



Farm News from June



3000 ha. wildfire to the west quickly grew to 26,000 hectares and it was headed our direction!

The fire

department issued a mandatory evacuation

order meaning once we left the farm, we would not be able to return.

Abandoning the animals was not an option. Every day we watched the winds, anything from the northwest would be bad news.

If the flames got closer, fireballs would be dropping from the sky. With winds gusting to 60 km/hr anything could ignite:



straw in the pig pastures, grass surrounding our buildings, equipment and homes. We were busy! Trying to keep everything watered down was the priority and on a farm, "everything" is a pretty large area. The three water tanks

were emptied and filled continuously. Trying to save the "valuables" seemed an infinite job.

Twenty-five buildings all

contained valuables. If the farm burned down, what would we need to keep it going? Everything!

Cool weather and a bit of rain helped the fire fighters gain control. Soon the valuables made it back to the buildings and life returned to normal.

There was a good side to the fire however. It was all the neighbours, friends, family, and WWOOFers who offered to help. Many I hadn't heard from in years. It helped redefine what caring and community meant to us.

With the fire threat gone it was time to get back to spring work and that meant seeding. In our case we had pigs still grazing on the ground we wanted to plant. Moving fences, buildings, water systems and pigs onto new pasture was just the start. Then we had to fill up their old wallows, then leveling, discing and harrowing. This time the soil had a special treat; we spread around a hundred tons of



compost. All this was great but there is only one thing

missing - rain! We've had $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch since the snow left. We are home to trillions of living creatures, all waiting for moisture. Desperate? I'm ready to sign up for dance lessons - rain dance.

Jerry

