



## Farm News - September

*Gobbling Gobblers!* When the 300 turkey chicks arrived in the beginning of June, they were about the size of a large egg. Just a handful of food was enough to satisfy the appetites of the little peepers. Now, just 3 ½ months later, we are carrying 180 kilograms of food to them every day. By the time Thanksgiving comes they should weigh 7.5 kg each, an increase of 140 times. If you were to apply that rate of growth to humans, just 4 months after your 8 pound baby was brought home, he/she would weigh 1200 pounds!

Over 18 years ago I brought our 8 pound baby home, the second. Now, along with adulthood has come the "need for independence". The move to the city has made the farm house about as quiet as it can get. My plan to add onto the house has once again been put on hold.

As food production becomes more industrial, the relationship between food and nature becomes more distant. Not here on First Nature Farms. I was reminded of this the other day when a couple visiting from Australia while canoeing on a neighbouring pond, photographed a family of river otters. Otters are a good sign of a healthy ecosystem. Nice to have them around.

Always a good feeling, having the wood shed filled for the winter. It takes 9 cords of firewood to keep the log house warm on the coldest winter. Thanks to the good help from Australia, Corey & Anika (graphic designer & recent graduate/sheep farmer) and to Holland, Freija (lawyer), the shed is again full and in order to stay warm for the winter, all we need now are paper and matches.

When it comes to playing outside, no animal has a better time than a pig. Like kids at recess, they race around and invent all kinds of games. One game that I like to watch "run for it!" (I'm not sure what they call it). It usually starts out when the pigs are having "quiet time". They're all doing their own thing, munching grass, digging in the dirt, lying in the sun when all of a sudden one pig will make a special call "Oof! Oof!". Suddenly they're all up on their feet and following the instigator, everyone racing around the field. A few seconds later they come to a stop and go back to what they were doing. Another one they like to play is "tag". This involves one pig picking up a piece of something, a root or piece of hose and then another pig has to try and get it out of it's mouth. Soon several pigs are involved and when another pig manages to seize the object, they're "it" and the game continues. This same game is also very popular with the turkeys too.