



The latest new, products & events from NORSK FARM.

April 2013 Newsletter

## Greetings from Norsk Farm!

Hopefully this finds all of you well. Our family has been busy preparing for spring, although it seems kind of late in coming. The Maple trees have been giving lots of sap and we are keeping the cooker busy to try to keep up. Yesterday my mom put 18 ½ quarts of syrup in jars. My boys even tapped the Box Elder tree in our front yard. Box Elder is in the same family as Maple and give lots of sap. The conversion is only about 50-1 [vs. 40-1 with maple]. The resulting syrup is clear and very sweet but has more of a honey flavor.

Another spring job is our organic certification paperwork. We have to submit crop plans for each field and organic verification of every seed and fertilizer that we apply. As well as the projected yield for each field etc. The forms are kind of intimidating and actually scare off some would-be organic producers.

We sent the last of our butcher hogs into the butcher. Our pigs are tamer and so much easier to move than some of the pigs I've been around over the years. I remember the one time we bought some young pigs from a man by Lena. The pigs had never been around people and were very wild. Anyway, my Dad brought these pigs home and one escaped while we were unloading them into their new pen and ran into a corn field. I ran after it but it got lost in the field and we had to give up looking for it.

A few months passed and we had almost forgot

about the lost pig until one afternoon we saw it out in the cow pasture chasing the cows around. When we went out to get the cows that evening it went

along with the cows up the lane and then jumped back into the corn field. This went on for a few days until we decided to try to catch it. My Dad went out to get the cows and I laid in the tall grass by the lane. The pig came up with the cows and kept a wary eye on my Dad. When it got a few feet away from me I jumped out of the grass and onto the unsuspecting pig. Have you ever heard the expression "Hog Wild"? Well, it was squealing and thrashing and trying its hardest to bite me but once it realized that we had it controlled it gave up and let us bring it back to the pen. The biggest surprise was when we put it into the pen and realized that it was now the largest pig in the batch! I learned then that the best way to raise a pig is to let it live as naturally as possible. All the grain and milk we fed those other pigs couldn't compete with freedom and variety!

Speaking of pigs, we are really enjoying the new shoulder bacon we got from our butcher. It tastes like regular bacon but has a lot higher meat content.

*continued ...*

### INSIDE

- Maple & Box Elder Tapping
- Organic Certification
- "Hog Wild" Shoulder Bacon
- CSA Program
- Family Farm Day, June 8

**TRY A HEALTHIER MEAL TODAY!**

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We made some incredibly good BLT sandwiches with shoulder bacon and fresh lettuce last week! We have also cooked it like regular bacon for breakfast.

Our **Family Farm Day** is scheduled for June 8th and we are busy preparing for a big crowd. We will have pens set up on the lawn again with baby animals and will be giving farm tours all day. There will be hourly pasture walks and speakers giving talks on food/health subjects. Organic Valley is providing refreshments and we will be cooking samples from the store as well. Hopefully your family can visit us that day!

The first CSA shares will be ready on Saturday. We will be delivering to Green Bay on Saturday afternoon. We still have some more shares available if you are interested in trying it. I think they are a great alternative to halves/quarters because they allow you to buy the meat at the reduced price while enjoying more diversity.

Sincerely,

Daniel



*Hannah's Sweet Potatoes*



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