

# RUBY IMP'S FARM

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

ISSUE 1, WINTER 2015



Ruby Imp's Farm is committed to providing a personal, economic, and environmental 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 functionality and the faithful devotion to all living creatures. Our "no-harm, no-kill" philosophy is our commitment to all critters!

## FARM JOURNAL

### ENTRY 1 – HOW WE GOT HERE!

In the beginning...there was a goat named Faye. A little goat that got started off on the wrong hoof. She couldn't walk and her mother rejected her, not the perfect beginning for a young'un. But at the Lake Farmpark, Kirtland, OH, where Sam, our daughter, worked, the crew in the Well-Bred Shed was not going to give up on little Faye. They carried her everywhere, fed her from a bottle and babied her back on her little four legs. But when it came to re-introducing to the herd, none of the other goats wanted anything to do with her. So, along comes Sam...and, well...Faye found herself a new home and Ruby Imp's was born! Five years later, we found ourselves starting our new venture in life...moving from our suburban home in Mentor, OH, to the rural Amish community of Middlefield, OH. Converting a truly Amish non-electric home into an updated modern farm on 20 acres with 50 sheep, 10 goats, 1 horse, 50 chickens, 4 ducks, 8 cats, 4 dogs and a 3-legged rabbit, (that's a whole other story). And one reason our farm is special...not only are we a fully working farm, but we take on those special critters that need a little more care, a place they can live out their natural lives with respect, value and love.



....Cindy Megrey

With her crazy hay hat, Faye may not look like your typical goat, but she is a Boer-Oberhassle cross. Her personality...ALL DIVA!



# RUBY IMP'S FARM

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## GAZETTE GOBBLER

TALES FROM THE CHICKEN COOP



Ladies strolling through the yard.



Buff Laced Polish with his crazy wig!

Thanks to the handy work of our master carpenter, general manager and all around good Joe, our first chicken coop was completed in July 2013 and our venture in the chicken business began! Our flock of ladies (hens) arrived on June 3, 2013. Yes, chickens by mail! Our collection started with Delaware, Buff Orpington, Rhode Island Red, Black Star, Araucana and one surprise rare breed rooster, a Buff Laced Polish, courtesy of Murray McMurray Hatchery ([www.mcmurrayhatchery.com](http://www.mcmurrayhatchery.com)). Our original 15 "ladies" as we refer to them, started producing around 24 weeks of age and by mid-November we had beautiful fresh eggs.

Had we known then how popular our eggs would be, we would have planned better...but who knew! So with the demand for our fresh eggs growing, we mailed away for 36 more chicks in 2014 and had a local Amish builder erect our second coop. With this shipment we extended our breed variety to include Golden Buff, Australorp, Welsummer, Wyandotte, Light Brahmas, Black Star and Cuckoo Marans, a Light Brahma rooster and our rare breed, White Crested Black Polish. We included 15 Pearl White Leghorns who produce x-large white eggs...and boy, do they produce them furiously! Happily our flock is now at 49. In future issues, we will share some of our challenges in the egg business as well as specific breed information and answer all your fascinating egg questions.

As a Ruby Imp's customer you receive exceptional quality products, special promotions, and best of all FREE delivery within 50 miles of our farm. And don't forget... Save your Ruby Imp's brightly colored egg cartons. Collect 6 and return them for a free dozen eggs! Cartons must be from Ruby Imp's Farm.

# RUBY IMP'S FARM

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## SHEEP SENSE



Have you any wool? Yes we do and lots of it with our flock of 49 sheep! And what type of sheep do you have on Ruby Imp's Farm? Simply answered all different types, sizes and colors. Sheep's wool is a fiber and depending on the specific breed, the fiber will be vastly different. Our selection of wool comes from a mix of long and medium wool sheep. Ruby, our first born lamb on the farm and our namesake, is a Shropshire/Polled Dorset cross. She is our largest female weighing in at over 300 pounds but she is a true sweetheart. And our smallest sheep is Little Polly Pocket, a mere 40 pounds.

Each sheep is shorn annually, usually between May and June...a daunting task. Their wool is then washed, carded, spun and creatively embellished or left to its natural, lovely hue. Shortly, we will be able to offer skeins of our yarn for sale along with other products which utilize the fiber our sheep produce.

Ruby Imp's Farm is a no-kill farm. Every animal that comes to live on the Farm or is born here will live out their natural life in the quiet splendor of Amish country. We thank Lake FarmPark for entrusting us with some of their beloved sheep who were looking for a special place to live.

## DID YOU KNOW...

Sheep are vegetarian! They do not have teeth in their upper front jaw. But they do have 24 molars and 8 incisors and a split in their upper lip allowing them to select preferred leaves off a plant!



## IN THE GENERAL STORE

Ruby Imp's is proud to announce the introduction of our new line of products through our General Store. Candles, hand-crafted luxury soaps and air fresheners! Our products are filled with sweet simplicity, a little eclectic charm and some whimsy to tickle your fancy. All of our products are made with natural environmentally friendly ingredients.



WE NOW ACCEPT CREDIT AND DEBIT CARD PAYMENTS!



Do you live or work within 50 miles of Ruby Imp's Farm? If you do we deliver free!

# RUBY IMP'S FARM

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## ON THE "ROCK"...TALES OF A VET STUDENT

So, you think life on a tropical island sounds romantic and exciting. Well, it can be if you're not a student studying veterinary medicine on St. Kitts in the Caribbean. Sure, beautiful weather almost every day with temperatures continually in the upper 80's, a welcoming breeze and books and books of medical information to study. Competition to be selected into one of the 46 AVMA accredited veterinary colleges around the world is fierce. There are always more applicants than seats and sometimes a dream is squashed by a few points on the GRE. But Ross University, Basseterre, St. Kitts, Caribbean. had a process for selection that included more than a number which is why Sam, our daughter, pursued her dream of becoming a veterinarian at a college more than 2,500 miles from home! The "Rock" as the students of Ross University refer to their temporary home for almost 3 years. St. Kitts is a hop, skip and jump from Nevis and a two hour paddle to Miami. The schooling is intense...almost three years of academic studies on the island and one year of clinical studies back in the States. But Sam's time and experience has been invaluable and the network of individuals she has met, well, just short of amazing. In future issues of our newsletter, Sam will share her tales as a vet student, the beauty and frustration of living on a Caribbean island and her "did you know" points of interest that she shares with family on a regular basis. Sam, we miss you and look forward to your contribution to the newsletter.

## HORSE HOOEY!



Leprichan Q, is our equine beauty or as we refer to her "the big sheep in the flock". Q, a rescue Thoroughbred, came out of the starting gate running 41 races but whose career, like so many other thoroughbreds, was short. Over the next few years, Q, luckily, found a home at a local equine facility, Maypine Farms, where she spent the next 15 years as a school horse. But in May 2012 she decided to retire and looked for a quiet place to spend the next 20 years of her life. It didn't take much to know she belonged with us on Ruby Imp's Farm. Sam and I knew her docile temperament, gentle ride and goofy sense of humor...yes she is funny. Our riding lessons at Maypine made us very familiar with Q and after great thought, offering her the best retirement community in Middlefield was not a difficult decision. Q fits in perfectly since horses and sheep naturally get along...oops, sorry, forgot about those goofy goats too. All three are herd species meaning they thrive in a group of their own or in this case similar species. In future editions, Q will share her experiences on the farm and with those goofy sheep!



In the SPRING 2015 Issue look for:

Grub and Venture – A review of restaurants and places around town that we're sure you'll enjoy!