



Farm News from May

Some people complain when their adult children move back home. Not me. The welcome return of our daughter has brought a lot of changes and much needed help.

Aside from the expanded garden and greenhouse there is now the decision to raise chickens again. With the chicks at week 3, she is proving a better chicken farmer than me. Pretty soon they'll be on pasture and those



chickens will have some luxury dining. Seeded in their chicken pasture are oats, peas, clovers, alfalfa, and a mixture of grasses. Tasty food makes tasty chickens?

The big pig move is under way and the pigs are loving it. They have been in the same location all winter and have made lots of contributions to the soil. That's the goal: nutrients from animals in a symbiotic relationship as compared to buying chemical fertilizers.

Now the big job is moving all the pig houses, feeders,



water systems, fences and pigs to their new lush, spring pastures.

The old winter pasture will eventually be nourishing some fall wheat and eventually become pasture for cows and bison. It will take 15 years before the pigs return.

A 40 foot cultivator is a lot of steel and the tractor to pull it is a lot of horsepower. My first pass around the field was brought to a sudden halt when this little bird ran in front with a "broken wing". I got off the tractor to look and the little killdeer kept running across the field. Maybe it's leg looked broken too. Easy prey for a predator or so the predator would think. The predator would chase the ailing bird but the bird would always be faster. Finally the predator would give up, at this point a long ways away from the nest the little bird was trying to protect. Nature, you gotta love it!



Galileo is turning into a pretty nice dog with one exception: he developed an appetite for chickens. When I found him with my only male duck I was not too happy. Next time I was buying dog food I saw on the label "free range duck". The next one contained free range chicken. Ya right! Now his dog food contains sea food and salmon. Jerry