

Farm Hands Almanac – 4th Quarter 2006

December 30, 2006 - Today was Gwynith's 4 month birthday. She has grown substantially as can be seen in the [Growth Statistics](#). We have also updated the statistics with Epona's 11 month measurements, although she now is with her new family at Epiphany Bay Farm. As one can tell from the photos below, Gwynith is quite the ham. She's a looker and I think she knows it! The Boss and I have recently been working on the 2007 farm plan. For us that means looking at our stock, land, and facilities in order to build a plan that allows us achieve our breeding and farm goals. A goal that is not written down is just a wish. We are not ones to do New Year's resolutions but we will write down our goals for the farm and breeding program so that we can measure our successes at the end of the year. Look for a recap of the 2006 year for our farm in the coming days. It is always a surprise to me how much happens in a year's time. Everyone else continues to do well at 9 weeks away from our first 2007 foals.

December 26, 2006 - Tomorrow will be Rhiannon's 6 month birthday. Best wishes to her. We'll be thinking about her. Gwynith faces her 4 month birthday on Saturday. She is such a funny social little thing. She likes to come in for kisses and is very gentle as she nuzzles your face then does her lip curl. A girl who's personality is as lovely as she is. We are about ten weeks from our first foal. Bayberry and Willow are growing bigger by the day and with crucial growth weeks left they are destined to be very very large when their time comes the first week of March. We hope everyone has enjoyed a very happy holiday season.

December 23, 2006 - Another warm day here today in the upper 50's. The sun was back out after a couple of days of overcast and rain. Indy is in heat again. She prefers to stand near Joe by the fence line that they share rather than traveling the field with the others. Gwynith is particularly social. Photos of her with her mum Circle below. It is easy to see where she got her pretty little head from. It is equally as easy to see who she got her neck and rump from!

Today is Leeloo's 3rd birthday. She will celebrate with a dinner dish of dog kibbles, beef broth & stew meat (no longer fit for human consumption).

December 21, 2006 - We said good-bye to our dear Rhiannon yesterday. She loaded right into the trailer in about 10 minutes time at under the expert guidance of Kathy and Jill. She had never been in a trailer before and we hear she traveled to her new home like pro and was delighted to meet her new friends. We will miss her. I took her measurements before she left. All of which remained identical to her 5 month measurements with the exception of her weight which climbed from 617 to 684. We will celebrate Leeloo's 3rd birthday on Saturday. We are giving some serious thought to bringing along a breeding female Anatolian so that we can have and offer Anatolian pups.

December 18, 2006 - Joyce ('lil ewe #269) continues to keep up with the other 7 ewes and Dr. Cornelius as they roam about the pasture. I think she is probably in the clear now and just needs to build strength back in her leg that went unused for the better part of 2 weeks. Today was 74 degrees...downright tropical for mid December in Virginia. Rhiannon leaves day after tomorrow. I will take her 6 month measurements the day she leaves which will be a week early. I did weight tape her yesterday so that I could worm her before her departure. Last month, at 5 months old she registered in at 617 lbs. Yesterday, nearly 6 months old she registered in at 684 lbs. The wonderful weather yielded some nice new photos below.

December 16, 2006 - Joyce (our 'lil physically challenged ewe) continues to make progress. She has rejoined the GP (general population) and seems to be hobbling around just fine. We will hope that with continued exercise, her leg will continue to gain strength and she will choose to use it more and more. On another note; Rhiannon will be departing on Wednesday. It will be particularly hard to see her go. Because of her personable and easy going temperament she has always been more social, friendly and affectionate than some others to date. She has that old soul thing about her and just takes everything as it comes. She's a thoughtful 'ol girl in a young girl suit. She will be especially missed by me and by Gwynith who has grown quite fond of her young friend.

December 12, 2006 - Pleased to report that Joyce (the 'lil ewe) is able to get up on her own! This is huge progress! Everyone is doing well and enjoying warmer temperatures. The gnats were even back out today. The grass however is definitely dormant now. Gwynith can't get enough of her best buddy Rhiannon as you can see from the photos below. Rhiannon, although only 2 months Gwynith's senior is so tolerant and patient. Gwynith, if possible, gets more stunning each day. What a pretty girl.

