

RUBY IMP'S FARM

15649 Newcomb Rd. Middlefield, OH 44062 440-223-0125 rubyimpsfarm@aol.com

Sweet simplicity, eclectic charm and a little whimsy to tickle your fancy!

ISSUE 2, SPRING 2015



Ruby Imp's Farm is committed to providing a personal, economic, and environmentally sensitive approach to the modern farm. At Ruby Imp's, our eclectic country style adds distinctive whimsy to our diverse products and services by balancing nature with simplistic function and the faithful devotion to all living creatures. Our "no-harm, no-kill" philosophy is our commitment to all critters!



FARM JOURNAL ENTRY 2 – SURPRISE!

Ah, Spring! Finally it's here. Cabin fever doesn't work for me and it doesn't work for the critters either. They love to be outside. Even with their thick woolies and plush undercoats, those cold polar vortex days are UNBEARABLE! But alas, it is over. Bright sunshine, fresh air and spring cleaning! A farm, like a garden, is always a work in progress. But on Ruby Imp's Farm, the advent of spring somehow always brings a few surprises from the winter months past. Usually those surprises are compliments of one of our two male ruminant hunks... Julius or Festus. Julius, our ram (male sheep, intact) and Festus, our buck (male goat, intact) inevitably turn the farm upside down a few days (or weeks) out of the season, escape from their pens and find a lovely ewe or doe, respectively, to "play" with! Then, approximately 145 days later, our surprise comes in the form of a baby or two... or three... or more.

One of our favorite stories was our own immaculate conception. It was October 2012 when Hurricane Sandy roared up the East Coast and drenched us all in rain. Well, Julius' pen was flooded and he was sure to float away if we didn't relocate him to a stall in the barn. It was a secured stall, mind you, with a metal gate door, and he was in that stall... by himself! In any case, approximately 4 ½ months later on a cold Saturday morning in March, I was greeted by the faint bleat of a new lamb born to Connie Stevens, one of our older ewes whom we had not bred and had had no intention of breeding. Thankfully, both mama and baby Bindi were fine. It was to our surprise, and still is, how she and Julius perpetrated their shenanigans through the gate! A mystery it was but I guess the moral of the story is never underestimate four-legged critters or the power of love. Happy Spring!Cindy



JULIUS



FESTUS

RUBY IMP'S FARM

15649 Newcomb Rd. Middlefield, OH 44062 440-223-0125 rubyimpsfarm@aol.com

Sweet simplicity, eclectic charm and a little whimsy to tickle your fancy!

ISSUE 2, SPRING 2015, PAGE 2

GAZETTE GOBBLER

TALES FROM THE CHICKEN COOP

AN EGG, IS AN EGG, IS AN EGG...RIGHT?

Right! And they come in so many different colors, sizes and textures and they are all perfectly fine. When you purchase our eggs, you are guaranteed your eggs are from a reputable farm that cares about its livestock. They are fed non-medicated feed and chicken treats. Unless the weather is below freezing and there is heavy snow on the ground, our chickens are free to roam, scavenge and mingle about. Otherwise, for their health and safety, they must stay in the coop...chickens can easily get frostbite on their combs and feet. Their happy coop (home) is cleaned and tended to daily and eggs are collected several times a day. They are examined for cracks, cleaned, sanitized and packaged ready for you to enjoy!

So what's with that funny looking egg that feels like sandpaper or the one that has speckles or dimples? Well there is nothing wrong with those eggs that are "different" in appearance (color, size, texture). Those natural occurring effects are a result of several factors. Some of the effects include an uneven distribution of pigment as the egg is in its final stages of processing in the oviduct, to the amount of natural sunlight the chicken receives, to the breed of chicken. Rest assured, though, these exterior variations have no effect on the quality of the white and yolk inside the shell.

The USDA has stringent guidelines for grading eggs and if an egg doesn't meet these guidelines, they are rejected. Eggs from our farm are considered to be unclassified, mixed size. Although we have purchased breeds that will ultimately produce large to extra-large eggs, their age plays a part in the size of the egg. So the next time you see one of our "interesting colored or textured eggs", know it was laid by a chicken who isn't perfect but tries her best to give you the best!



HOW LONG CAN I KEEP MY EGGS?

We are asked this question regularly and the answer can vary from source to source; however, your fresh eggs, kept refrigerated will be perfectly fine for up to 6 months! But who would want to keep fresh eggs that long! Large egg producers often keep eggs in refrigerated storage 4 months before they hit the grocery shelf. Easy to peel hard boiled eggs are best made with eggs that are two – three weeks old.

RUBY IMP'S FARM

15649 Newcomb Rd. Middlefield, OH 44062 440-223-0125 rbyimpsfarm@aol.com

Sweet simplicity, eclectic charm and a little whimsy to tickle your fancy!

ISSUE 2, SPRING 2015, PAGE 3



SHEEP SENSE

WOOL + SPRING = SHEARING!



