants, diversity, etc. etc. It all brings back fond memories. Travel to the Amazon? Highly recommended! 10/10!



Meanwhile, back on the ranch I was reminded of those frustrating days in the fall when the boars would sneak through the fence. I raise 3 types of pigs: Berkshire, Red Wattle, Mulefoot and try to keep the breeds as pure as possible. Those sneaky boars are making genetics more interesting. I returned home to find my black mulefoot sow with red babies. A Berkshire mom had babies with wattles. But one thing they all have in common: pork.



I am so excited about the next farm news. "Moms" the word. Until then, Jerry