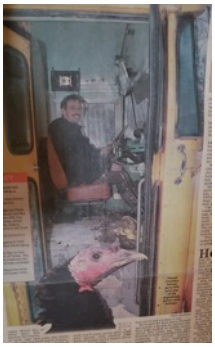
First Nature Farms is a family farm in the Peace Country. Once a month, First Nature Farms owner Jerry Kitt writes about his experiences on the farm.
We acknowledge the homeland of the many diverse First Nations and Métis people whose ancestors have walked this land since time immemorial.
We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Treaty 8.

Farm News from May

First Nature Farms
certified organic since 1990

Ready for the match, 35 years of history.

When I drove to the hatchery in spring of '89 I was planning to pick up around 20 wild turkeys. "I'll give you a deal if you take them all" said the hatchery man. "Better expand the enclosure." I phoned home to say. "I've got 192 turkeys in the back seat". As Christmas approached I had to think of some way to get the birds to market so I bought a cheap school bus. The top portion of this photo shows all the plywood pieces used to make shelves the turkeys sat in for the drive. I used the shelves for another year but the bus was unreliable which promted the next invention.



The bottom part of the photo is "the turkey box". It had 16 compartments and fit on a flatdeck trailer. The drive was 736 km to get to the processing plant. Driving all night in a pickup truck pulling a trailer was much more pleasant than the smelly school bus although the smell did keep me awake.
Business was good in Vancouver and Edmonton and soon I was hatching my own, 1400 in one year until the Turkey Marketing Board shut us down (another story).

With the addition of a match those memories will become a pile of rusty screws and ashes but the farm is still in the turkey business; I just picked up 50 yesterday.

The highlight of a pig's day is feeding time. Every pig is squeeling the same message: "Feed me! Me first!" With around a hundred squealing at once the noise level can become extreme. The goal is to feed everyone at the same time so each pig has equal opportunity. As the buckets of grain are filled the intensity increases until finally the grain is spread in the troughs. Then: instant quiet." Ahhh".

Feeding time is the best time to count pigs and I've realized I have more animals than I do market. What to do? August Farm News should have an answer.

The way we raise pigs is **so** different than the conventional guys. Our goals go far beyond pork production. Rather than creating pollution and unhappy pigs, we are using the animals to enrich the soil quality and enhance the quality of their lives. Not without a bit of work however. This aerial photo details the moves in just the past year; not just animals but fences, shelters, water stations, feed troughs, etc.

All we need now is rain.

Jerry