



Down on the Farm

Maple K Farms

Colfax, Washington

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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.

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Snow, Snow, Snow!!!

This summer we learned of a predicted early, and beyond normal, snowy and cold winter, so the planning started. Remembering two years ago and the turmoil that came with trying to load and move hay to the feeders we decided we needed some changes in our feeding process.

A hay shed was built at the Meyers place to protect the hay without the joy of

could only feed one bale at a time and therefore had to feed every couple of days.

With the use of a tractor he could reconfigure the feeders, allowing him to feed two bales at a time and decreasing the need to feed as often (and not by hand). The old girl mentioned last month was moved to the Meyers place to take on her new role.

But wait! Nothing is as simple as it seems. After much measuring Tom determined that the tractor would not fit through the barn door, so, an addition to the barn was designed and built. This allows us to keep the tractor under cover



fighting a wet (or frozen) leaky tarp flapping in the wind. With the help of sons-in-law Chuck and Dustin, the task was completed in record time. The next step was moving a tractor there to move the hay to the feeders. In the past, Tom had loaded a bale on the truck with a small bobcat and then forked it by hand into the feeders. That meant he

which will increase its useful life and lets us keep it plugged in during cold weather so it will start. After all this construction and reconfiguring of hay feeders, all is working as planned. Now the labor needed to feed has dramatically been reduced to the point where the cattle are checked frequently for water availability but feeding only needs to occur every 10 days or so.



Where's the Beef??

The fall harvest of beef was completed successfully and the dance of coordinating 36 customers schedules was done. The freezer unit worked well and gave us the capacity to hold the beef for a short time to accommodate deliveries or pick-ups. The delivery van was great until rough

weather arrived and then the Dodge Ram 4X4 was again pressed into service. Thanks to all of our beef customers. We are pleased that

you are now enjoying eating your beef.



"Follow-up"

Just a note to follow-up

*The wind mill
has
generated
704 KWhr of
power since
coming on
line.*



The Winter Merry-Go-Round

Starting in about mid-October we play a game of Merry-Go-Round (or maybe we should call it "Who's on first????") with our cattle. First we wean the spring calves so their mother's can build up resources for the next spring. This entails capturing the calves and dealing with several days of complaining.

Next, we begin moving the fall harvest animals to the home corrals as harvesting dates arrive. Since these animals are in small

groups in some of our best pastures, this reduces the number of pastures we need to check.

As the harvest animals are reduced we also move our spring calving cows to their winter pastures. This reduces the number of pastures further and allows us to feed during the winter in pastures with hay storage and the necessary equipment.

Our final moves are in early December when we move our herd bulls into their respective pasture to breed the cows for next fall's calves. This year we have three herds for the fall because we are adding two heifers and a new bull.

The reason for all this moving is to simplify winter



feeding and reduce the number of pastures where we need to check animals and ensure that we have open water. During most of the year we utilize 16 different pastures. During the winter, we reduce this number to eight, with four of them being right here at home.



Hello Deer.

With pasture, an orchard, and a creek on one side;

timber and a river on the other side; and farm ground in the middle, we have a great number of deer on the Meyers place. At first, with a count of 75 to

100 head, we looked at them as a blight, but decided to make lemonade instead. We have carefully managed hunting over the last three years. The family has harvested six deer this fall and other guests have taken another four. The population of deer over the past several years has become manageable. As a positive

by-product, venison has become a regular on our menu for dinner.



Fall Calves

All went well with the birth of the fall calves. We had an unexpected bonus – twins! This does not happen often with the Highland breed. This is only our third set in 15 years, the second set from the same mother. Their names are Haig & Haig after the Scotch Whiskey. Mom and boys are doing quite well after their curious start. You see we didn't know we had two! Cheryl had spotted Yogurt and her new baby while Tom was away, so

when he returned, we worked the calf – giving it its shot and ear tag. The next day Tom was checking the water in the pasture and noticed a calf trying to suckle on mom but without an ear tag. Tom's first thought was, "How did he manage to lose the tag so quickly?", but then it dawned on him, there must be two! Sure enough, after a little searching the other calf was found.

Great!! – well, maybe not. Since we didn't realize there

were two, it seemed neither did Mom. She didn't want the untagged calf to nurse, so they all came up to the pens at the house to get reacquainted. After a couple days of trying everything to



"Cows can't count — but they can read ear tags!"

get mom to accept both calves including using some very expensive (but not very good smelling) perfume on all of them, we became a little discouraged and considered selling one calf as a bottle baby. Then we realized that without the ear tag, mom could distinguish between them. We tagged Haig #2 and within a day she was allowing them both to nurse and keeping track of where they were, which got more difficult as they gained ground. To cover a long week and a short story, everyone became one happy family and are all living together happily ever after.





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Naturally Grown, Naturally Good!

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Holiday Season

We look forward to
serving our customers
in the New Year and
maybe we will see you
“Down on the Farm”.



Here's hoping you
and your family have
a peaceful and happy
holiday season.



Tom & Cheryl