



Farm News from July



Monster puffball! We found this giant right next to our garden. The circumference? Five feet! Although puffballs are edible, I had to leave this one to finish its life. The largest ever recorded measured 8 ft, 8 inches (2.64 meters).

oats and peas struggling to grow in this year's drought.

This past month we've also been building some barbed wire fences, replacing one that is 40 years old.

Most farmers would just go to the store and buy pressure treated posts.



Not us. We do it the hard way by cutting tamarack

trees that have been killed by the forest fires, then sharpening them before pounding them in with a heavy post pounder mounted on a skid steer. This one should last another 40 years.



Building fences? Over the past 40 years we've built lots. If you wanted to check all the fences lines on the farm, you'd be walking at least 25 miles. Most of it would be four strand barbed wire, permanent and low maintenance. In the case of the pigs, it is all electric. Since they move several times a year, the pig fencing is all temporary. The one-centimeter fiberglass posts can be pounded in with a hammer or rock. The wire is more like string and comes in reels, something like fishing reels. Simple and quick. *On the subject of fishing:*



This



aerial photo taken yesterday shows all of the

fifteen pig groups. In the top of the photo you can see the darker lines, the remains of fence lines from earlier this spring. On the left is the pig pasture from last year. The greenery are the

What is summer without picnics?

With fire bans we have abandoned the campfires and resorted to our amazing Biolite camp stove. This unit is incredibly efficient using a piece of one inch lumber the size



of a sheet of paper to cook 24 sausages, a liter of coffee and roast marshmallows for smores. Even more amazing: it also produces electricity so you can charge your cell phones from power generated by fire.

Jerry