

Farm Hand's Almanac – 2nd Quarter 2008

June 29 -Today, our Anatolian Shepherd Dog, Mosby turned 3 years old. He is such a good boy and everything we wanted in an ASD and then some. Our remaining three lambs; no. 012, no. 013 and no 016 (aka Sammy) have joined Indy and Maximus in the field that is closest to the house. Indy seems to be going through her foal heat so we will wait probably until next weekend and then reunite Indy and Maximus with the herd. Some great photos today. Everyone is enjoying the lush green grass which continues to thrive with regular T-storms. It hasn't made our hay retrieval very successful though, need a few hot days in a row to get it all dried out. Better than the drought circumstances we faced last year this time though. Tomorrow is Gwynith's 22 month birthday and Isolde will be 3 months.

June 26 -It is quite a nice feeling to have foaling, lambing and whelping all behind us now. We can spend the summer watching the foals grow and mature. Now that Joe is back with his mares again after some time on hiatus with visiting mares and then being laid up in the barn, I will be paying close attention to be sure whomever was expected to already be in foal, still is. There should not be any more breeding activity out there with the exception of perhaps Circle (a TB mare) and then Indy, who, along with Maximus her new colt will rejoin the herd when the time is right. Our two year old fillies (I suppose I should technically call them mares now at 2 yrs) have also been showing signs of maturity. Should they remain here at ODS they will be bred next spring.

June 23 - He will be called OldDominion Maximus. Born June 19, 2008. Maximus is the final foal of the 08 season.

June 22 - New Arrival !! On Thursday morning, June 19th, Indy one of our thoroughbred mares gave birth to a stunning colt. He is straight and tall standing 11.1 hh, weighing in at 122 lbs and with 6" cannons at one day old. He is by far the tallest foal we have had arrive. He is definitely a looker. Visit the Growth Statistics to compare his 0 month stats to other foal stats. We are still considering names for this fellow. This is Indy's first foal by Joe.

June 20 - Fred, at 20 months old measures 874 lbs, 15hh and 8.25"L cannon and 8.5"R cannon. While there was no change in his bone measurement from 4 months ago, he did gain a good amount of weight and some height. Visit the [Growth Statistics](#) for details. Galahad hits the magical three month birthday tomorrow. We'll post some new photos.

June 18 -Fred hits the 20 month mark tomorrow. I know that he has filled out, it is obvious just by looking at him. I am looking forward to seeing how he's matured. I think my last data on Fred was at 16 months of age. That's 4 months of growth to account for. Joe is doing much, much better and has exited the barn as of this morning. He is pleased to be back outdoors. Spent some of the afternoon yesterday trimming and vaccinating the remaining 5 lambs. 2 of these, the last two ewe lambs, will be going to their new home on Saturday. While the lambs are still quite small, it reminded me how much I am not looking forward to wrestling the mature ewes, Shaun (the sheep, our sheep 'gelding') and Big Boy Grin (the Tup) to go through the same ordeal. Joe's 9th birthday is next week (on Tuesday). Rhiannon also celebrates a birthday next week, she will be 2 years old on Friday. I have wanted to get a good 3 month photo of Bors. It has proven to be a hugely difficult task though because the incredibly social fellow just keeps walking over to me. He seeks out attention and just wants to be with you. Funny guy. The shot below is my best so far. Not a perfect pose, but at least he is not walking toward the camera with his nose in the lens!

June 15 -Today Cybele turns 9 years old. Cybele is a pure bred Cleveland Bay mare who has had five (that we know of) pure bred foals. Cybele came to Bay Haven Farm 4 years ago. She arrived in foal with foal at foot. While here at BHF, she has had 3 foals. Cybele stands 16.1 hh with 9.375" bone.

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June 14 - Bors turned 3 months old a couple days ago. He has grown considerably and is now 441 lbs, 12.3 hh with 7.625" cannons. He is a beefy boy. It continues to be quite hot. The horses are not inclined to leave the shade of the sheds during the heat therefore my opportunity for new photos has been limited. Afternoon is normally best, but we have been inundated with afternoon thunderstorms which doesn't help either. Joe is doing very well and we hope to turn him back out with his mares very soon.

