

The Aardsma Weekly

May 20, 2007

Writer: Rachel Aardsma



Mulberry Lane Bakery

As I mentioned last week, Beka and I have started making baked goods to sell to our vegetable customers. At Mom's suggestion, I've decided to write an article about our system, set-up, and ideas.

A couple weeks ago, the subject came up of how Beka and I could make extra money for college. Working out of the home wasn't an option, so anything we did would have to be done right here in our house.

Setting up a baking business seemed to be a good idea, since both Beka and I can cook, and we enjoy it (most of the time). Beka has been cooking for years now, but I'm still learning.

My part of the business is primarily making French bread. It is real French bread, made in long, skinny loaves. We all love it, and it's very easy to make. Almost every morning, I throw all the ingredients into two bread machines. The machines then do all the kneading and mixing and rising for me, and in about an hour I take the dough out, shape the loaves, and put the risen loaves in the oven. The bread almost always looks nice, and sells well.

Beka makes rhubarb breads, as well as rhubarb pie. She makes big pies, and also little tart-like pies. Matthew says the tarts taste better than the big pies, but since Beka makes one big batch of filling, and one big batch of crust every time she makes pies, we find this hard to believe! Beka can usually spend most of her morning making two big pies and six tarts. Her pies are delicious, and we enjoy eating all the leftover, just-starting-to-get-soggy ones after the sales are done for the day.

Her rhubarb bread is also excellent, especially straight from the oven! It is a coffee-cake like bread, with rhubarb in it, and chopped almonds sprinkled with cinnamon-sugar on top. This sells very well, and every one who tries it likes it.

Besides bread and pies, we sell various bars and cookies. That is generally my department.

Mom buys the ingredients, and gets half of the profits to pay for air-conditioning (our gas oven really heats the house up!) and ingredients. Rebekah and I get the rest of the money, depending on what was sold. (If Beka sells a pie, she gets the money. If I sell bread, I get the money.)

This system has worked out well so far. Whenever we get a vegetable customer, Mom carries a tray of our goods out with her. The customer can look over everything, and take what they want. We also have ads running on local radio stations to help find more customers.

Though it requires a hot house and a little over-time work, Beka and I are both enjoying our 'Mulberry Lane Bakery' so far.

The Weekly Bible Verse

Isaiah 41:10: Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the end of the earth! Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the coastlands and their inhabitants.



Bits and Pieces

We had a pretty bad thunderstorm this week. There were some very strong winds! We needed the rain very badly, though, so we can't complain. The good effects of the rain didn't last very long though, and we are in bad need of rain again already.

We had a nice Mother's Day last week. Beka and I made Mom a cake, combining our talents to make it pretty. Beka did almost all the real decorating, while I did the designing.

This week we were excited to get our very own American flag. We hung it near our mailbox, and it is now flapping away in the breeze out there. We like to show support for our country, troops, and President Bush by hanging it up where everyone can see it.

We got our spring shipment of chicks this week. I haven't even seen them yet, but Timmy tells me they are adorable. However, they are already sprouting their big ugly wing feathers, and becoming chunky. They are living in Matthew's homemade brooder in the barn.



A Word About The Weather



We actually had two very cold days this week, as well as a frost. We were worried about our tomatoes, potatoes, and strawberries getting frosted. So far, though, nothing seems to have been damaged too badly. We are grateful for that. All the rest of the week had been sunny.



A Word Of Wisdom



Some cats don't like chocolate chips, but some will eat frosting and sour cream. Dogs, however, will eat all three.