

## Farm News from October

I know they're delicious, so do the folks in Vancouver but now the word is out. Maddhatters, a restaurant in Grande Prairie had featured pork chops on their menu and then took it one step further. They entered a competition: "Best New Menu Items - Entrées" and came in 2<sup>nd</sup>, the only entry in the top 10 from Canada.



"Lightly brined and grilled, the chop is served with housemade chorizo gnocchi, braised pork belly and smokey maple pork jus."

Congratulations to chef Dana Gough!

Expect the unexpected. Little did I expect that the delivery of organic wheat would not be quite dry enough to keep. 14.5% moisture is the magic number that farmers try to achieve when they decide if they can safely store their harvest. A few weeks after the delivery I noticed small lumps of grain that were looking moldy. Then big lumps. Then I realized that if I didn't get all the wheat out immediately that the whole 40 ton (\$20 thou) load could become one solid lump.

The truck arrived to take away the grain but we were having problems. First was moving around in the mud, next was denting the new 13" diameter auger, then attempting to repair the dent, then trying to get the grain to drop out of the bin, then plugging

up the 80 foot auger. That's when we gave up for the night but not without suffering the consequences of breathing the dust: coughing, nausea, and headaches which lasted for days. Goodbye face masks, hello respirators.



Dust particles could be the smallest danger on the farm but we also have the largest. One thing that grizzlies and I share in common is our love for pork.



Fortunately for the pigs, bears have a tendency to sniff a fence before the cross it. Not a good idea if one is sniffing an electric fence. I followed the tracks through

field where the pigs are. The bear tracks made a wide circle around the pigs. That told me this wasn't his first visit to our farm. It's amazing how one shock which lasts for 3/10,000 of a second can create such a lasting memory. Lesson learned.

Halloween has always been a fun time to visit the neighbourhood kids and their parents who get to drive them around. In the past we've avoided candy and given out everything from potato guns to bison tenderloin (the 4 year old was not impressed with that one). This year was going to be special: a certificate for a fishing trip to our fish pond but for the first time no one came! The good thing? I won't be eating left over candies. Jerry