

Farm News from March



Introducing Zorka! Named by her previous Russian owners, Zorka is half Brown Swiss and half Canadienne (Canada's only breed of milk cow).

Twice a day Zorka gets milked, once at 9 AM and again at 6 PM.

The results? Around 20 liters a day plus we're still milking Clara who gives us another 4. It may seem like a lot of milk but Zorka supplies most of the dairy needs of our close neighbours, 16 adults plus children. In Canada it is illegal to sell milk and being such law abiding citizens we ask for no remuneration. Instead our neighbours are doing us a favour by coming over to milk the cow which gives us a little bit of time off from the routine.

What do we do with all that milk? Yogurt smoothies and kefir have become really popular in our house and there's no shortage of cream cheese. A hascap (honey berry) cheese cake helped celebrate my grandson's first birthday. Mozerella is simple and quick to make and is best made with fresh milk. The other day



we had quesadillas and my son commented "this cheese is so fresh it was still inside the cow 2 hours ago!"

More construction on the farm! The houses that our pigs live in are getting old. I originally built most of them for sheltering turkeys but that was 30 years ago. Many updates and fixes later we are still using them but over the years I have learned all their weak points. Now the new houses are built super strong and if sometime way off in the future my grandson decides to raise pigs, he won't have to worry about repairs.



Madeline. I call her the PITA pig - Pain In The Ass. She is gentle and really appreciates human contact but she is an escape artist. She's easy to spot among the many black Berkshires because she's the only sow who is grey. Because of her unique colour and character she has become a favorite and one that we really wanted to keep. If she became pregnant her babies would be spotted also and it would help us know how long it takes our pigs to grow. But after many, many attempts to keep her inside the fence with her Berkshire companions, she always would find a way to escape. Of the thousands we have raised, no other pig has been so talented. Now things are going to change. She is pregnant and mothers do not want to leave their babies. Maybe the babies can learn and then teach their mother to stay in the fence. Or could fence jumping be a genetic trait?

