



Farm News from May

Year three for the drought. Is the weather changing? Spring rains in May; that was the norm. We used to count on them. This year we haven't had a millimeter since the snow melted. The ground was so dry that it sucked all the moisture from the snow as it melted leaving nothing to run off into the creeks.

Even the forecasts are drying up. The prediction would be rain, then the forecast would change to showers, then to a 60% chance, then 30% and when the day arrived there would be nothing.

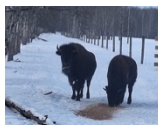
We border up to the forests of BC which are also tinder dry. This photo was taken from the road, close to our buildings. The fire grew to 4590 hectares in two or three days. Our neighbours, just 3 miles away, were put on evacuation alert. We organized valuables: passports, photos, hard drives, etc.



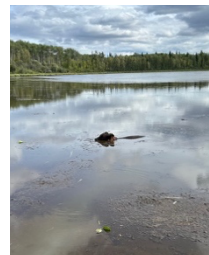
and moved equipment and vehicles away from the forest edge. We also planned escape routes for all the critters: ducks, turkeys, chickens

cows and pigs should they need evacuation. There is only one thing the forests, farms and fields need right now - rain.

It was 1992 when we first brought bison to our farm. At one time there were over a hundred but the pastures couldn't keep up. We sold them all except for two elusive ones who we could never get close to - until this month. No more escaping. This time we're keeping them in the freezer.



It was in the fall of last year we had some cows escape and almost drowned in "Cow Sucker Pond". We had to do some



emergency fencing and the quickest way was to put up an electric fence which used two, heavy, six volt batteries. The location was very, very remote so we were surprised when everything went missing.

Stolen, or so we thought!

This spring we had to go back to the area.

That's when I spotted

something red, deep in the forest, a hundred feet off the fence line. I walked up to it and was



amazed. It was one of the heavy batteries! Soon we found the second. This was not the work of a thief. Our only conclusion - a bear? But why? And how?

Pigs are very curious creatures. Couple of



weeks ago I had to back up a trailer and needed to park the truck in one of the pig pastures. "Only for a short time" I thought. When I went back to move the truck, I was horrified to find the pigs playing with a tangled

mess of automotive wiring. "Oooo! This is serious!" But when we checked the lights, etc. everything worked!

Conclusion? The wiring was probably from our old water truck. Nothing electrical



works on the old truck anyhow. Now I know why. Blame it on the pigs?

Jerry