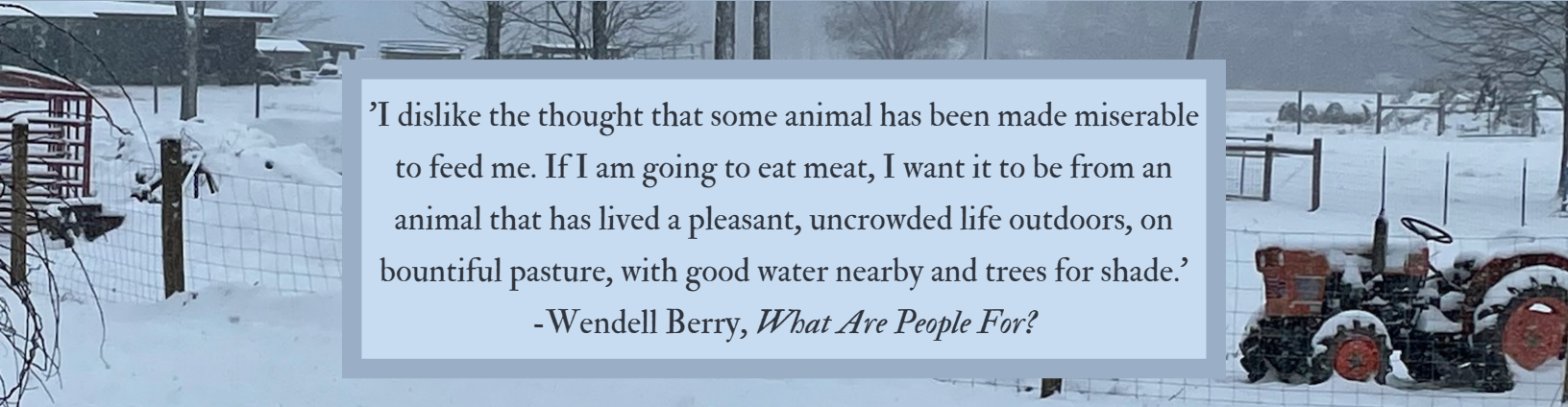


ANNIE ACRES

Farm Update | Winter 2022



'I dislike the thought that some animal has been made miserable to feed me. If I am going to eat meat, I want it to be from an animal that has lived a pleasant, uncrowded life outdoors, on bountiful pasture, with good water nearby and trees for shade.'

-Wendell Berry, *What Are People For?*

Colder temperatures bring a quieter season to Annie Acres. The cows are enjoying their seasonal break from milking, and the pigs are loving the mud that Tennessee wet winters bring. We fill our barn with hay over the summer so that when the cold arrives, (while we break through ice on water troughs and live in coveralls and muddy boots) the animals stay as nice and cozy as possible. Although some farm chores are more challenging due to freezing temperatures, we're appreciating the relaxed pace of winter farm life which allows us to reflect and share some Annie Acres' updates:

HAY

This year we shifted from small square bales to round bales for cattle feeding over the winter season. Now that we have greenhouses to use for hay storage, the spoilage is very minimal and the cattle appear to enjoy it almost as much as a good early summer square bale. Additionally, the workload of putting up hay over the summer is more manageable with round bales, which is always nice.



ANNIE ACRES

Cows

The 6 cows that are part of our dairy herd now include: Betsy, Ginger, Honey, Opal, Queenie, and Tilley. They enjoy the barn bays that they share as a group and as the extra hay compresses underneath them each day, it is actively composting and fermenting to create a bed for them that is consistently warm and dry. They are quiet and comfortable, which allows them good rest for the upcoming calving season.



Pigs

The pigs are in a breeding group now including 4 sows, Ruby, Willa, Pearl, and Elsie and boar Rip. They are more comfortable in groupings and get along very well. Having a large outdoor paddock to exercise through the wood-line as well as a large barn bay filled with hay for warm nights, the pigs have been enjoying this winter season very much. Farrowing should begin in late February/early March and then the sows will be sectioned off to bond and care for their piglets for a few weeks. We hope to have a very successful spring season, albeit very busy with new births.



GRATEFUL

We hope you have had a restful winter season, as we have, as it is important to have this time of reflection and preparation each year to help us analyze the past season and look to improve upon it for 2022. It is a blessing to have the infrastructure now to do just that and good stock that are content and agreeable. Stay warm friends!

