



# Down on the Farm

Maple K Farms

Colfax, Washington

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 31, 2011

Special points  
of interest:

**Come visit  
us on the  
farm!**

Please call be-  
fore you visit to  
make sure we  
are here to  
show you  
around.

509-397-4589

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## Y.O.U. has Arrived

Deer hunting season came with more anxiousness than the first time I ever went hunting on my own. The reason – Justin Ristine was coming to hunt. Justin was our Y.O.U. hunter on his “hunt of a lifetime”.

In August we helped build the blind provided by Y.O.U. with help from the group’s organizers. We had been putting out deer blocks for two months. That along with a daily regime of picking and distributing apples in line-of-

he had been trained for. Next morning – NO Deer – Not Good! However, that evening two bucks stepped out, in range and with a clear shot, Justin downed his first buck with one shot at about 125 yards.

I really don’t know who was the most excited, Justin, his dad, Joe Carpenter (the master hunter), Cindy Carpenter (the founder of the organization), or myself.

All I can say for sure is there was a lot of celebrating going on.

With Justin’s successful deer hunt, another celebration began, because this was the first hunt of the fledgling organization. All the planning, fund-



sight of the blind had us hoping a deer would wander by at an opportune moment. Opening morning came and went without a deer in sight – NOT GOOD-but Justin was not deterred. That evening several does and one exceptional buck did come within sight, but not long enough for Justin to take the single shot

raising and organizing had come together. Cheryl and I were proud to be a part of such a wonderful organization.



If anyone would like to learn more about Y.O.U. or help in anyway, please contact them through their website <http://www.youthoutdoorsu.org> or by calling Cindy Carpenter, founder & president of Youth Outdoors Unlimited at 509-431-1604.



## American Tree Farms



### “Follow-up”

Just a note to follow-up

The election cycle has now come and gone – thankfully. In August, I placed first in a field of four candidates for Port Commissioner which gave me the “opportunity” to move on to the general election in November.

Then the work really began. After knocking on approximately 2000 doors, posting over 200 signs, participating in 2 candidate forums, and attending 10 city council meetings, I was again waiting to learn what my future would hold. November 8<sup>th</sup> came and with 55% of the votes cast in my favor, I now will have the responsibility of Whitman County Port Commissioner to add to my duties. Thanks to all of you that sent positive thoughts my way.

Since our last newsletter, we have been certified as an American Tree Farm. What does that mean?

It means our practices of planning, planting, and managing our timber acres have been inspected and approved as sustainable and ecologically friendly.

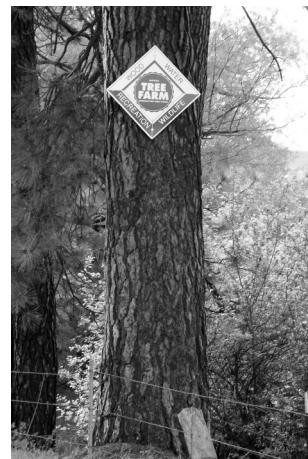
While we do not plan to ever harvest any of the timber, any that could come from Maple K Farms would meet the “Green Standard” that some building jobs now

require.

When we were going through the planning and application process for our forestry management plan the plan developer asked if we would like to participate in this program. We thought why not – it’s what we do.

We are one of the very few, if not the only, approved American Tree Farm in Whitman County. So when you go by, look for the sign which is located – where

else – on the side of one of our trees.



## Bzzzzzz.....



That was the sound that could be heard on an ever increasing level this summer. Why?

Well... we started yet another venture with a bee keeper in the area. Honey --- not my dear, patient wife, but the kind that Pooh ever so much loves.

With all the unsprayed apple trees, abundant flowering natural flora and the close proximity to water, it seemed like

a good habitat for bees.

We tracked down a local bee keeper to get his opinion. Not only did he like what he saw – he immediately

started negotiations on using a share basis to site his bees on our property.

He brought in two hives to see how they would do and in less than three weeks, they had doubled. We ended the season with a total of five hives of bees in residence at

the “Meyers Place”.

Everything turned out great. The bees loved the place; the bee keeper found a location that is extremely rare with no pesticide spray; and we ended up with some delicious honey but no stings. Even Pooh would love this deal.

So, in the future, honey may be an offering from Maple K Farms, in addition to the free range eggs and beef.





## Maple K Show Team

Well it has been quite a year for the Maple K Farms show

team. Grace helped show at the Spokane Interstate

Fair once again. Kellan assisted with the cattle in tack area. One of his favorite words is "COWS!" stated with emphasis.

Our newest showman arrived on September 10, an easy birthday to remember 9-10-11. She is Zakiah Mae Carter (quite observant of what is going on around her). She hasn't ridden her first calf yet, but I'm sure that day will come.

To add to the team, Sam and Peach announced that they will be having a baby sometime in April. So, by the next newsletter, we should have a picture of the whole team to watch for at future shows.



## What is All That Stuff?



of the property we started finding more and more early 1920's and 30's farm machinery scattered around. Rather than

When one drives by the "Meyers Place" along SR 195 just south of Colfax, you will see a growing collection of antique farm machinery. As we started the clean-up



iron, I started thinking (always trouble in my case) that there is not much of this stuff around anymore. So.... I started bringing it out to the highway and lining it up by the rock pit where people could see it. To date there is a rod weeder, plow, cultivator, buck rake, hay chopper



and threshing machine. What is it they ask? One man's junk is another man's gold.







## Maple K Farms

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**We are on the web  
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**Naturally Grown, Naturally Good!**

If you are not interested in receiving this newsletter, please let us know. Thank you.



## Special Express!

enough to purchase said car and present it to us when they picked up their beef this fall. It was an unexpected, but appreciated gesture. The cattle car has been added to my train and to complete the picture, I had to make some Highland cattle for the farm. So we are now ready for Santa, with all of the décor in place. Have a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

*Tom & Cheryl*

Once again it is that special time of year for family, fun and decorating the house. This year we have a delightful addition to my Christmas train under the tree.

One of our customer's has a grandson that has been down to visit the farm and greatly enjoys news of the cows and our farm. He was very enthusiastic about last year's Decem-

ber newsletter that contained a picture of our train. Being a train buff, he and his grandfather keep an eye out on the internet for unique pieces of model train sets.

Well low-and-behold, what should appear, but a rail car that said, "Scottish Highlands in Route". They were kind