BOBBY BEFORE SHEARING

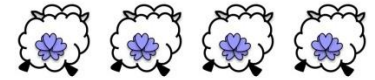


BOBBY AFTER SHEARING

Shearing is a daunting task but a necessity for the animal as well as claiming the product if you are a fleece farm as we are. It takes time, patience, a strong back and legs, a good pair of shears, oh yes, and a cooperative sheep. Okay, some are not as cooperative as others. Typically the shearer will "flip" the animal on his/her rump and begin to shear from the underbelly and around the body removing all fleece. A good shearer can complete this task in 10 minutes or less! Of course I am not as proficient and because of the age of some of our sheep, I take my time to keep them as comfortable as possible and flipping a 200 pound sheep is just not in the equation for me! Nevertheless, we still manage to get the job done efficiently and with as little stress on the sheep, and the Old Farmer Lady, as possible. The end result is a bag full of fleece and a comfortable animal ready for the hot summer and to start growing fleece all over again.

As you can see from the photo above, Bobby has a brown colored coat in his before picture but in his after picture, his natural coloring is actually black. Why the difference? The sun will naturally bleach his black fleece brown. To prevent the bleaching affect, a special coat would cover his back and sides. The coat would also keep the fleece clean and vegetation free so in the spring when he is shorn again, the processing of his fleece for spinning would be much easier. Sadly, our old dinosaur, Bobby, left us a year ago for the big green pasture at a very old age of 18! We miss him but I still have his fleece.

To get a real feel of the entire shearing process, visit Lake Farm Park to observe one of their sheep shearing demonstrations which begin in mid-May. Contact Lake FarmPark for their shearing demonstration schedule..



What's your name?

On our farm, every animal has a name and not surprisingly, a distinctive personality. Sometimes animals come to us already named but those born here are given names based on television, movie or other notable personalities. Take a look at our partial list of characters...

Laverne and Shirley
Herman and Eddie Munster
Dr. Jones and Henri
Paula Dean
Betty Boop
Ruby
Connie Stevens
Daisy
Domino
Ripley and Newt
Fabio
Julius
Polly Pocket
Iman
Twiggy
Barney and Thelma
Festus and Miss Kitty
Gomer and Otis
Goober
Bert and Ernie
Capt. Jack Sparrow
Mork and Mindy
Ginger and Gilligan
Lady BaBa
Sebastian
Fred, Ethel and Lucy
Peanut
Phineas
Esmeralda
Cleopatra

Etc...etc...etc...



Got an idea for a name? Submit it as a post on our Facebook page...Ruby Imps Farm. If your submission is chosen as the next critter name, we'll send you a \$25 gift certificate to use in our General Store!

RUBY IMP'S FARM

15649 Newcomb Rd. Middlefield, OH 44062 440-223-0125 rubyimpsfarm@aol.com

Sweet simplicity, eclectic charm and a little whimsy to tickle your fancy!

ISSUE 2, SPRING 2015, PAGE 4

GRUB & VENTURE

Amish Salvage Stores

Looking for bargains? Come to Geauga County and visit the Amish Salvage Stores. These stores are a bargain hunter's gold mine. Items for sale often are of limited selection, or overstock items from grocery stores, but are loads cheaper than even your discount marts. You'll enjoy huge savings on K-cups and bags of coffee, cereal and shampoo, pet food and tissues. Well, the list goes on but stock up because when you go back they may not have it again. Below is a list of those in Geauga County. Most will accept checks but not credit cards.

*Indicates our personal favorite due to variety of products offered.

Around the Back Salvage - Behind Ziegler Heating at 5223 North Ridge West (SR 20) 1/4 mile west of SR 45 in Saybrook, OH 44004, Tue-Sat, 9-4.

***B & K Salvage** - 5515 Kinsman Road (SR 87), Middlefield, Ohio 44062, Mon-Fri 8-5, Sat 8-3. Amish owned.

Kurtz Salvage - 16777 Shedd Road, Middlefield, Ohio 44062. Mon-Fri 8-5, Sat 8-3. Amish owned.

Maple View Salvage - 17440 Nauvoo Road, Middlefield, Ohio 44062. Mon-Fri 8-5, Thur 8-7, Sat 8-3. Amish owned.

Nature's Nook - 12960 Bundysburg Road, Middlefield, Ohio 44062

N & R Salvage - 9217 SR 534, north of Mesopotamia, Ohio. Amish owned.

Shedd Road Salvage - 15067 Shedd Road, Burton, Ohio 44021, second house east of Tavern Road, Route 168, Mon & Fri 8-7, Tues, Wed & Thurs 8-5, Sat 8-4. Amish owned.

***Southside Salvage** - 15740 Newcomb Road, Middlefield, Ohio 44062, Mon & Tues 8-5, Thurs & Fri 8-7, Sat 8-3, closed Wednesdays for re-stocking, Amish owned.

Tower Salvage - 4652 SR 322, Orwell, Ohio 44076, between Windsor and Orwell, Mon-Thurs 8-5, Fri 8-6, Sat 8-3. Amish owned.

Mary Yoder's Amish Kitchen

Before you take off shopping at the salvage stores, stop at Mary Yoder's Amish Kitchen & Gift Store for a true Amish meal. Located at 14743 North State Street, Middlefield, OH, you'll enjoy wonderful sandwiches, a hot buffet of roast beef, roasted chicken and several sides, or soup and salad or just a slice of freshly made pies. It will surely become a favorite stop in the heart of Amish country. Hours of operation are Mon, Fri, Sat - 7am - 8 pm; Tues, Wed, Thurs - 11am - 8pm; closed Sundays. Visit www.maryyodersamishkitchen.com for their complete menu and join their Birthday Club and receive a free meal on your special day!

In the Summer 2015 Issue, learn about Coconut Retrievers!