

Janzen Family Farms

Newsletter, Spring 2019

Dear family, friends & faithful customers,

It is time for a sign of life from the “trenches” of grass-fed beef and organic crop farming. The days are lengthening, urging us to look forward to a spring and summer of good green growth in the fields and pastures, healthy and fattening cattle, and overall agreeable weather and conditions.

Brutal Winter Followed Tough Year

Last winter was brutal. In fact, all of last year was extreme in several ways. After a prolonged drought that began about 18 months ago, and continued into the spring 2018, we began to have a few good rains. Then it began to rain more steadily, with two 10-inch rains in late September and October, the first due to an Atlantic hurricane coming in from the southeast, the second due to a Pacific typhoon coming in from the southwest. We were delayed and delayed with fall planting and harvesting. In due course we were up against coming winter, with only one field planted to wheat, and one more planted to cover crop for grazing.



On the other hand, we were able to finally harvest a bumper crop of organic soybeans the two days before Thanksgiving. For this we are thankful. Eight semi loads of organic soybeans are being shipped to Dubois, Nebraska to the Central Plains Organic Farmers Association (CPOFA) mill for processing into soybean meal used in organic feed for dairies and poultry feeders.

Grass-Fed Herd Weathered the Cold Well

Our grass-fed beef herd spent the entire winter on outdoor brome and native grass pasture. As the accompanying photos suggest, they are a hearty breed. Extensive rains last summer and fall produced abundant dry forage, as seen in the top photo. However, we needed to begin supplementing their diet with hay harvested last summer: prairie, brome, and protein-rich alfalfa to keep them thriving during the cold weather. Those “white backed” Angus cows do not mind the insulation if they can get a bit of alfalfa into their bellies.



See You at the 2019 Farmers Market!

Now, with winter coming to a close, we are also looking forward to seeing you, our customers, face-to-face more frequently. We will again occupy stall # 4 at the Saturday morning [Kansas Grown Farmers Market](#) in at the Sedgwick County Extension Office at 21st & Ridge in west Wichita this summer. We may skip some spring sessions because our yearlings need a little more time to be ready. So look for us to be regular at the market from late May on (7 a.m. to 12 noon).

You Can Also Order Ahead!

We are also taking advance orders for half or whole animals. \$3.75/lb hanging weight for a half; \$3.50/lb hanging wt. for a whole. Retail prices remain the same as last year.

As always, thank you for your interest and your business.

Happy Spring!

John Janzen & Family

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