

3 Aug 76

Dear Lynn & Marneen

I was just going through our pile of old letters & found 1 from you - April! Assuming I haven't answered it - here goes -

How are all your cat friends doing? & Goldie? We have a regular zoo here:

all gifts
from
students &
other teachers

A. 2 house cats

- 1 orange & white tom "Zoffy"
- 1 black & white tom "Boots"

B. 4 barn cats "Here Kitty, Kitty, Kitty"

- 1 white mom with tiny bit grey
- 3 kittens (3 months old)

(was 4, but 1 died - took it to the vet & found out he had liver abscesses & emphysema)

C. 8 dogs

- "D" of course

- "Charm" "Here Puppies"

- 6 pups (now 8 weeks old) - 2 females, 4 males

- actually only 1 puppy left - the rest are all sold & gone.

D. 6 pigs

- "Here pigs, pigs"

- my friends, since I feed them & clean their barn, etc.

E. 1 Charolais bull "Banon"

F. 200 Hereford cows

- "Zing", "Big Pall", "Little Pall", "Heifer"

G. 6 Hereford calves - over for names

- "Spot, Speckle, Zooler, Feather,
Sparky, Lucky"

- I am mother to the last 2 since I've fed them milk replacer + calf starter in the barn for the last month. They literally think I'm mom - Their mothers were old + in poor shape so we sold them in the spring when the market was good.

are you tired
of heading yet?

H. 1 Hereford "Heifer"

- heifer means: ~~not~~ cow except that she's never had a calf.

I. 1 Hereford Steer # "Arnold",
named by Dapper kids after their dad.

(steer means: neutered bull)

He's destined for the freezer.

J. 6 Half-breed + 3/4 bred Charolais
Cows

- "2^{E148E}" (3/4), "1D", "3D", "5D",
"Bobby", "Blondy"

K. 6 3/4 + up Charolais calves

- As yet unnamed + unnumbered
"Come calves"

L. 3 Charolais heifers

- "4F", "?G", "?G" can't remember their numbers.

8
3) 16 ✓
5
6) 12
6
28

Have you had enough? Here's what I've done so far with my summer "holidays":

- weeded garden (by hand & with rototiller where it will go)
- weeded trees
- mowed lawns (Wayne bought me a small riding mower)
- picked stones in our hayland so we don't break so many knives next year when we cut it.
- Cultivated summerfallow
- harrowed summerfallow
- "stocked" hales as they come out of the haler
- hauled hales in, with Wayne's help, & put in barn loft.
- picked raspberries
- fixed fences & helped build new fences
- fed pigs (carry 2-5 gal pails of chop & 4 pails of water every day)
- fed calves in July
- cleaned barn & yards
- picked trash & hauled to dump
- clean house (when I can find time)
- Checked cows over on our other place - & pump water, by hand, for them
- drive down to the well & hand pump drinking water
- helped Wayne overhaul most of our machinery.
- I'm afraid the list is never-

take my little tractor & old wagon out & pick stones "by hand" the rock picker only works in cultivated land

ending, so I'll stop before I get too depressed thinking about it. Wayne will be taking some "holidays" this summer so we can build corrals. At least we bought a hydraulic post pounder so you don't have to swing a 15 lb. hammer 10+ times to put in 1 post. We've built fence & probably already driven 2 hundred posts with it - what a muscle & time-saver. This spring we had big scrapers (like those big Euclids you've probably seen hauling dirt) & a big cat in filling up around the barns & levelling, so the sloughs are filled. Also had them dig a big ditch out in the pasture to drain all those sloughs up behind the barns. We've had inches of rain since then to settle all the clay & make a solid place (dry too) to build corrals. Also have to build a shelter for our cows this fall.

You've probably wondered why we haven't asked you to come & spend some time with us this summer. There's so much to do, you'd have been bored silly all alone, or worked to death helping.

Hopefully, we can get some of our work done this year so next year will be easier for us. We don't know how Dopples could stand farming & living the way they did. Must have been terribly lazy.

We have the house torn apart pretty well - we started remodelling last winter & won't have time to finish until this winter, if we can afford it. Made a hall down the center of the house, made bathroom smaller, tore out wall between living & dining room, moved kitchen door, etc. All the plasterboard is up, but no plastering, sanding or painting done. Looks like this fall we'll probably have to tear out the boiler & radiators, & put in forced air furnace & all the

ductwork. After that, I don't know if we'll be able to afford any more remodeling. The floors all need new vinyl, the house needs painting inside, we need new kitchen cupboards (we put arborite on to cover the red paint they had), the house needs new siding, all the buildings need painting, etc, etc, etc. ^{NOT THIS} YEAR -

I'm not complaining - just explaining. You may think we're ignoring you, but really we're not - just so busy we barely have time to eat + sleep. Do you know anyone else who eats supper at 10-11 pm because by then it's too dark to work outside?

13 Aug

Granny + Grandpa came the day I was writing the first part of this letter. We had a good visit, but it seemed so short, + there was so much work to do even while they were here. We hauled bales from the field + put them in the barn. Even Stuart had to help, well he volunteered!

Gran & Grandpa are so understanding. They know what its like to be an "after 5 pm farmer" since they did it for years while Grandpa worked for the C.R. Granny was even out picking raspberries for me. She's hilarious. I still can't see why Mom & Betty dislike them so much. Gran & Grandpa wouldn't do anything to hurt anyone - in fact they go out of their way to remain on speaking terms with everyone.

It's too bad you & Mo can't be with them more. I'm not nagging because I know how difficult it is with Mom the way she is. I just hope Mom can find someone to take care of her in her old age after she's been so caustic with everyone around her. Nuff said.

Anyway, we had a good visit. There was only 1 puppy left when they were here. Stuart & Darlene had a good visit with the dogs & of course thoroughly spoiled the barn kittens. They essentially tamed one that we hadn't even been able to catch.

Sold the last pup - was sure sorry to see it go, but its a relief having

8
only 2 dogs left & they can both
come in the house at night & in
pen during day. Charm scared the
hell out of Q to where he wouldn't
go in the pen with the pups even if
you dragged him.

School starts for me 27 Aug, so
I'll soon have my 3rd job again
(teacher, farmer, housewife). Thank
Goodness our land is rented &
we're not taking off our own crop
this year. Wayne's been too busy to
take holidays, so he'll end up taking
them when I'm in school. Woopie! ugh!
Well, time to go to bed.
till the next letter - bye -

Love,
Pat & Wayne