

News from Martins Farm Supply

Last winter we started the certified organic feed mill. Now that we've been in operation for awhile, it's time that I give you an update on how our system works.

We make deliveries primarily on Wednesday and Thursday. That means Tuesday is feed grinding day. And Monday is for paperwork. We go toward Canton one week and toward Malone the next. So most of our customers get delivery every two weeks. This schedule has been working well for us.

It works best if you can get your order in to us by Monday evening. Timely orders help a lot to allow us to group similar orders and be prepared for the day so things go smoothly. We do our best to fill orders even if they are late. If you miss our regular delivery schedule, we normally charge an extra delivery fee or make you pick it up. If you expect that you will forget, you can request the same thing every so many weeks or place your order ahead of time.

We are required to put feed in new feed bags. However, we are allowed to refill your feed bags. I give \$0.20/bag discount if I reuse your feed bags. If you wish to refill your feed bags: Don't return bags with holes or that are all dirty. Shake extra dust off. Stack the bags flat with the open end all one way. When you are finished with your stack, fold it in half and put the stack of bags inside of another bag. Fold your stack so either the bottom or the top of the bags is showing. Don't fold it so the side is showing. Then write your name on the outside of the bag. When I go to fill your bags, I yank them out and flop them on the floor by the bagger and bag with speed. If you return dirty or torn bags, you don't get credit and/or I may stop reusing your bags.

We are able to make feed orders of any size. All orders are in feed bags unless other arrangements are made. Orders under about 600# are priced as small batches. Orders between 600 and 999# also have an

extra charge. Orders 1000# and larger get the best pricing. If you regularly plan to order over 2 tons at a time, I recommend you consider buying bulk from Lakeview, Green Mountain, or from Canada, as they will likely have a better price.

I try to buy my grain from local farmers if I can. I use Lakeview Organic Grain to supply whatever I can't get locally. I get odd feed ingredients and minerals from places like Fertrell. So if you have any certified organic corn, soybeans, oats, wheat, rye, alfalfa, or any other crop that you'd like to sell, I may buy. I have limited grain storage here, so I may not be able to buy your grain out of the field.

I closed the Specialty Feed mill about mid summer. I ran out of "Specialty" grains (grown organically but without the paperwork). I don't plan to reopen it unless the markets change. I wish all crops were "Specialty" as I have an opinion about fees, regulations, and paperwork. For now, I'm buying certified organic.

When you drive in my driveway, you may find it soft and sticky. I made 'black top' from stone and used vegetable oil. In time, the vegetable oil will dry like paint and be hard. Please don't be offended by my 'organic' driveway.

Mose Yoder is having an auction on 10-10-20, (see his flyer in this mailing). I hope you get this in time that you can be there. I plan to take some of my overstocked and old minerals to his auction. Be there if you want a deal.

Fertrell has sales on fertilizer and seeds. Ask if you want more info.

Thanks for your business and support,

Melvin

Super Calendar

I made a calendar with 11X17 paper. It has big boxes so you can write in notes and appointments. It goes for 2 years so you can enter next year's appointments too. It is similar to Zook's Molasses 'Amish Calendars'. There are no pictures. Due to the size of it, I'm not including it with this mailing. If you want a free copy, stop in or request one with your delivery. Let me know if you want an extension to the end of a calendar you received previously.

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The Blessing of Covid 19

By Melvin Martin

Last winter and spring, a terrible thing happened – Covid 19 struck. From my perspective, the effects from fear of Covid 19 and the political aspect of it far outweighed the effects of the virus itself. Many people have died because of it. We all know about it, so I don't need to say more.

In this writing, I want to focus on the blessings of this situation, not the curses. But I need to point out some of the curses so you can comprehend the blessing.

Americans have been too rich for too long. We don't respect the goodness that God has given us.

My dad said it's good for everyone to be poor at some time in their life. Being poor makes you value the goodness that God has given to you. It builds your faith. It causes you to be more efficient in how you do things. Being poor is a blessing.

Yet we in America are pleased to make people, (mostly from other countries), work like slaves so we can have more than is good for us! The work environment and the pay rate of the people that make the food we eat and the clothes we wear is way less than what we would be willing to live with! The people that make the food we eat work unreasonably hard for the little they get. We work unreasonably little for the large portions that we get.

We in America have lost way more than we realize. Besides losing faith, we have lost skill and our health. If you were to take the average American, put him on a piece of good land with plenty of room and with all the tools he needs, and left him to make a living without any outside jobs or income, he'd find himself in a hard place. A hard place? This is nothing compared to what he could be facing in the future in America.

The first troubles he'd run into is dedication and skill. He likely wouldn't know what to do with either the land nor the tools. And he'd think he can get it all done in 8 hours of slow easy labor

per day. If he managed to produce some food to eat, he wouldn't know how to preserve it for when he needed it. Would he enjoy eating his home-grown food that wasn't packaged in brightly colored packages and didn't taste like store-boughten food?

These issues I'm bringing up were a deep burden on my heart long before Covid 19 came around. I was praying for change. While Covid 19 may not be all that is needed, it has jarred and stimulated many people to think about changing their lives to be in tune with nature. Why can't you find any canning jar lids for sale as of now? Because there are lots of people thinking about canning food instead of relying on Walmart. This is really good news! There are many wise people

“My grandfather drank raw milk, ate homemade cheese, and un-inspected beef and eggs. Did yours?”

who are preparing themselves to live in a more reasonable fashion than they did in the past. I am pleased to see God's gentle hand warning and pushing people to live a good life, giving them time to prepare, rather than just one day rewarding them in full for their dysfunctional ways. I praise God for Covid 19.

The Very Poor Man

It was very dry this summer. Did the farmers have reason to complain? A long time ago there was a rich man. He had nice clothes, plenty to eat, and was doing well. There was a poor, sick, beggar who sat at the rich man's gate with hardly enough to eat. In time, both men died. The beggar found himself in a pleasant place with all that he needed. The 'rich man' found himself in a very hot, dry place. It was so dry that he desperately longed for a drop of water to put on his tongue! Yes, longed for one drop of water! Now that is a dry place! Who is the very poor man? (See Luke 16:19-31). Don't complain when things are going well.