December 11, 2006 - Mid 50's forecasted for the next 10 days! Fabulous!! Today was low 60's. Although Dr. Andrea doesn't come out until tomorrow, we already know that Bounty is not in foal (which would have been a nice and unexpected surprise). We know this because she is in heat. As is Indy. Not sure what other people's experience has been but so far we have had a mare conceive in February, one in November, and now two cycling HOT in mid December. Joe will have to wait until spring to have at those two. Tomorrow four mares are due for Rhino vaccinations...hard to believe foaling is right around the corner. And Rhiannon will get her blood drawn for her coggins as she will be departing in the next few weeks. At the same time Illithia will be palpated to find out if Karyn can expect a winter foal in Canada next year....actually, won't be too horrible; if she is in foal her conception date was mid October which would give her a September foal...still brisk in Canada though.

Joyce (the young ailing ewe) continues to press on. She still needs assistance getting up and maneuvering to her food and water. We provide this assistance to her 2-3 times a day. She is still keeping company with her other ewe friends. She balances herself on 3 legs and we are beginning to wonder what to do with her should she choose not to use her 4th leg again. Her spirits seem good though and she is eating and drinking. So that's something. A promise of new photos this week. Must also get out for a harrow now that "things" are no longer frozen.

December 8, 2006 - Our warmer weather has been delayed until Sunday. At least it is on it's way. I did manage to get out to take a few photos today in spite of cold and frozen fingers. A photo below of Joyce in her sling. Not looking too much the worse-for-wear, if sheep had any sense at all she'd be wondering why she was slung up like that and would have worked herself out by now. But they don't really and she is quite oblivious to it all. Some very very round bellies out in the field. It is hard to believe we are only 12 weeks away from our first '07 foals! New photos in the top row below.

December 7, 2006 - In order to keep Joyce on her feet, I rigged a sheep sling in the goat shed this morning using towels and rope. Thinking that if I can keep her legs dangling below her and touching the ground bearing a small amount of her weight; rather than her lying on top of them most hours of the day, that her blood would begin flowing and she would be gently coerced into making the legs work again. She is able to scoot a couple of small steps forward and back, side to side if she wishes. Hopefully this tactic will result in some progress. We shall see.

December 6, 2006 - It has proven to be somewhat difficult to get out with the camera the last few days. It has been bitterly cold and quite windy here which requires me to sport my full cold weather gear each

time I go outside. The giant puffy sleeves in my gloves I am required to put my fingers in in order keep them from growing frigid and breaking off makes pushing the shutter button difficult. It is supposed to warm up again on Saturday for a significant period of time. Much more conducive to picture taking. Mid 50s; rather than 30's. Until then, the next two days promise more frigid temperatures, high wind and a chance of snow.

Meanwhile I have been spending my time playing nursemaid to a young ewe in particular whom we are now calling Joyce. (She took her name for the vet that treated her). She has a small injury to her leg, which does not render it un-workable, although probably very very sore. It has been over a week now. Meds, feeding, watering, picking her up, rotating her around. She will get up with assistance and then stand on her own for a period of time, but her injured leg is pretty much a dead leg. She chooses not to use it in spite of my attempts at physical therapy. I have relocated her to be back with her sheep friends, thinking the group might lift her spirits and encourage her to move around. No such luck. How long will this go on? Hopefully Joyce will decide she wants to continue on and make an effort. Why is it that sheep are unable to hobble around on 3 legs such as a dog, cat, deer, or other animal can? Hrumph. Frustrating.

December 4, 2006 - Gwynith graduated up to a yearling sized halter today. Everyone is well. It has been very cold. Tonight's low will be 23 degrees. Brrrr. We are expecting farm visitors on Wednesday afternoon and at the very least it will be sunny. Will aim to post some new photos tomorrow. A note of interest: Bounty is looking very very round. She has been on primarily grass so it isn't a hay-belly. There is an odd chance that she is in foal. If she was covered during the 30 day window prior to her ultrasound that read negative....then it wouldn't have shown up then. On the agenda within the next couple of weeks are Rhino vaccines for a handful of mares; and a pregnancy check for Illithia....perhaps we will have Bounty checked again. What a wonderful surprise that would be!!

