



Bergen Institute for Agriculture and the Arts

Mountain View County, Policies and Priorities Committee
May 11, 2011

Bergen Institute for Agriculture and the Arts

- promoting agriculture and agricultural practices appropriate to the area
- establishing and supporting cultural and artistic opportunities
- providing and facilitating access to educational opportunities
- networking with other communities



Why Agriculture and the Arts?

- who we are: history, achievement, change
- what we do: farmers, ranchers, writers, artists, musicians...
- agriculture and creativity | arts and caring for the land



- the Bergen community: who we've been, who we're becoming

First projects...

- Bergen Farmers' Market
- Bergen News
- building relationships



The
Bergen News
December 2010

Bringing Bergen Together

Notes From a First Time Farmer
By Sandy Easterbrook, Kettle Crossing Farm

Christmas Greetings from Kettle Crossing Farm

How could it happen? One day I was carving a jack-o'-lantern; the next, it was time to cut down a Christmas tree. The older you get, the closer the seasons stack together. It was especially confusing this year as Bob and I celebrated two Thanksgivings, the traditional one in October and an American one in November, in the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, hosted by friends from the US. The mountains were lovely—a few trees still clutched their autumn leaves, and mist swirled around the valleys. But the route there was paved with monetary intentions: between our cabin and the hiking trails were several miles of candy shops, tacky museums (all of which were "America's favourite"), discount malls, fast food outlets, T-shirt stores etc. etc. You could even attend a dinner theatre where a pair of lumberjacks duelled it out with axed! It made Benji look refined by comparison.

Shortly after returning from Tennessee, I was off to the National Farmers' Union conference in Saskatoon. It inspired me to consider a number of issues for this column, all of them related to the politics of food. But then I decided to let the politicians breathe easy. It's Christmas, after all—a time for peace and good will. Instead I am featuring some of the denizens of Kettle Crossing Farm. Benji, the Maremma, does not appear to be pregnant, despite her adventure at the Goshdy Hutterite colony described in last month's Bergen News. If puppies do arrive at the beginning of January, it will be the biggest surprise of the season.

I hope your Christmas is filled with joyful things, the puppies or sleigh rides or get-togethers with scrumptious local food. May the New Year bring our community ever closer together and may it bring some relief to those less lucky than ourselves. To all of you, a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.



Visioning and long-term goals...

- a resource *to* the community
- an articulate voice *for* the community
- skill-sets, materials, mentorship, leadership
- history and heritage
- shaping the present, imagining the future



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