June 11 - The heat wave has expired. Now it is in the normal 80-something range. Joe is feeling much better and is still on hiatus in the barn. He is enjoying some beautiful 100% timothy hay our neighbor grew and baled. While our friendly neighbor grew the timothy for her "buns 'n pigs" (rabbit and guinea pig rescue), 500 some odd bales is way more than those little critters can eat. So thanks to her we have been able to add a significant number of timothy bales to our winter stock piles. We still have our 96 rounds to go retrieve which we have been putting off until the heat wave passed. So there is no denying the farm chore for the weekend. It will take 9 trips with truck, trailer and tractor. I still need to get out with the camera and have made it one of my many priorities for tomorrow.

June 8 - Joe seems to have injured himself. Possibly running about in the very wet ground that was a result of Wednesday's torrential rains that came with the storm and tornado. We helped him make his way to the barn this afternoon where he is now tucked away safely. The barn will offer him a welcome relief from the horrible heat (100+ degrees tomorrow) and keep him more comfortable when he's not feeling his best. He seems to be appreciating his new accommodation...cool barn, fan, food and water within a few steps and the encouragement to be still. It should help him to mend more easily and quickly. We said good-bye to 6 of our lambs this weekend. We have reports that they are all settling into their new homes very well. Two more will go in a couple weeks. I will hope to post some new photos as the situation allows. It has been so incredibly hot, the horses don't want to do much but stand in the shade of the field shelters.

June 3 - Suffice it to say everyone has grown considerably! Big B, Rhiannon (yikes!), Izzy and Gwynith too. Check out the [Growth Statistics](#) link to see how much they've matured since the last measurement. I will say though, that my guess was pretty spot on. Rhiannon towers at 17 hh and has an incredible 9.375" cannon. She will be two on the 27th of this month.

June 2 - A long overdue update. I have some measuring to do tomorrow. A little catch up. Big B turned three years old today. A strapping young man. I attempted a photo but he was way too busy with his head down in the grass. Tomorrow a birthday photo for Big B. Also Izzy turned 2 months old a couple days ago. I will need to get her measurements as well. A couple other monumental birthdays coming up in the near future; Rhiannon turns two on July 24 and Gwynith turns 2 years old on August 30. While bush-hogging today I noticed Rhiannon and Indy grazing together. I know that Indy stands an easy 16.1. Rhiannon was significantly taller than Indy. I will need to walk Rhiannon up to the barn to the level concrete to get an exact measurement, but I'll bet she is at least 16.3. All the foals are doing well; let's hope Indy has a filly to help even out the ratio's out there. I think Izzy needs some backup! Lambs are doing well and a few of them are heading off to their new homes this weekend. We have 9 of 11 lambs placed in homes which leaves us with a wether and two rams left over. Pictures from this evening.

May 28 - So far we have harvested 96 large round bales of hay and 64 squares. We were cut short on baling our squares when a sudden rain shower came, however we are hoping that the remaining windrows can be flipped and still baled. It may be enough to get us through the winter. We may choose to round bale one or two good fields later this summer to be sure there will be adequate supply. We will definitely need more than 64 bales of squares for the sheep and barn feeding. We had harvested 321 squares off of the very same field last spring. During the fall we fertilized and overseeded and in spite of what looked like a more dense, better looking field all told it did not yield as much as it had untreated. Go figure! Perhaps the dividends will pay next spring?

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Everyone continues to do well. Our foals have been given official registration numbers and we are waiting on Indy's foal still within the next couple weeks.

May 22 - We started harvesting hay today. Three of six fields have been cut. We will hope the weather holds out to get them raked and baled. Then...let the stacking begin! Galahad hit his 2 month mark today. He weighed in at 325 lbs., with 7" cannons and stands 12 hh. This represents growth all around for him. It is nice to have 3 pure colts all born about the same time of year (March) to compare the statistics with.

May 21 - It has been a few days since posting any musings. It continues to stay busy. Yesterday we had our last lamb of the season. The ram lambs won this round as there were 6 ram lambs and 5 ewe lambs born this year. Big Giant Ewe (as she is most affectionately known) had a little ram lamb sometime yesterday. All of our ewe lambs have been spoken for and we will keep the fellas around as wethers for wool or for future rams available for sale later down the road. It would appear that so far Cybele, Bayberry, Buttercup, Cleopatra, Circle and Killian area all in foal for next spring. We are a couple weeks away from the arrival of Indy's foal. I will aim to venture back out with the camera later this afternoon.