We have been getting to know Tuky better since her arrival. She is a very sweet and friendly mare. Standing an easy 16.3...possibly 17 hh. Although she has had only one foal to date she is very motherly. Gwynith seems to adore her and take comfort in being with her while Circle is off and away to herself as she often is.

December 1, 2006 - Yesterday was Gwynith's 3 month birthday. Whilst she did not grow in height; she gained a significant amount of weight. She has really filled out. Visit the [Growth Statistics Link](#). Her birthday photos are below. She was lying down resting when we approached and was subsequently mugged and hugged by Rachel. While it was 70 something today; drastic changes come tonight giving us a high of only 48 tomorrow. If anyone is ready; it is Rhiannon. She is wooliest of them all!

November 29, 2006 - Tomorrow marks Gwynith's 3 month birthday. What a fancy little package that girl is. Will take down her measurements tomorrow along with her 3 month photo and see how much she has grown. Tuky (pronounced /Too-key/) is doing very well. She has successfully become part of the "other" herd. The herds are now split down the middle; 7 and 7. So Tuky has joined company with TB mates Circle and Indy, Bedwyr, Gwynith, Rhiannon and Bounty. Although she is our odd-ball and only non-bay horse, causing her to stick out "like a sore thumb" as they say, she has melded quite nicely.

November 25, 2006 - Today is Rhiannon's 5 month birthday. She is 14 and 1/2 hh; 617 lbs; and measures 9" of bone on both her right and left cannons. Last month she was 13.3hh, the same weight and measured 8.75" bone on both legs. She is doing remarkably well with her weaning and has found a very good buddy in Gwynith. We welcomed a new TB mare to ODS today. Her name is "Tuky" and she is a lovely gray mare who is in foal to Joe and due in May.

November 25, 2006 - Epona departed late yesterday afternoon for her new 'stead at Epiphany Bay Farm. It also happened to be her 10 month birthday so she was measured before her departure. We had noticed her looking longer and leaner, as if she was going through a horizontal growth spurt. Turns out she grew a fair bit all the way around. She measured 628 lbs., 14 and 1/2 hh and 8.25" cannons on both her left and right. To see just how much she grew from month to month you can visit the [Growth Statistics](#).

Rhiannon is also now with her new herd and after just 2 days has settled in very comfortably. She and Gwynith have become fast friends. Rhiannon and Cybele both are managing the transition with flying colors. She is due for her 5 month measurements on Monday and Gwynith to follow on Thursday and Big B for 18 month measurements on Saturday.

November 21, 2006 - The upcoming holiday weekend will be a weekend of change here at ODS. First, Epona will be heading home to Epiphany Bay Farm. Secondly, Big Boy Grin (our Corrie ram) will be removed from his ladies and take his post in the bachelor pad. It is here he will be kept company by Dr. Cornelius (our uni-horn goat...who is supposed to be a whether...but by the looks of things may not be) and Pretzel who is a Corrie but is neither ram or ewe. The three bachelors will bunk with equine friends Big B, Gwynith, Circle, Indy, Bounty and Rhiannon for the winter. Third, Rhiannon will be weaned and removed from her current family and join a new one. It is here she will remain until going to her new home in January. Finally, the aforementioned group; Big B, et al. will be moved to winter pasture ground as well. It should be an interesting weekend of pasture rotations, sheep/goat corralling, trailer loading, and adjusting to new environments.

