

Farm News from July

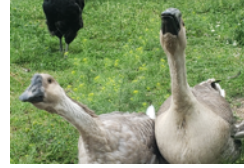


There are three kinds of people (other than visitors) who drive down our roads: the workers (gas and oil), the lost and the curious. They're easy to tell apart. The workers drive fast and raise a quick hand when they pass. The lost stop at the intersection and often turn around going back the direction they came. It's the curious that I enjoy seeing. They're the ones who like to check out what "those organic people are up to". They're also easy to spot because they have to go at least two miles out of their way to get to us and they drive by really slow, heads turned in our direction. Just a couple days ago I saw a couple in a pickup driving by really slow. They didn't see me in the field. When they did catch sight of my big wave they turned their heads in the opposite direction and drove off, not wanting to be identified. Too bad. I would love to talk to them and share what we are doing. We're one of the few organic farms in the area and good subject material for coffee shop gossip.



I hope that they noticed that our organically managed hay crop was looking pretty good. A record year for bales. Good hay, no rain, no equipment breakdowns (so far). Happy, healthy animals this winter!

Problem solved! The yard chickens were free ranging not only in the yard but also on the deck of our house. Nice to see but it's the squishies leave behind that are not too nice. Now with two geese who have become guard geese, 15 runner ducks, and five



turkeys, the thought of all those deck visitors was too much. The question was: would the birds respect an electric fence

as much as all the other animals do?



Apparently so! Now they have their own yard pasture which also keeps them safe from predators and we have a poop free deck.

We've been hosts for travelers for many years now but this year we officially signed up with the Young Agrarian program which focuses on people who want to learn the skills of farmers. How lucky we were to accept two applicants from Belgium - twins! "Since we were children we always dreamt of becoming farmers" says Thomas. Arriving with

agriculture degrees, both Thomas and Matthius are keen learners with a focus on



regenerative agriculture. Regenerative agriculture? It's an ecological approach to farming that encourages natural systems to produce healthy soils, taking carbon from the air and putting it back into the soil where it belongs; a method of farming that the whole world could benefit from. Hats off to the twins, a noble path to follow and also to lead. They're here for a year (+ we hope). Jerry