



## Farm News from February

From the wintery, white silence of the forest comes the sound of a back-up alarm. Not what one would expect to hear living in such a remote area unless you know the source. Not a machine but an owl, a Northern Saw-whet Owl. Standing only 6 inches tall, the little guy has a big carnivorous appetite. This became evident when the WWOOFers were admiring a mouse they had scared up from some boards. "Oh he's so



cute!" were the last (and probably the first) words the mouse heard before the little owl flew between them and snatched up the mouse to

devour it in a nearby tree. One of our WWOOFers later took this cool video. Stop at second 4 to see the real eye. [Eyes on the back of his head?](#)

3/8" plywood is now 3/4". The wooden frame of the hut is now steel tubing. The insulated floors are now made from re-purposed plastic which will not rot. The door frames, great for rubbing on are lined with metal Indestructible? I like to say that the pigs are hard on the buildings but the truth is, it's usually the tractor operator that wrecks them.

$13 + 8 + 10 + 10 + 10 + 9 = 60$   
Not a skill testing question but a total of how many piglets were born in just one night here on the farm. I'm glad we got those farrowing houses finished. The next day when we counted piglets again there were 63. That's a lot of birthing but I can't help but think of what happened 3 weeks and 3 days ago. Six sows? A lot of breeding for one day.

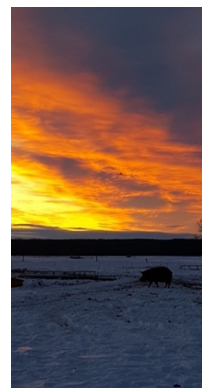


Where pork really comes from

The workshop has been a happening place lately. The double barrel wood heater has been keeping the shop warm these last few weeks and there's been no shortage of projects. One such project that's been on the list for a long time has been the construction of new farrowing huts. The 8 x 8 foot buildings are the perfect place for pregnant sows



to give birth. Every time I construct something for the pigs I build it stronger and stronger.



Listening outside the door I can hear someone snoring, kind of a nasal snore. Then there's the sound of a sighing wide mouth yawn. Big stretch. Then, "was that a fart?" Early morning with the pigs sounds a lot like home. Jerry