November 19, 2006 - It was another quiet overcast day here at the Farm. We did the usual feeding of the stud his morning grain but added a nice apple surprise for the rest of the herd. It used to be that only Circle would take the apples but cutting them into little pieces seems to have gotten everyone else interested including Boo, Willow, Cybele, Indy, Big B and Rainbow. Who knew? All the mares are looking very pregnant. I know, you are either pregnant or your not but they still look very pregnant. Big B seems to take his role as farm Pain in the Arse (PIA) quite seriously as he has begun to give Indy a hard time in addition to Epona and Gwynith. They got each other riled up yesterday and were doing sprints across the big field. Indy is wicked fast (to use one of my favorite Boston phrases) and just blew me away with her speed. Gwynith has also discovered her speed. She seems to move with so little effort and cover so much ground. I witnessed her playing with B and Epona last week and she was covering 4X the ground as they and still out running them.

The Farm Hand got himself a new toy last week; a Stihl chainsaw. Boy was I completely unprepared for the hot knife thru butter effect with that saw. We cut apart the huge trunk of a tree that has been in our yard for almost 4 years. This thing was a monster tree that was about 100" around before we cut it into stool size slabs for our bonfire circle in addition to cutting down some offending trees in the 1/4 acre wood. Who's ready for a little hot saw competition?

November 17, 2006 - The weather was clear and cool today. Not bad for picture taking, however most all my subjects were caked from head to hoof in mud. It is as if they seek out the mushiest, muddiest spots to take their roll. Herd two; which consists of Circle, Gwynith, Bedwyr, Indy, Epona and Bounty (and by next weekend Rhiannon) is in the very large field which is all grass. They were relatively mud free. Many updates made throughout the site today.

November 15, 2006 - Willow, Boo, and Rainbow are all looking particularly round these days. Big barrels on legs standing about lazily. They each have about 3 and a 1/2 months to go. Not long at all really. Cybele is a few months behind them all and is not quite as obvious in her state. Big B, Gwynith,

their mum Circle, Bounty, Indy and Epona continue to find good lush grass in the giant field. Although they will be rotating to "less greener" pastures next weekend and will begin their winter "lock in" in a smaller field. Rather than their incessant chases at full gallop they will be standing around a round bale growing their winter hay-bellies. As the weather grows less cooperative it is more difficult to get out for some good photos. Will plan to post some new ones tomorrow or Friday.

November 12, 2006 - *What a difference a day makes! It is cold; wet and blustery today. The change in weather didn't stop Bedwyr, Epona and Gwynith from a rambunctious game of chase and running about. Gwynith in the lead! In spite of her youth and smaller size she blows past Bedwyr and Epona like they are standing still. She loves to be in the lead. Fast little thing!! More often than not I see her grazing with her youth counterparts rather than at her mum's side.*

November 10, 2006 -*Today was absolutely gorgeous. Beautiful cloud-free blue skies and a balmy 75 degrees. Not bad for November! As we approach the end of the month we will be saying good-bye to Epona; weaning Rhiannon; and separating Big Boy Grin from his ewes. Joe remains content with his current brood of 6 mares. We suspect that Illithia was covered her last cycle as we have not seen her cycling again when she was due to do so. We know that at least some of the mares are still cycling because Indy and Circle; who remain separated but still close to the herd, still seem to be causing Joe frustration every 21 days or so. Gwynith caught the camera's eye today.*

November 8, 2006 - *ODS was happy to welcome Liz and Heather for a visit this week. From what I was able to gather, they have had quite an adventure during their visit to the US. I hope that their trip back home was uneventful. We met Liz and Heather during our visit to the UK this past spring. We did not get to spend much time with Liz at the King George V but Heather was kind enough to show us her lovely horses. I think she was told "the Americans are coming" and little else. We were thankful for her hospitality and kindness after being given such short notice and little explanation as to our purpose.*

We were particularly taken with her one of her mares whose name escapes me. She is just the kind of mare that I like with plenty of bone and a kind eye. She also showed us a strapping lad that I understand is now over 16hh as a yearling. I am not very good with names so my apologies to Heather.

Heather and Liz are a wealth of knowledge about the breed and I enjoyed one of my favorite past times with them which is walking the fields and talking horses. They were nice enough to share their thoughts on our horses and some of their extensive knowledge about the Cleveland Bay. For you Cleveland Bay people out there, I highly recommend a walk in the field with someone who has an "eye" for the breed.