May 11 - Bors celebrates his 2 month mark today. He weighs in at 373 lbs (nearly a 100 lb increase), his cannons grew to 7.25 each and he now stands 12.2 hh. He did a lot of growing in 1 months time. It's been a cool wet weekend. Everyone seems content lying down in the cool wet grass.

May 8 - Olwen and Isolde have been measured and their new [stats posted](#). Indalia is back and in foal to Joe! Wonderful surprise. I suspect that she is due either June 8th-ish or June 26th-ish. We are expecting three visiting mares for Joe this weekend. He is keeping very busy.

May 6 - Well, wonders never cease. Our girl Indy is back. We had found her a home after 5 months of trying unsuccessfully to get her in foal. We had been informed that there was a possibility (after her late '06 foal) that excessive uterine scarring may prevent her from holding a pregnancy. She is now back in our fields and is due with a Joe foal sometime in June. We have always adored Indy and are delighted she's back and in the condition that she is in. I will take and post some new photos tomorrow afternoon weather permitting. We are due for some spring showers.

May 2 - The bottle lambs continue to require some very regular attention, but they are getting bigger by the day now. They are now outside in a small fenced pasture area of their own with a giant dog house for shelter. They remain quite adorable although very needy. All the young foals are doing well and growing quickly themselves. The first four photos below were taken yesterday evening. The last two were taken this evening.

April 29 - Isolde turns one month old tomorrow. She is a delightful little thing. I am interested to see how her measurements compare to her older brothers. Some new photos from this afternoon below.

April 28 - More rain is giving way to lots and lots of long green lush grass. We may have to hook up the bush hog sooner than usual. Things are slowing down a bit which is a nice switch. Hopefully a slow down will lead to more time with the camera. Bors, Galahad and Isolde are doing famously. They love to hang around and play together. They are social and friendly and get their fair share of attention from their humans too. It is our plan this weekend to start some additional fencing around the barn. I will also aim to "hook up" our three little bottle lambs with some small make-shift pasture space of their own. I will hopefully get the turkey's out of the barn too. I am not a fan of giant-sized birds and at this time they are larger than the chickens and a lot more scary looking. I will hope to catch them while we still can.

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April 23 -An amazing set of photos from this morning below. It was a fine misty morning and I spotted Joe (our stallion) lying down in the cool wet grass. Upon closer examination with the binoculars we found he was accompanied by all three of his foals and Buttercup. The series of photos below are from the photos taken of that picture perfect moment. Eventually, as is always the case, movement occurred. But if you look closely in the early photos, you can see 3 foals lying on the other side of Joe.

April 22 -The sun came back out today briefly and the grass is absolutely amazing! I am going to need to bush-hog the sheep/lamb field soon so that I will be able to easily locate the wee ones when they are sleeping in the grass. Galahad recently hit his 1 month mark. We now have three pure bred colts' measurements all at 1 month old to compare. It is quite interesting indeed...if one has an interest in that sort of thing. The updates can be found on the [Growth Statistics](#) link. The foals are enjoying being part of a herd and enjoy their interaction with their humans when they come to visit as well. Bors and Galahad are very social and friendly. They are always in the mood for some bum scratching and all the other places they can't reach. Isolde is warming up to the idea and taking her cues from her older brothers.

April 20 -Rain, Rain, Rain. Nice. Lots of rain. The fields are green and growing. It is nice to have a proper spring. Boo, Buttercup and Cleo with their foals have been turned back out with Joe. He seems quite pleased to have most all his mares about him again. We still await the arrival of Willow's foal how is now 346 days in utero. Last year Willow carried for 350 days. Galahad turns one month old tomorrow. I hope to get out to the big field with the camera for some more photos soon. The ones below I caught of Isolde, Bors and Galahad in the field a couple days ago.

April 15 -While lambing is nearly done, with only one ewe left to go, we found ourselves with some "bottle babies" as of this morning. Ewe 263, aka Moonbeam who is one of our favorites was looking poorly yesterday evening. Her lambs were not looking as nourished as they could have been either. As it turns out Moonbeam had developed mastitis as well as milk fever, rendering her no longer able to provide milk to her twins. The vet was out this morning and has treated the mum, and we are hoping for a full recovery. Meanwhile, Stiltz and Bond (her eartag number is 007) are warm and toasty in the tack room and are getting accustomed to the bottle. We have another ewe who does not take kindly to one of her lambs, but seems to be getting better. So the sheep are taking up a good deal of our man hours lately. Below a photo of the barn nicely painted. Will post some new photos of the foals soon.

