

The Aardsma Weekly

April 22, 2007

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Much Ado About Lots of Things

As my headline implies, lots of things have been going on lately. And strangely enough, lots of it has to do with sheep, or lambs, to be more exact.

Last week, on Saturday the 14th, Beka and Matthew went to do the evening chores for some neighbors who have sheep, chickens, goats, etc. (They often do these chores when our neighbor is gone on business.) They were gone for longer than they were supposed to be, and when they returned Beka was carrying a huddling, shivering little black bundle in her arms. It turned out all of our neighbor's sheep were having babies! It was very cold, dark, and miserable that night, so Beka and Matthew had to move all the sheep around, until the ones who needed warmth the most had it.

One sheep had had two babies, a white one, and a black one. The sheep had accepted and cared for the white baby, but rejected the black one. (Strangely enough, this ewe did the same thing last year: she had two babies, accepted the white one, and rejected the black one.) The black lamb would have died, but Beka and Matthew decided to take the weak lamb home, and bottle-feed it themselves. Our neighbor told them over the phone that if the lamb lived, we could have it for free.

The little lamb has been with us for almost a week. She is slowly getting stronger, and is the friendliest little thing ever. Beka has been officially accepted as her mother, and feeds it a few times every day, and the little lamb is well on its way to becoming the most spoiled lamb on the face of the earth.

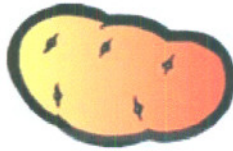
Now, Beka's lamb is not the only lamb around here. I mentioned a few weeks ago that our sheep were pregnant as well. And this week, four days before she was due, Polly gave birth to two tiny lambs, Wednesday morning, at 9:07, a.m. One is especially small, and is full of spunk! The other, larger one takes life more calmly. After some work on Beka and Matthew's part, I am glad to announce that both of the little male lambs are nursing well. Mama is happy, and they are peacefully adjusting to their new life in this strange and noisy world.

The rest of our ewes are expected to lamb anytime in the coming weeks. After the easy birth of Polly, we hope that Molly and Dolly will do just as well when their turn comes.

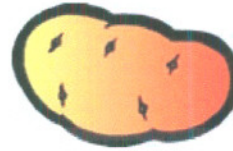
Speaking of sheep, since it's getting crowded in the sheep pen, what with new lambs and more on the way, Matthew and Timothy erected a pen next to the ewe pen for Wally The Ram to live in. However, Wally did not take kindly to his new home, and the next morning we discovered he had jumped the fence (and ruined the barbed wire above it) back to join his friends. The boys put up a two-by-four barricade on Tuesday, and put Wally back in that day. Just in time, too, since Polly had her two little boys the next day.

The Weekly Bible Verse

Matthew 7:12: In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.



Bits and Pieces



We've been working hard in the garden this week, planting potatoes, mostly. So far, working in the evenings, we've planted a section (4 rows) of red potatoes, and two sections of white potatoes. Potato planting is hard, hard work, but you can get pretty good at it after a while. My job is doing the actual planting, while Matthew usually digs the holes to put the seed potatoes into.

Every year we talk about how physically tiring the planting is, yet it always amazes me every year. At the moment, I'm very sore, and Beka is too. (Though she's sore from squatting in the ewe's pen, encouraging the lambs to nurse.)



A Word About The Weather



It has finally warmed up some! We've actually had a hot day or two this week! Everything in the garden is popping up, and we've started eating vegetables from the greenhouse. Rebekah, our official pool-maintenance person, has started getting our big pool ready for swimming in.



A Word Of Wisdom



If you plant a potato upside down, it *won't* come out in China twenty years later, despite popular opinion.