

# The Farm Weekly

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 14

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4 SEPTEMBER, 2008

## HOT, HOT, HOT, AND HUMID TOO

Well I was hoping for the warmer weather to continue, so that we could finish the year strong. I guess one should be careful what they wish for. The highs here at the farm have been over 90 each day this week. No rain has fallen either, but we have humidity!

With all of the dryness, the dust is flying too and Tim gave up tilling areas for next year for he felt like the Peanuts character that had the cloud of dirt flying around him, Pig Pen. So he is turning instead to digging up all of the remaining onions, something he was putting off until the rain softened up the soil a bit. But flexibility rules and the onions need to come up anyway, so that's what happened.

Extra electric wire is coming in a day or two for fencing around the spinach and greens to keep the deer out of those fall crops.

So far so good for them since Tim started using the drip tape a few weeks ago.

The last planting of lettuce landed in the field this week. This completes all of the planting for 2008, a process that started in January, when Tim started the onions he dug this week.

Finally cucumbers, peppers, and tomatoes have kicked into gear, while the melons are winding down, so that only a few were left to pick this week. We like to try a few new things every year and we tested a couple of varieties, but its not been a typical year to know whether they would be successful or not.

The drip tape has been working very well on all sorts of the veggies, but the sprinkler has been running each night as well, so we are hoping that Gustav will give us a little moisture here this weekend.

I want to apologize

to those of you who count on the newsletter being on the website. There is a list of the largest stressors that we face in life. Obviously loss of a loved one would be at the top of the list, but they also list moving and change of job. They should add purchasing a new computer and getting the old data onto the new one.

The first new computer was faulty and I kept running into roadblocks at getting it replaced until last Friday night when I finally had the good fortune to talk to the right person who after 15 minutes walked up with a new computer. Unfortunately the last two or three newsletters were lost in the shuffle.

But now I have that new computer and have resumed building our new website, hoping that it will be complete in the next few weeks. This newsletter will be on the site tomorrow and hopefully that will be the end of computer woes for a long time.

On the alpaca front we had a sad week losing one of our prize males. Orvis was a beautiful huacaya who had a wonderful and endearing presence. He had a disorder during the winter of 2007 that left him partially blind caused by a B vitamin deficiency that will rarely affect animals when they eat certain foods, or have an abrupt change in diet. At that time he actually had to relearn eating and

drinking, but after intensive care, he rallied, but never got back to his previous strength. So in the last few weeks he started to go downhill and was unable to rally this time.

He seemed to relapse and even as I syringed food into his mouth he could not swallow and died last night in my arms. They say that, "livestock is dead stock", but somehow I just can't remove myself emotionally, and now there is an absence in the pasture that can't be filled.

Each alpaca has their own personality, some grumpy, some mischievous, some dumber than dirt, and some afraid of their own shadow, some cherished more than others, but each of them unique, just like us.

The part that really touched my heart was when one of the Great Pyrenees sat down with him and stayed there all day as he was dying, and wouldn't let the other two dogs to come close.

When Orvis died she finally moved on, but she insisted on being there the whole day sensing his vulnerability and doing her job to protect him from any threats, and he rested his head on her back. When he died she moved back with the rest of the herd, to work there, the tried and true loyal employee, literally working 24, 7, 365 to keep the alpacas safe.

So here's to all the animals that have touched our hearts and especially, today, here's to Orvis, and Ursula his protector.

### *This Week's Box*

Lettuce  
Summer Squash?  
Eggplant?  
Onions  
Green Pepper?  
Potatoes  
Tomatoes  
Melons?  
Cabbage  
Cucumbers  
Broccoli

### *Next Week*

Onions  
Lettuce  
Squash?  
Tomatoes  
Potatoes  
Broccoli  
Peppers  
Garlic