April 13 -It has been a busy weekend and therefore my postings ignored. Bors measured 278 lbs (our heaviest foal at one month old to date), he measured 6.75" cannons, and stands 12.0 hh at one month old. This also makes him our tallest foal measured at one month. Speaking of tall, Rhiannon, Olwen and Gwynith have all gone through what seems like an overnight growth spurt. I have not gotten around to measuring little O or Gwynith yet, but I can tell you that at nearly 21 months old Rhiannon towers over all at 16.2 hh. Gi-normous. She is lovely and just as sweet as ever. She is going to be a very very very tall girl. We have also recently witnessed for the first time coltish behavior from our boy Fred. He got 'excited' over one of Joe's mares. (Fortunately Joe was on the opposite end of the field and there is a fence line between them.) I did not yet get a picture of the barn in it's new skin of red and white paint. Will do soon.

April 10 - We had twin ewe lambs today. Finally some more girls! They are big strapping young ladies and doing well. One more ewe to go and she looks as though she may have a week or two to go yet. The three foals so enjoy being together. I caught them all sleeping together in the hay this afternoon. By the time I had gotten the camera, Isolde had risen. Regardless, I was able to get a few good shots of the Kodak moment. The barn is near finished it's painting. It is now red with white trim to match the house and our various other outbuildings. Originally I was not sure how I thought it would turn out but now that is near done it looks fantastic! I will take a photo tomorrow and post it. Willow is 337 days tomorrow. Tomorrow is also Bors' 1 month birthday. While

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he couldn't be bothered from his nap today, I will be sure to get his measurements and birthday photo tomorrow.

April 6 - Cleo's filly is doing wonderfully. Still no name for her yet but hopefully the Farm Hand will have one sorted out this week. Willow is 332 days in foal today. She has begun to bag up. We will watch her very closely. It has been a busy weekend which included the arrival of TRIPLETS yesterday morning. The triplets consist of a ewe lamb and two ram lambs....again with the boys! We are now 5 ram lambs to 3 ewe lambs. They lambs are turned out during the day as Mosby gets reacquainted with this particular aspect of his job. (The watching and guarding of the lambs). We have been putting the mums and lambs away to the barn in the evenings, but will entrust them to Mosby's care as they will remain turned out 24/7 soon. You can see from the photos below that he is already re-familiarized himself with this part of the job and is quite comfortable with the responsibility. Bors has the most amazing personality. He is social and loves his people and the scratches they give. He will be one month old on Friday already. Galahad is a bit more of a mama's boy at the moment and although he has his social moments, he prefers to be tucked safely at mums side.

April 3 -We are pleased to welcome our first filly of the season. Cleopatra had a large filly at 357 days in foal during the early morning hours of March 31. A bit odd that our foals have been born on the 11, 21 and 31. Coincidence I'm sure. She is not yet named but will be soon. She is our first foal to show up with "chrome". This little gal won't stay little long. She is likely to be a big girl and a big mover. She is a sweet thing and she and Cleo are doing very well. Cleo is an excellent mother. In other news we have had an additional set of twins today. Ewe #273, aka Betsy, had a set of twins one ram lamb (to be called "stilts") and one ewe lamb. We now have 3 ram lambs and 2 ewe lambs. And there are 3 ewe's yet to go. Let's hope for some more ewe lambs to balance the scales a little! Meanwhile, Bors and Galahad are getting better acquainted and having a great time gallivanting around together. We now await Willow's foal. Willow will be 330 days tomorrow. I bet she foals by the end of next week. So much for rest!

April 1 -It was a gorgeous day. Mosby is taking his job of watching over all the new births here very seriously. He is such a wonderful boy and everything we could have hoped for in a livestock guard dog. I wish we had a couple more just like him. We bid adieu to another pup this morning. This leaves two. Things are much quieter but we find ourselves missing them. Ewe 263 also known as 'Moonbeam' gave birth to twin lambs today. One ewe lamb and one ram lamb. Funny how our lamb population and genders match that of our foals. Photos below are from this afternoon.