

Farm News - July

After years of super dry weather, we finally are getting the rains we had only dreamed of. So far we have had ten inches in the past month causing the swollen creeks to flow over the road. For a few days the roads were underwater to the south, north and east, almost stranding us. The creek that flows in front of our house usually doesn't flow much at all due to the beavers. Not this year. For the first time it became a great spot to go white water canoeing.

Grizzly bears still making our neighbourhood their home with sightings of 5 animals just 2 miles from our house. Fish and Wildlife have set up cameras to see who has been eating the neighbours' calves. A black wolf seems to be responsible. Although the elusive wolves are common in the area, I haven't seen one in years.

While wolves, bears and coyotes are roaming the neighbourhood, my free ranging pet turkeys are patrolling the yard. The six black birds, 2 toms and 4 hens are now sharing parental responsibilities caring for their white chicken chick. (I slipped the chicken underneath a nesting turkey last month). The turkeys mix freely with the chickens who also roam the yard but the little white chicken chick definitely thinks she's a turkey.

"Jack" our 6 1/2 month old Wolfhound puppy is now 30 inches at the shoulder. The gangly pup continues to learn about life on the farm. The other day he happened to wander a little too close to a chicken hen with her 3 inch tall chick. What can a chicken do to protect her baby from a beast 10 times it's size? The hen jumped toward the dog flapping her wings which turned the dog around. Then she flew at the back end of the dog sinking her beak into a spot that must have been pretty tender, sending Jack yelping back to his doghouse.

Farm auctions are a good thing to stay away from if you don't want to spend money. Every once in a while some deal comes up, you have seconds to think and you just can't resist raising your hand. That's how I ended up with my new/used 51 foot grain auger.

Every time I walk in the pastures I am amazed how green and lush the clovers and grasses are. "Haven't seen it for years!" If it was your lawn you would be bummed out because the grass was growing so quickly. If you were a buffalo or a cow you would be in your glory. 5 star dining! Every mouth full of crispy, juicy, succulent grass will eventually turn into tender, juicy, succulent steaks. This is something I wouldn't discuss openly with the cows. No sense spoiling a good meal. Jerry

First Nature Farms is a family farm in the Peace Country. Once a month, First Nature Farms owner Jerry Kitt writes about his experiences on the farm



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