November 4, 2006 - *Big B (Bedwyr) recently (November 2) turned 17 months old. We took his measurements today. He is 975 lbs.; 15.1 hh. His cannon bones measure 8.5 inches on his right and 8.625 inches on his left. This morning as we were departing Joe and family were ALL lying down...with the exception of Rainbow. Then by the time I got out with camera, Cybele had stood up. It was cool but the sun was very very warm. They were soaking it all in. They were all lying close to one another but it was too difficult to get them all in one photo.*

November 3, 2006 - *The farm hand had mentioned to me that Bedwyr and Epona looked as though they had been filling out some more. They have both been put out to the 20 something acre field and we don't see them up close and personal every day as we do when they are in a smaller field. So, I snapped a few quick photos of the two of them today. They do both look quite well, shiny coats, nice thick necks and nice round muscular rumps. Seems as though running around like a pair of lunatics in a giant open space agrees with both of them.*

November 2, 2006 - We seem to be at peak fall color this week. Though the leaves are disappearing quickly with the winds that normally come this time of year. The color is lovely. The next few nights we are due to be at or below freezing. We have been approached recently by a few people inquiring about an in-utero purchase of a pure bred foal by Joe. We will post our in-utero purchase program on our [Stock for Sale](#) link. We will have two foals born the first 1/2 of March, two foals born the first 1/2 of April and one in early June. The ['07 Foal Forecast](#) can be reviewed for more specific information.

November 1, 2006 - It was a gorgeous day. Everyone is well. Mares are all looking very rotund; with 2 about 8 months in foal; one 7; and another 5. Bayberry who is due first is already beginning her pregnancy waddle. Photos below taken late this afternoon while everyone was content with their noses to the ground. Thanks to some savvy pasture rotation and the good work of the sheep, the fields remain in great condition with great grass. A few cold nights, though and I'm afraid we won't be so green anymore.

October 28, 2006 - Today is Gwynith's 2 month birthday. As expected, she has grown quite considerably. She is now 365 lbs., 12 1/2 hh and has 7" of cannon bone measured both on her left and right legs. To see just how much difference there has been from month one to month two; visit our [Growth Statistics](#) link. She is absolutely lovely. She is losing some of her light colored foal hair and seems to be quite dark underneath. She must have learned it from her mum; but she sticks her whole nose in the waterer...nostrils and all. It is a beautiful warm (72 degrees F) and sunny day. We have also updated our [Corriedale Sheep](#) link and our [Anatolian Shepherds](#) link.

October 28, 2006 - The ram and additional ewes arrived without incident yesterday evening. The studly young ram spent the evening getting to know the ewes through the fence. This morning we let him join the 3 "ready" girls. It was a beautiful morning. Bedwyr and Epona playing and jousting like loons; Gwynith happy to get her morning love and attention. Photos below are from this morning. The photos of Bedwyr and Epona were taken after their playful antics.

October 27, 2006 - On the occasion of her 4 month birthday Rhiannon measured 13.3 hh, 616 lbs and each cannon bone measure 8.75 inches on a tight tape (as supplied to me by my inspector friend). Wow! In spite of her massive size she is well put together and is an exceptionally lovely filly. She is wearing a yearling sized halter on the largest setting. It is almost too small. The first four photos below are Rhiannon. The stacked photos at the end are of her dad; Joe when he was about 3 months old. There are a lot of similarities in how they look and carry themselves; but also in temperament they are both relaxed, mellow, kind and easy going. Rhiannon seeks out her dad when Illithia or Ariel come to pester her...smart girl.



Gwynith is sporting a halter for the first time today. She has been mugged to no end since she popped out and scratched and rubbed with the halter in hand. Putting it on her was completely uneventful. Her birthday is on Monday. I have a feeling she has grown considerably.

We are expecting a weekend storm which should bring a fair bit of rain and some gusty winds.

