

Farm Hands Almanac Archive 2005

DECEMBER 2005

December 31, 2005 -Happy New Year from ODS! 2005 has been a great year for the farm and we are happy to have added many new friends to the Christmas card list for 2006. The farm hand wanted to just say thank you to all of our friends and family for the advice, inspiration and sometimes swift kick in the ars that we (I) received during the year.

Thank you to those that have added an ODS horse to your herd this year. We are but weanlings in this horsie world but are grateful that you have found your way to the farm. We wish you and your mount all the best in '06. Without you folks, we would just be crazy country folk with a horse fetish. Ok, so we are just crazy country folk with a horse fetish. Guilty!

A special thank you to our friends in the UK. Colin and Margaret for their friendship, counsel and of course, for entrusting us with their boy "Joe". Thank you to Dai and Merle for your friendship too. There would be no foundation to ODS without the excellent mares that Dai and Merle breed. Thanks to Liz (The Unworthy) for her kind words and encouragements. You are always welcome to visit us and your favorite stud (Joe that is...).

In closing, I raise a glass to absent friends. I wish thee health, I wish thee wealth, I wish thee gold in store, I wish thee heaven upon the earth. What more could I wish thee more?

December 29, 2005 - Great news! Rhosyn and Gareth are staying together and moving to Vermont! Congratulations Burnice & Glenn.

December 27, 2005 - A warming trend...temps in the low to mid 50's for the coming week. No complaints.

Week of December 18, 2005 -Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year.

December 18, 2005 -At the close of the weekend we have sent Artorius to his new home with Lynn in Vermont. Ruby has also departed and begun her new career. Branwen will now be leaving us eventually too.

December 14, 2005 -We are getting Artorius ready for his journey to his new 'stead on Saturday. At the same time Ruby is awaiting her ride which is due either Friday or Monday. It has been bitter cold. Last night we were down to 11 degrees...Brrrrr.

December 12, 2005 - Mosby, our 5 month old Anatolian pup is making us proud...he has really warmed up to his job. See new photos on the Anatolian Shepherds link to see what Mos has been up to. We keep scouting the skies looking again for the bald eagle...though, no more sightings.

December 8, 2005 - Whilst the last snow prediction only yielded an inch or so, we find ourselves with more snow accumulation this morning. Our First Annual Winter Stock Sale is going well. We have found a new home for our first born, Artorius. Congratulations to Lynn & Artorius. We'll miss our first born terribly, but know that he will be in the most excellent hands with Lynn.

December 5, 2005 -Forecast is predicting our first real snow fall of the season. 2-5 inches expected by tomorrow morning.

December 3, 2005 - The most amazing thing happened this morning. As we were distributing our last bale of hay this morning a bald eagle, yes, a bald eagle, flew low and slow right over our heads. Very cool!

NOVEMBER 2005

November 28, 2005 - Weaned third and last foal today - Branwen ('Lil B) joined Artorius and Bedwyr (Big B) in the "foal pasture" with Old Nanny Goldie. Some rain the next couple of days. Never did get the Thanksgiving snow.

November 23, 2005 - Winter has definitely arrived. Everyone is sorted into their winter pastures and the daily hay tossing has begun. The nights are dipping below freezing and I am thankful for our auto-heated waterers. The days are cool and brisk...the weather folks are teasing us with snow for Thanksgiving.

November 9, 2005 -We are at peak color this week; all shades of yellow, orange, red, brown and green. It is beautiful. Last mow of the grass for the season this week...time to put the mower into winter hibernation. The weather is averaging mid 60's during the day and mid 40's at night. I fear autumn is on it's way out soon and winter will soon be here.

Thought for the day: Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower. - Albert Camus

November 4, 2005 - The warming trend continues; 72 today, 72 tomorrow, 70's on Sunday. No complaints here. Attending Shepherds Workshop tomorrow in an effort to prepare for being a shepherd. Now all we need are those darned sheep....pick-up date...November 19th.

Thoughts for the Day: The liberties of a people never were, nor ever will be, secure, when the transactions of their rulers may be concealed from them - Patrick Henry

A parrot talks much but flies little. - Wilbur Wright

A simple rule in dealing with those who are hard to get along with is to remember that this person is striving to assert his superiority; and you must deal with him from that point of view. - Alfred Adler

November 1, 2005 -A warming trend is among us. Upper 60's , low 70's. It's November 1st though, won't last long. A bit of a teaser. Did I mention before how fat the caterpillars are and what that is supposed to mean?

