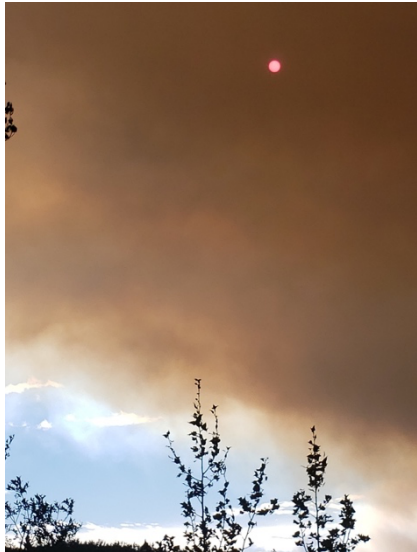


Farm News from September



A lot can happen in a month. In the last Farm News I didn't mention the smoke in the air. Living next to BC's vast forests, we've gotten used to it. Remember our motto: "Expect the unexpected"? I did not expect to see three fire trucks sitting on the county road. I was even more surprised when they drove into the yard.

The Bearhole Lake fire was just west of us



and with winds blowing from the west gusting up to 80 km/hr the Fire Department said we were in a "critical zone".

Burning embers could be falling all around our farm starting bush, brush

and grass fires everywhere. The pigs were on grass, right next to the brush along the creek. The cows were in the forest. "Do you have an emergency plan to move them?" they asked. I also had to consider our bison, chickens, turkeys, our house, the shop, the drying shed full of garlic, tractors, vehicles, and lots of et ceteras.

The Fire Department with at least a dozen firemen went to work setting up pumps, hoses, sprinklers. "Just in case we want to be ready". How quickly my day had changed. Needless to say things were a little tense for a few days. Fortunately the winds died down and rain came. The firemen returned and packed up all the hoses. The fire was out. It burned 6400 hectares.

"Expect the unexpected". I was so appreciative of the County of Grande Prairie Fire Department but I did not expect to have so many neighbours and friends call to offer assistance. I was really touched. Thanks to Clay, Ash, Sam, Brad, Trevor, Kevin, Stacey, Sarada, Corey, Anna, Chad, Sam, Boyd, Esther, Kolby, Lee, Peter, Larry, Gord and others who offered. "If you need a hand". I was reminded that friends, neighbours and community are the foundation of a good life.

I love getting replies to the Farm News and my apologies for not replying to every reply but there was one item that set the record for replies: naming the boar. As I mentioned last time, all of our past boars were named after slang words for penises and we were running out of ideas.

Here's just a few of the suggestions that came in: Mr. Bite, Shiva Lingam, Ulysses, Curly, John Thomas, Mister Twister, Schmock, Zob, Slippery weasel, Trouser Snake (or just Snake), Pecker, Purple Helmet, Pounder, etc. I must be leading a sheltered life because I've never heard of most of them. We did settle on one and the new boar has a new name. Mr. Winky!

This photo is of Mr. Winky out for a drink with his lady friend. For every one boar there are 25 sows and no, I'm not looking for names for the females.

