



## Farm News - June

For awhile this spring the season was starting off with a drought. "Only a 1/2 inch of rain since it rained last year!" How quickly things can change. When the forecaster said "rain" I thought, "oh ya, I heard that before." Four inches of rain later, then came another 8 inches of heavy wet snow. The situation quickly changed from drought to flood. The heavy snow brought down all the pig fences, snapped many trees which fell on the cattle fences and also landed on the power line cutting off the electricity (and the new high speed internet). The pigs were everywhere, in the feed bins, separated boars were now fighting, sows wandering out to the road. The cattle were a mile from home. The 4300 sq. foot poultry shelter which I was planning to pasture my chickens in collapsed to the ground. Then the water level started rising. The pig houses which were filled with dry straw the previous day were now filled with water. At 2:30 in the morning we had to rescue some new born piglets as the water started surrounding their house. Of course their mother would not let us into her house to steal her babies so we had to tip her house up on end, catch the squealing babies, carry them away to high ground with the very angry mother sloshing behind us. In the morning there was a foot of water in their house, later that day it had floated away. My 1100 chicks were fine in their brooder barn up until their water ran out. The 100 foot deep well was useless without electricity. That's another story. One thing I was very thankful for was Craig the WWOOFer who had decided to experience a month of farm life. Like I tell every WWOOFer, "Expect the unexpected"

The waters subsided, the power eventually returned, the cattle came back, the well started working and we were left with the "list" of things to do o get back to "normal". Unfortunately it was a new one, in addition to the normal list which usually takes up the day. It's been a very busy month.

Chicken shelters are now upright and improvements have made to make them better than ever. The chickens are now moved from their brooder barn to green pasture and are loving it. This is my 32<sup>nd</sup> batch of organic chickens and the best yet.

The push was now on to get the brooder barn ready for the turkey chicks. That urgency became even more urgent when the phone call came to say they would be hatching a day early. This was also the time that "Roger from Switzerland" flew in. This was Rogers 3<sup>d</sup> visit to the farm. The day's pace was steady, long hours with short breaks, moving chickens, shovelling bedding, cleaning, mixing feed, etc. It was only after we had everything ready for the turkeys when another phone call came, "short hatch, expect them next week".

Grizzly bear in the neighbourhood! I managed to catch a glimpse of the bear when I went to pick up the seed drill from my neighbour. He-she was around 3 years old and a beautiful dark copper color. Although we live in an area that is home to both grizzlies and black bears, we rarely have any problems with them. Jerry