



## Farm News - May

Within a minute of opening the gate she was gone! I watched the very pregnant heifer race thru the gate, go running down the road and then disappear into the forest (480 acres). "Catch heifer" was added to the list of all the things happening that day and like many other things on "the list" I did not get around to it. So you could imagine how pleased I was when a couple days later on my way to town with a load of pigs, there she was standing by the fence with a brand new calf by her side. "Catch heifer & calf" was on the list for when I got home.

The trouble was, when I got home I could not find the calf anywhere. We got the cow back thru the gate to join her cow friends thinking "the calf should show up pretty quick." It did not happen.

We searched and searched for the calf but with no luck. A neighbour stopped by and said, "oh you won't find it, the coyotes have it by now".

Not wanting to believe it I tried the only option left - send the heifer back out to find her own calf. But when I tried sending her back out thru the gate she had originally raced thru, she would not go. To make a long story short, after numerous attempts that day and the next, I finally had to let all the cows out, sort out the one heifer and then turn her loose. She again raced down the road and disappeared into the bush.

At this point it had been 38 hours since I saw the calf. Would it still be alive?

When I went to the spot the heifer had disappeared to the bush, there she was, standing with her calf who was anxiously nursing. Relief! When the heifer saw me she went running down the road, back thru the gate with her calf by her side.

Beavers are taking over! When I look out the patio door to the south I see Windsor Creek. It flows pretty swift in the spring but as the season progresses, the creek settles into a number of beaver dams with the last one on our place holding up about 40 acres of water. Along that beaver pond nests the Trumpeter swans and loons. The river otters have also established their home there so it's a pretty important beaver dam. The problem is that beavers don't know when to stop building and they have now increased the water level to the point that the creek has totally changed it's course and is now running along the other side of our house. Now the driveway has a creek flowing over it and if we had a good rainfall, we would be cut off! The hundreds of trees in the new channel are also submerged and will be drowning soon. What to do???

Hopefully we'll know in June.

The most colourful duck in the province and I was lucky enough to see one - the Wood Duck. A rare event and the first one I've ever seen.

What starts out the size of an egg and within a month has consumed 2700 kilograms of feed? Our 1100 chickens! Just yesterday we turned them out on the green grass. The free ranging birds will graze over 50,000 sq feet of pasture before they move on to the next big event. Jerry