



Farm News from August

Summertime should be a time for summer holidays but farm work often gets in the way. When my kids were growing up, we rarely had time to take a break but now, off-farm adventures have become a grandparent's pursuit. This past month I took 12 days, a



truck and camper, a five and a seven-year-old and went on an adventure to Churchill, Manitoba. The adventure included a 16 hour train ride on an old 1950's VIA Rail train.

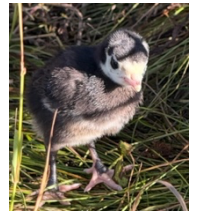
The goal: to create lifetime memories. The hundreds of Beluga whales within a few meters of our boat were certainly memorable as were the polar bears and the fun times together.



Mystery turkey! Our chicken coup is home to more than just chickens. There are a few ducks, a goose and several turkeys sharing the space. Our chickens are in their senior years so egg laying is a thing of the past. Our turkeys however are prolific egg layers and that's mostly what we collect for our kitchen. However, this is not what the turkeys have in mind and after a while they try to outsmart us by hiding their eggs. This time they were successful and hatched two eggs. We put the young poults together with their mom into a separate maternity coup. Everything was going well until two weeks later a third, newly hatched, mystery turkey found its way into the maternity coup. We have no idea who laid



the egg but they sat on it for 28 days and then was gone, leaving this orphaned turkey who wandered through the tall grass, found our maternity coup, snuck inside and was adopted by the new mom. We don't normally name our poultry but this one is "Lucky".

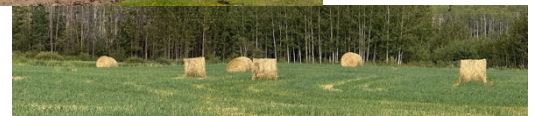


One common farm activity I often write about is moving the pigs. It takes a lot of work but the rewards are many (especially for the pigs). They may have forgotten their old pasture but we haven't. Since the spring work



of seeding, the oats and peas

have finally received enough

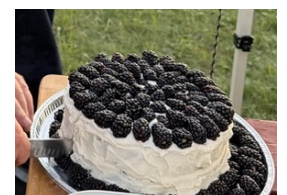


moisture to grow. This past month the crop was cut and rolled into round bales. The straw will keep the pigs cozy in the winter, the oats and peas will give them treats to nibble on and the sweet clover we under seeded will grow next year, a gift to the soil.

The 110th Annual BBQ was another August event where friends and neighbours got a chance to gather and participate in the joke telling contest. The "pot luck" event



featured barbecued suckling pig, hickory smoked chicken, scrumptious cheesecakes and a delicious list of other culinary treats.



Good thing the BBQ happens only once a year. August 21st is the next one. See you then? Jerry