First Nature Farms is a family farm in the Peace Country. Once a month, First Nature Farms owner Jerry Kitt writes about his experiences on the farm

Farm News - January

First Nature Farms
certified organic since 1990

The bison have returned! It's been eleven weeks since the tree fell on the fence allowing most of my bison yearlings to escape. For almost two months I've been looking for the last eight bison who had disappeared into the wilderness of BC. With few roads to travel, searching for signs of the missing group was difficult so I was relying on their homing instinct to bring them back. One morning the phone rang with news of a sighting, just three miles from home. I hopped in the pickup, grabbed a hay bale and headed out. Sure enough, there they were, all eight of them.

Knowing that I could not chase the animals home, I made a trail of hay and hoped they would follow. Unfortunately they were not interested in the hay so I had to head home without them. After lunch with fingers crossed I went out to try again. There they were, now just a half mile from home and headed in the right direction. Minutes later they were along the fence. The rest of the bison herd came out to greet them. There was lots of interaction thru the fence. The heifers seemed to be sharing stories while the bigger bulls were trying to re-establish who was more important. Even the beef cows came to greet the long lost herd. Nice to have them home.

Four new bred heifers join the beef herd. The new animals are "Belted Galloways". The Galloways are an old Scottish breed. They are noted for their ability to produce tasty marbled beef only on grass without the need for grain diets. We specialize in grass fed beef and bison for a few reasons: the animals are much healthier and content eating grass, there is a lower environmental footprint when grain is eliminated and the grass fed meat is nutritional superior to grain fed.

Joe the donkey makes a visit to his farrier for a trim (on his feet). He has yet to officially meet his two new girlfriends for fear that their relationship might progress too quickly. Joe, Julia and Jessica regularly touch noses thru the fence. Jenny's are pregnant for a year and a January birth might not be as pleasant as a spring birth.

The eight Vancouver Island pigs we got thru the SPCA all ended up being pregnant and over the past week several have farrowed. Berkshire pigs are almost all black with white on their feet and faces. Babies usually look the same but something unusual must have happened to one of their mothers. The babies are all white!

Jerry