

Bone Dry Ridge

A little bit of everything farm



Summer News 2016 from Bone Dry Ridge

Happy Summer Everyone

Meat Sales: We only have a few lambs left. They will go to Valhalla in mid-October, as always and I'll be doing deliveries at the end of October. Here is a link to the [brochure](#). To order, print and fill out the order form and send it back to me with the deposit.

New item this fall is a variety pack, worth \$50.00, of the Wagyu/Holstein cross beef cattle that I will begin to offer next summer. Wagyu is a Japanese breed of cattle. Sometimes it is also called Kobe beef, but that refers to a specific region in Japan. This variety pack is a great way to have a taste of what is to come. If you are interested let me know. I will be doing a delivery to Olympia, Tacoma and Seattle in mid-September. I would be happy to bring you a variety pack at that time. Or you could arrange to pick it up here at my farm.

The weather report: August seems to be the only normal month since January. Here on Bone Dry Ridge, things are very, very dry. Fields are brown and crispy under foot. With less than normal rain since January, I don't know how even the native vegetation is hanging in there. Lots of trees are already shedding their leaves and I can't blame them. With the hot spring weather, each Apple Tree blossom got pollinated and as a result the trees are laden with fruit. So much so, big branches are breaking from all the weight. I have three apple trees in my yard and I have thinned over 1000 apples to save the trees from breaking. The pigs have happily been the recipient of this over-abundance of fruit.

Cows: My last three cows are gone now. It is rather quiet here on my hill. Not having them to think of certainly has simplified my life. That was the objective. Next spring, I will be offering Keith's beef cows for sale to you. There are the aforementioned Wagyu/Holstein cross and also a few Angus/Holstein crosses. Did you know that if you cross an Angus with a Holstein and if the calf comes out solid black, it can be called a pure Angus? The regulations within the Angus Association allow this. It seems a bit strange to me, but there you have it. In a method to change or improve certain characteristics of a breed, the animals can be cross-bred with another breed and then bred back to the original breed. Breed associations have rules regarding after how many generations the animals can be called pure bred. This can vary from one or two or three generations, depending on the breed.

Sheep: Again this summer, the sheep are grazing the nice irrigated pastures behind the creamery. What a treat for them and for me. It makes me happy to see them happy and content. It is hard to relax until all ones' animals are happy and content. And often I don't think I have done everything in my power to do the best for them, so I often struggle with feeling inadequate. That is the farmer's dilemma. My lambs vary a lot in size this year. With so many triplets, there is noticeable size difference between, triplets, twins and singles. Two mysterious deaths occurred this summer. Both were very nice looking lambs, fine one day,

dead the next. My vet suspects Clostridium. This is bacteria that is endemic can all of a sudden multiply tremendously in an animal and kill it within 24 hours. It usually happens to the biggest and nicest looking lambs. That was the case for me. I move the sheep every 7 days to a new lush green pasture. The field they are in is split into four paddocks, so it takes them one month to make it all the way around. They love this routine. If I change the schedule, for example have them graze one paddock for 8 days, they let me know. They can tell time and they don't like to have this change.

Pigs: As I write this, the pigs are here for just a few more days. It has been fun to have them, but I'm ready to have them gone. This seems to happen every year. It is fun to take care of them, but as their due date approaches, I start anticipating having more time for myself. Not that they are so much trouble, but they are continually on my mind like all the other critters on the farm. When they are gone, it is one less thing to worry about. The pigs have stayed in and around the barn the whole time they have been here, and on these hot August days, I take the water hose and give them all a good shower in the PM. They love this and that makes me happy, even if this will make the digging out of their bedding much harder later on. I'll worry about that later.

The Creamery: Chugging along just fine. I'm always adding new stores, but having technical difficulties regarding the website, so have not updated the list of stores where you can buy our fine yogurt. I don't know anything more frustrating than computer difficulties, especially in summer, when I have no time to deal with them. But winter is on its way and the rain is coming. I can hardly wait.

Take care. Your farmer and shepherdess **Selma**