

GUS'S FARM

"PASTURE RAISED & VETERAN OWNED"

OCTOBER 2021



What's New on the Farm?

I predict when the kids are my age they will be trying to decide between buying more fence posts like their dad or buying the collars that are being developed for GPS controlled livestock in places like Norway. I imagine with twenty years or so of improvement they'll be inexpensive, effective, and commonplace—but maybe not.

For now, high tensile electric fence is as fancy as we are getting. It's relatively simple to install, and take down (essential for someone operating on leased land) and resilient to every thing from branches to bulls. It's also much less expensive than traditional woven wire fence. Less expensive doesn't mean free and that's why we are so grateful for receiving a grant from the Farmer Veteran Coalition. The FVC is making a real impact on the veteran farmer community and I'm glad to have stumbled upon them in a farming podcast.

With my wife's help narrowing down the priority for the farm (reminding me what I complained about the most) it was clear fencing was the best choice to write the grant for. She of course contributed greatly to the actual writing of the grant and sticking to its deadline (warranted, well intended and necessary nagging)

CURRENT INVENTORY

Bacon

Regular Ribs

Breakfast Sausage

Chorizo Sausage

Sweet Italian Sausage

***New Apple Sausage**

***New Maple Brown Sugar Sausage**

Ham Steaks & Roasts

Pork Loin Roasts

Whole Chickens

Maple Syrup

Farm supplies, like every other industry, was slow to fill orders and quick to run out of inventory this year so we didn't receive our order until late summer. However, the day it arrived I hadn't even taken the pallet off my truck before I pulled out some step in posts to build a pig paddock. The next time Melissa and I sat down to watch a movie and its soundtrack was interrupted by me winding up the electric polywire onto the reels (warranted annoyance). We also received bundles of Timeless Fence Posts, which are very ingenious, high quality, fence posts made (in the USA) from recycled window vinyl. The bulk of those will be used in next year's fence projects, but we did need to grab a few to finish up this winter's cattle pasture. We also received some more electric netting to be used with poultry, pigs, and even sheep. Finally, we received a high-quality Cyclops fence charger (made in the USA) which will be large enough to energize the second half of the farm meaning far less wires, solar panels, chargers, and chaos at chore time.

For all this we are extremely grateful and determined to justify our selection for the grant by becoming great producers (with great fence). There are still a lot of holes to dig, posts to set, and wire to run. Thankfully, most of it can be done with a headlamp. But it will take some time, a lot of time. I look forward to the day I can stand up and look back at the entire perimeter fenced with pride...only to be interrupted by my kids, "No one even uses fence anymore, collars are way easier" (Warranted annoyance).

FVC Mission Statement

"We cultivate a new generation of farmers and food leaders, and develop viable employment and meaningful careers through the collaboration of the farming and military communities. We believe that veterans possess the unique skills and character needed to strengthen rural communities and create sustainable food systems. We believe that agriculture offers purpose, opportunity, and physical and psychological benefits."



NEW ITEMS

Try our new sausage flavors

French Apple Sausage

&

**Maple Brown Sugar
Sausage**

These new fall flavors are great served for breakfast, in soups, on top of pizza, stir fry and more homemade fall dishes.

