

Farm News from April

Like the Bob Dylan song "You ain't going nowhere" (unless you have a 4x4). To the north - washed out culvert. To the south - only mud. To the west - the wilderness of BC. To the east - 50 meters of creek flowing across the road. Passable, maybe. The best option? Stay home!



They are loving it! Pigs are like rototillers when it comes to sod. Their powerful snouts rip through ground better than most farm equipment. I was reminded of how strong those snouts could be. One time we were trying to load a sow onto a trailer. Rather than hopping onto the back of the trailer she decided to lift the heavy 7 foot steel door off the hinges with her nose. It took 3 grunting men to put the door back on.

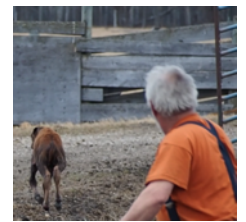


Madeline the escaping pig from the last "Farm News" has made the news again! In an effort to keep her from breaking out, rather than an electric fence we used 5 foot metal panels, enough to contain a 1200 pound cow. Unfortunately for Madeline, she tried to escape again but this time severely injuring herself. Animals have an incredible ability to heal



but Madeline's wound was not getting better. I was treating her with antibiotics and pain killers but the time came to "put her out of her misery". Just minutes away from a trip to pig heaven is when Madeline surprised us all. She gave birth. That seemed to give her a new lease on life. Her wound started healing and soon her family of 3 was growing. Escape is now the last thing on her mind!

"This is going to be cold" was my thought when I saw the bison calf tangled in some logs and wire in the middle of the overflowing creek. It wasn't just the water that bothered me, it was the calf's mother on the other side of the gate that I kept thinking about. She was desperate to get to her bleating calf and if she got through the gate she would come straight for the guy in the middle of the creek trying to free up the drowning animal from the wire. Fortunately, that didn't happen. The calf was freed and went running for his mother, ducking under the gate to reach her. That's when I noticed something. It wasn't just the mother that was there waiting, it was the mother's whole family. There was her calf from last year and also the one from the year before that. The family of 3 were all there, waiting at their baby brother to join them. Family reunited, the 4 went running off to their new pasture to join the rest of the herd. Never a dull moment. Jerry



The big pig move is on! Now that spring is here the time has come to rotate the pigs onto fresh, new pastures.

