



Farm News from December

Coldest place on earth? Grande Prairie? According to the news on Monday December 27th, the coolest spot to be on this planet was our local city of Grande Prairie.

"How cold?" you might ask? -44.4 C! We were ready for it, as ready as one could be. Our log house has wood as the only source of heat and with the fire blazing we managed to eventually reach a temperature of +21 C. Not bad considering it was plus 7 inside the house when I woke up.

Cold weather happens every winter and many of the WWOOFers who stay with us have experienced their coldest temperatures while visiting here. "Jeanette" however may have set the record. She is from the island of



Borneo and when I asked about her coldest temperature she said "it got down to +23 C". She was one of the brave souls that

went out to feed the pigs that Monday morning; Jeanette, Remi (France) and Megatron (UK but she's another story). "You just have to keep moving." No problem with over 300 pigs to feed.

And what about the pigs? We knew cold weather was coming so their houses were filled with straw to keep them cozy. When it's cold like this we delay their feeding time by an hour or two since they're much like us; they don't want to get out of bed in the morning.

The best part of the day (in my opinion) is when you first step outside in the morning. Our door faces east so the sunrise usually is just waiting to be discovered. I was appreciating that sunrise one crisp December morning when I heard a sound that was totally out of place: quacking. My confused glance at the frozen sky yielded nothing but then I heard it again: quacking!



This time from under my feet, below the deck." What the?" It ended up that our ducks had moved from their house to our house. A confusing way to start the day. Expect the unexpected.

December may not be the best time for having babies but the group of five sows didn't care. For years I've been trying to select pigs for their maternal instincts, a trait



that has been abandoned, replaced by farrowing crates. Straw and instinct: the result? 45 babies at last count. Jerry