

November 18 - 19, 2020

# BAYFIELD FOODS CSA

Community Supported Agriculture



## COMMENTS? QUESTIONS?

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## TOBY & PAM GRIGGS OF GRIGGS CATTLE CO.

### A Time for Being Thankful

2020 - the year of the pandemic, bringing change to some food distribution patterns. This convinced more and more of you to buy local. For that we thank you! As Old Man Winter settles in on the farm, it's always a time for being thankful we got most of the important stuff done before the serious weather settled in, as in the photo on the back. This year we were lucky and got an extra week of 'summer'. Such a treat!

Most summers are full of projects and this year was NO exception. This year, our 10th on the farm, we chose fence work and a corral project to build in a weighing station. Not too exciting, but needed doing. If you don't keep good fences, well, you know the rest. Toby and his part-time helper, Matt, replaced a host of older fence posts, moved fence lines to be more effective in keeping calves in and the critters out, and rebuilt several of the major gates. Grass growing over the bottom wire will severely reduce the electrical charge on the fences, especially in winter, which increases the possibility of a calf escape. Many hours were spent,



by Matt, with the power “weed-wacker” cutting away grasses under the the wires.

The cattle are loving the colder temperatures. The flies have finally died off. The weather has allowed the grass to stay green, allowing them to graze instead of needing hay bales. We buy our hay from local producers. Why? 60+ cattle on 127 acres just doesn't produce enough of the green stuff to feed them in the warm season AND grow hay for winter. When I decided to buy this farm in 2009 I knew this and haven't regretted it. The good side is I am not investing 10's of thousands of dollars to own, operate & maintain equipment I only use 3 months of the year. On the negative side, I am relying on well managed forages by another operation and I have no say how he does or doesn't do the job. I just make it work for us and deal with the downside, if there is one. They cut and bale the hay. We go and move the hay from their fields to our farm. It is sometimes a tricky fit into the schedule, but we make it work. After all, it's insurance for my cattle - they will not starve in the winter. I must be doing ok because my primary hay provider just bought a second bull from me to fertilize his heifers. A good day!

Like many of you, we want fresh, locally grown veggies and don't have time to grow our own. So, you join the Bayfield Foods CSA in the summer and/or winter. Good on you for doing so. Every one of our 20+ members is grateful for your purchase. And that goes for the meat, poultry and fish producers/farmers/fishermen as well. Every week during the summer, and alternate weeks during winter, we all gather together to pack your boxes late on a Tuesday afternoon. We take great pains to make sure you are getting the items you requested in the box with your name on it. We are always looking for ways to totally eliminate any inaccurate pack-ups because we always want the most important people in the world, YOU, our CUSTOMERS, to remain happy with our CSA. We thank you for your support & your willingness to buy our products!

-Toby & Pam



Winter scenes at Griggs Cattle Co. (clockwise from top left)

- The herd munches on hay in a snowy field.
- Toby moves bales of hay with his tractor.
- The Griggs Cattle headquarters during the beginnings of winter weather, 2020.