

Farm News from May



We've always maintained certain morals when it came to farming; it was what we believed in. Back in 1990, when we learned we could get certified as an organic farm, we went for it. Thirty-seven years



was a long time ago. Then, when we learned that the way we've been farming for years was now considered "regenerative", we looked at the standards and said "that's us". We applied, were inspected and now we are considered a "certified organic regenerative" farm. Same thing with the seeds and feed ingredients we bring to our farm; no GMO's. Same thing with the way we had raised our cattle for so many years; totally grass fed.



The standards we apply to raising our farm animals? Animal Welfare Approved.



Now there's something new. For years we have tried to co-exist with the wildlife on our farm. Bears and coyotes have always lived on the lands we occupy and rather than eliminating the predators, we've tried to live with them and not to disturb their natural diet. Pork, beef and chicken taste great but are no substitute for the natural diet: rabbits, mice, grouse, etc. The local newspaper got a hold of this story and eventually, so did a group called "Wildlife Friendly". They are an international organization that recognize farms who produce food while maintaining a healthy habitat for wildlife. In their case: lions, tigers, elephants, gorillas, wolf, even some insects. According to them, we are the first in Canada to be certified.



There's a new form of currency that has become surprisingly popular - pork. For a short while we had a surplus of finished pigs who were looking for new homes. Pork rich and cash poor. I was negotiating on a used bay window I planned to put into a cabin. \$500. "Would you take a side of pork? Deal done!" When the dentist estimated \$2000 I asked "would you trade for pork? Deal done!" When I was in Vancouver and my MacBook needed repairs, I mentioned "trade for pork?" Their eyes lit up. MacBook repaired!



Big pig move. Every spring the pigs move onto new pastures and the old one gets reseeded. This is a big job: 43 houses, 14 water stations and around 350 pigs! According to our rotation plans, this piece of pasture will be re-grazed by pigs in the year 2041.



Thanks to the folks who helped finance the solar watering projects for the farmers in Cuba. You can still help to fulfill the dream.

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Jerry