October 26, 2006 - Tomorrow is Rhiannon's 4 month birthday. At four months old she is a giant amongst Clevelands. I would not be surprised to find her height measurement being taller than Epona currently at 9 months. The Farm Hand is traveling to Lexington to pick up the new ewes and studly ram tomorrow. (Not entirely fun stuff, as the sheep really make a horrible mess of the horse trailer!! Ick!) We will have a ram and 4 new ewes to name - this is the job of our girls; as they are the only ones who can seem to tell the sheep apart anyway. Everyone is sorted and ready to meet the new arrivals. The ram will join Moonbeam, Moonshine and Big Giant Ewe and the four yearling ewes will join Cracker (yearling ewe) and Pretzel (neither ewe or ram). Will post some new photos of Rhiannon on the occasion of her birthday tomorrow...perhaps some of the new arrivals too.

October 24, 2006 - Epona's 9 month birthday today. She measured 13.2 1/2 hh, 565 lbs, and 8" bone on her right and 8 1/4" bone on her left. Rhiannon's birthday follows and is on Friday. We have tracked her growth along with Rhiannon and Gwynith. The comparisons can be seen on the [Growth Statistics](#) link.

October 22, 2006 - We plan to be welcoming some new Corries to our farm next weekend. If all goes according to plan we will be adding up to 4 additional ewes and a handsome ram. This will create quite a flock with 8 ewes, a ram and a Pretzel (who as the outcast is neither ewe or ram). Timing should be just about right for breeding. The ram will be permitted access to 3 of the ewes this fall. The remaining ewes are just yearlings and will wait to meet the ram next year. The sheep have served us well in regard to pasture management and condition. One of these days we will get a wrap on the whole wool and going to market thing.

Meanwhile the equines are doing well. In spite of our efforts to keep them apart; Joe (while pretending to eat his breakfast) pushed his way through the gate to where Indy, Circle, Gwynith and Bounty are currently residing. He was not with them long, but the "visit" was entirely unsupervised. Hopefully no hanky panky ensued.

Our spectacular saddlery guy has finished a very handsome stallion show surcingle for us. It turned out beautifully and we can't wait for our next opportunity to use it. A few birthdays this coming week: Epona turns 9 months old, Rhiannon turns 4 months old and Gwynith turns 2 months old.

October 18, 2006 - To celebrate Indy's completion of her meds and follow-up treatments; we decided to let Indy, Circle, Gwynith, Bounty, Bedwyr, Epona and Dr. Cornelius (goat) have the run about the giant field. They had been in neighboring pastures and this is the first Bedwyr, mom Circle and new sister Gwynith will all be pastured together. **THEY ALL LOVED IT.** Used the opportunity to take a few photos. I particularly fancy the one of Bounty on the move in mid air.

October 16, 2006 - It proved to be a quiet weekend here on the farm with some minor "end of the season" chores being done. We spent some quality time with the horses. Epona seems to be growing again and has gotten that lean look. She favors her mom but has turned a dark bay color like her dad. Bedwyr treats her like a big brother would a little sister. He puts up with her bluster but will not hesitate to push her out of the way if he has the urge. He remains a complete gentlemen with his humans, though. He also looks to me as if he has grown up a little in addition to his growing out. Baby Gwynith is continuing to grow and has that solid look that I like in a part bred. She is well proportioned with great depth and breadth in the hind quarters (I have always liked a nice tush) but almost appears dainty when you see her from certain angles. She has a lovely head and that kind eye from her mum and dad. Just the type we were hoping for from the Circle x Joe breeding.

October 15, 2006 - I brought Indy home on Friday afternoon. She looked remarkably well considering all she had been through; and her spirits very good. She was delighted to be home. She is currently sharing a pasture with Circle and Gwynith. Meanwhile the winter pasture rotation is almost fully complete. Joe and gang have moved to their winter field where he and Illithia have decided that cold-weather hanky-panky suits them. Illithia is coming into heat again; and Joe is not drifting far from her side. She has stopped running from him, and I even witnessed an attempted covering yesterday. Not entirely out of the question; since we now know that Indy would have conceived in mid November.