Thought for the Day: *Ride the horse in the direction it's going.* - Werner Erhard

OCTOBER 2005

October 27, 2005 -We are looking forward to spending this Saturday afternoon with all of our local and some not-so-local Cleveland Bay friends. It will be a gathering of record attendance...good friends, good food and good CB conversations. As a side note, Bayberry who is due in February has officially begun her pregnancy waddle. She is rotund!

Thought for the Day: *The outside of a horse is good for the inside of a man.* - Winton Churchill

October 26, 2005 - All of a sudden...everyone is wooly. Yesterday was only 45 degrees, last night was under 40. Had to blanket Old Nanny Goldie.

Thought for the day as I enjoy my happy hour libation...it is 4 o'clock isn't it?Beer is living proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy. - Benjamin Franklin

October 24, 2005 What happened to Autumn? It will be 40 degrees here tonight and tomorrow's high is not supposed to exceed 45 degrees. All the wooly caterpillars have been abnormally large...grossly obese by caterpillar standards...they say it is a sign of a strong, hard winter.

October 19, 2005 -Joe, 7 of his mares and Branwen have been joined in their fields of green by geldings; Aspen, Cody and Gareth. The geldings have learned some lessons and prefer to keep their distance. They are easily spotted by looking for the very small pod of three as far away as they can manage to be from the larger pod of 9.

October 16, 2005 -Evolution in the herd. Sent Joe and his brood of 8 out to 20 acres of lovely green grass on Friday morning. (which wouldn't have been green except for the 5 days of rain we received). Two of the three geldings joined the herd that afternoon and over the last couple of days have learned a few lessons from young master Joe.

Thought for the day: *Every production of genius must be the production of enthusiasm.* - Benjamin Disraeli

October 13, 2005 -Artorius' mum goes home tomorrow afternoon. Buttercup has been part of our family for 2 years and will now go home. We were pleased to have her and she produced a handsome colt foal for us...thanks Buttercup...the gang will miss you.

Thought for the day: See first that the design is wise and just; that ascertained, pursue it resolutely; do not for one impulse forego the purpose that you resolved to effect. - William Shakespeare

October 11, 2005 - *I love the man that can smile in trouble, that can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. 'Tis the business of little minds to shrink, but he whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves his conduct, will pursue his principles unto death. - Thomas Paine*

October 3, 2005 - *Perimeter fencing was started today to fence in about 20 acres more pasture. Looking forward to turning out Joe and his ladies on some fresh thick grass. Been busy filling in groundhog holes and fox holes...those groundhogs are sneaky little vermin.*

Thought for the Day: If it were not best that we should all think alike; it is difference of opinion that makes horse races. - Mark Twain

October 2, 2005 - *Do what you love. Know your own bone. Gnaw at it, bury it, unearth it, and gnaw it still. - Henry David Thoreau*

October 1, 2005 - *This weekend we celebrate the 4 month birthdays of Artorius and Bedwyr. Weaning day is not far off. We had our first fire in the fireplace this season two nights ago when the night temperatures dipped into the 40's.*

SEPTEMBER 2005

September 29, 2005 - *At the close of this day we are 3 colts less; 3 geldings more.*

September 28, 2005 - *I was speaking to a friend of ours who breeds Thoroughbred race horses and she said something interesting to me. She commented that some of the worst horses for conformation were the best runners and that some of the horses with the best conformation could not run well at all. It seems that it all comes down to the individual animal's heart.*

September 27, 2005 - *The "boys" were spared another couple of days due to impending thunderstorm activity. Geldings will take place on the 28th. Really feels like fall, down to the upper 40's tonight. The Black Walnut tree has lost about 95% of it's leaves already. Our Black Walnut is always the last to welcome spring, and the first to welcome autumn.*

September 25, 2005 - *Spent the weekend bush-hogging future 20 + acre turnout pasture. Lots of nature encountered; snakes, groundhogs, fox holes, mice, and the birds of prey that swirl about looking for some fresh finds. Also thinking of Aspen, Cody, and Gareth as they will begin their lives as geldings tomorrow.*

September 22, 2005 - *Opinions spoken strongly and confidently are no more correct than opinions gently given but which do not carry the same assertiveness. - words from a wise friend providing advice about advice.*