



## Farm News from December

For most people, Christmas preparations can be a busy time; even more true if you raise turkeys. There's lots of driving involved to get the birds processed, then distributed in Edmonton and then back to Grande Prairie. On



the final leg of the journey and with orders to fill between Grande Prairie and Dawson Creek, you could

imagine my disappointment when the water pump went on my truck.

With the fan belt hanging and antifreeze dripping there was no steering, no power brakes, no heat and no one open on a Sunday morning. No one except for Canadian Tire.



"We're really busy, later in the afternoon if you're lucky". With no other options I limped it to their store. When I walked in the door they said "we've had a cancellation" so in the truck went. Lucky! Meanwhile I had to call my customers to explain the situation. "No problem" they said, "we'll make it work". So one by one the customers or sometimes their neighbours would find me at the service lounge and we would walk into the shop to pick out their turkey from the back of my truck. One time even the Service Manager escorted a turkey customer into the shop to select their bird. Meanwhile back at the Service counter I heard one shopper exclaim "I didn't know Canadian Tire sold turkeys? I sold 2 more."

Change is always a good thing and there is no shortage of changes happening on and around the farm. The most exciting change is the

great move of my son, his wife and their nine month old son onto our farm.

They had their own farm located just 3 ½ miles away, [The Homestead](#). With a market garden producing veggies and loads of garlic, they also sold eggs, pork, beef and honey at the Grande Prairie Farmers Market. Plans were underway to expand their log home: more rooms, more growing space and more loans.

Meanwhile, back on the ranch, as this author was continuing to age, succession plans were underway. The section of land which had produced so much food for so many people for the past 40 years was needing the youthful energy and creative ideas of the next

generation, the new young agrarians. So with long term thinking they offered their ¼ of land for sale and moved onto First



Nature Farms. Living in their new temporary home, rather than a 3 ½ mile drive it is only a four minute walk for me, and now a three generation farm!

The sale of their land after 5 years of mortgage payments will go a long ways towards building their new dream home. And to make things even better, the new owner of their land is the daughter of our closest neighbour. Win, win, win, win!

Jerry