October 12, 2006 - It's official with an unofficial measurement; ; Rhiannon (at approx 3 and 1/2 months) is as tall as Epona (8 and 1/2 months). Incredible. Rhiannon's rear end measures up to the base of my nose; Epona's rear end the same.

October 11, 2006 - Indy will come home on Friday. She is making a full recovery and doing well. It's been a difficult year so far; and lately in particular with the losses of old Nanny Goldie, Yoshi, earlier in the year Willow's foal and now Indy's foal. Just a bit of bad "ju-ju". Willow's foal and Indy's foal died under very different circumstances, neither at all similar to the other in any way but their unfortunate demise. We count ourselves fortunate however, that both Willow and Indy can go on to produce. Gwynith continues to grow like a weed and develop a wonderful personality. Rhiannon is as sweet as can be and continues to appear to be the spitting image of her Pa. Epona and Gwynith are going very dark in color. Will get out with camera to post new photos tomorrow or Friday. The winter woolies are definitely beginning to set in.

October 9, 2006 - The long wait for Indy's foal is over. Unfortunately, it does not have the happy ending that would have wished for. Indy began to foal early this morning and seemed to be doing fine. We quickly grew concerned with her lack of progress and made a call to Dr. Andrea who beat all land speed records to make it here from Middleburg. The determination was that Indy needed to make a trip to the equine hospital. The net of it is that Indy is recovering but we have lost what would have been a lovely colt foal and the eventual match to our beloved Bedwyr in our future CB driving team. The team at Morven did yeoman's work to save the foal but it was not meant to be. I keep hearing the words of our Welsh friends in my head..."if you have livestock, you're going to have dead stock." It has not been a particularly auspicious year on balance for the animal population here at Bay Haven. The good news is that we will have Indy back tomorrow so that she can begin to recuperate from her ordeal.

October 7, 2006 - Another step towards winter pasture rotation today. We have long deliberated about leaving Circle and Indy with the herd knowing that there would be a chance they would conceive going into winter and thus produce winter foals next year. We know Indy is capable; as she hasn't foaled yet which would lead us to believe she conceived in November or later. Thus we have moved Circle, Gwynith and a very rotund Indy to a pasture of their own where they will winter together with their foals and then rejoin the herd in the spring. This will also help us get closer to having all spring foals which would be nice....Cybele will be our only straggler with an early June foal expected next year.

This rotation leaves Rhiannon without her buddy Gwynith. However she hasn't seemed to mind much so far...Rhiannon is mature beyond her months and acts more like a yearling than a young spunky foal. The pace of her mum and aunties suits her better than Gwynith's constant wind-sprints and playful frolic.

A cold wet soaking rain all last night and all day today. Grass is greener than ever.

October 6, 2006 -A step towards winter pasture rotation today. Ariel has joined her friend Illithia with the herd. We want them both to have ample time and space to run and make their way with the herd before being rotated to smaller winter pastures. Ariel and Illithia will be bred to Joe and then head off to their new home of residence in the spring/summer of '07. Bedwyr and Epona have joined Bounty (and the Corries) so that Bounty would not be alone. Eventually, it will just be Bedwyr, Bounty and Gwynith spending most of their winter together as Epona should be heading to her home soon, and then Rhiannon to follow to her new home in December.

Last fall we were fortunate enough to witness a bald eagle fly over head as we were tossing hay (which leads me to believe it was later in the autumn season). No bald eagles yet, but we did capture this bird of prey taking up his post on our post.

October 3, 2006 - A special photo tribute to Yoshi on [Yoshi's Page](#)

October 2, 2006 -Joe and Indy are sticking very close to one another as if they both know something we do not. Hopefully Indy's foal will arrive sometime soon. This month preferable. We haven't had a freezing temp yet at night but I don't think the freezing temperatures are far off. Upper 40's to low 50's mostly at night. Nice and cool. Rhiannon and Gwynith's coats are thickening up. Joe has gone dark again. There is more of a yellow hue coming from the wooded area and the tree line. I have posted our [Growth Statistics](#) on a page of their own. The statistics should grow more interesting as more data is collected.