

# HOMEGROWN

November 2009

Issue One

HomegrownAcres.com

## Lots of Little Striped Piggies Taking Over the Farm!

Website gets a new makeover. Tell us what you think!  
HomegrownAcres.com

### 21 HAMPSHIRE CROSS PIGLETS APPEAR FROM NOWHERE!

#### MAYHEM IN THE FARROWING PENS

On October 6th and 7th our two Hampshire sows, Curly and Moe, were suddenly attacked by 21 newborn piglets!

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#### OLD SPOT SOW SAYS, "WHERE'S THE HEAT?"

Winter is fast approaching and our pigs aren't happy. One of our Gloucestershire Old Spot sows, who is usually cranky anyway, wants to know; "Who turned off the heat?"

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#### PATTY THE GOAT SNEAKS HER BABY IN

Always the most loving and behaving goat in the herd, Patty gets a wild hair and sneaks her baby past our guards. What is with her?

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*Who are these striped piggies that are driving our sows crazy?*



*The change in weather brings a change in attitude*



*Patty's sneaky baby*

Our reserve lists for spring litters are filling fast!  
Get on the list now if you want spring pigs!



*Merciless striped piglets attacking Curly!*



*Self-satisfied sneer of a swine!*

## STRIPED PIGLETS ATTACK OUR SOWS!

It started like any other day on the farm. About the time that the sun rose on October 6th, I went out to let the pigs, goats and poultry start their normal morning routine of grazing on the pasture.

Little did I know that, at that very moment, our two Hampshire sows were being brutally mauled by eleven mini-me striped piggies!

## THE HORROR, THE HORROR!

I had placed Moe and Curly, our two Hampshire cross sows, into small huts that we use as farrowing pens about a week earlier. You see, they were getting really fat and their teats were really swollen, so I thought it might be best to separate them from the herd. Perhaps they were eating too much? Perhaps their time with Oscar, our Hampshire boar, a few months earlier had done something to them?

When I checked on them that morning, I was horrified to see that eleven piglets, who had done a really good job of camouflaging themselves to look like Moe and Curly, had the sows on their sides and

were mercilessly sucking them dry! Too scared to help, I retreated into the house to decide what to do.

## TEN MORE APPEARED THE NEXT DAY!

Having regained my courage the next morning I went back and, lo and behold, ten more of the little monsters had joined their cousins! This pack of wild piglets had our two poor sows running for cover but, regardless of where they hid, the pack cornered them and demanded milk!

**MILK! MILK! MILK!**

Had they been demanding brains I would have understood, but I was dumbfounded as to what to do. The best I could do was to make sure that Curly and Moe had lots of good food and clean water, more hay and a heat lamp so perhaps the piglets, after gorging on our poor sows' milk, would sleep in the hay. Perhaps then Curly and Moe could sneak away.

They remain to this day hostages of the striped monsters. Please help! If you could just take some of these piglets away then Curly and Moe could get back to their lives!

Please Help!!!  
I need to cover the cost of the damage caused by these suckers, so for only \$60 and up you can help Curly and Moe by taking away their tormenters! Contact us for details.

Hurry! Our sows want their freedom!!!

# Change in the Weather brings a Change in Attitude

Winter is fast approaching in the Ozarks and the cold is making itself known. Instead of the balmy 80's that our livestock has been enjoying, the highs have gone into the 50's and 60's. The nights have been downright freezing!

This change in temperature has not gone over well with the Old Spots; they choose to keep their hair short, unlike the goats and chickens who knew better and donned thick coats.

## WHERE'S THE HEAT?

Charlotte, one of our Gloucestershire Old Spot sows, is usually pretty vocal when she's not happy. Blame it on her personality, but she has been voted in as the official spokeswoman for the Old Spot union.

True to her role, and in her funny British accent, she has made it very well known that they did not sign up for living in cold weather. She has communicated the demands of the Old Spot union members to management in clear terms. Turn up the heat or we go on strike!

I guess that she has forgotten that her ancestors once lived in chilly England and Scotland. Having been born in Missouri she perhaps skipped school during History class, but had she attended she would know that Old Spots are very hardy pigs. They do well in winter, requiring shelter only during the coldest of times. I'm considering their demands and trying to placate them with extra shelters and hay bedding.

What is hurting their cause is that the Large Blacks wondering what all the fuss is about? They are just their usual selves,

laying around and getting as much sleep as they can. I certainly won't tell Charlotte, but perhaps she and her union members should take a hint:

"Don't Worry. Be Happy!"

## THE GOATS COULDN'T CARE

Our Boer goats also wonder why the Old Spots are up in arms. With their thick winter coats already donned, they don't even use the shelters at night. While the Old Spots are growling and whining in the shelters, fighting over the warmest spot, the goats lay around in loose groups. Their only disruption comes when Badge, our marvelous herd sire, nudges one of the does and says, "Hey that's my spot!"

## THE POULTRY HAVE A SECRET

The chickens and ducks retreat into their coop each night as always. During the day they just laugh at the Old Spots, then con them into turning over some sod so they can get to the worms and other goodies hidden underneath.

Of course, the poultry have a well-guarded secret. Hidden in their coop is a heat lamp! If they get cold, they just huddle under the lamp and snooze the night away.

I know that the Old Spots will adjust in time. It's going to get a lot colder before it gets warmer. I'll just have to feed them a little extra until they get over it.



*Swine demanding that our son, Brian, turn up the heat!*

The cold weather doesn't bother our chickens who are still laying their delicious eggs by the dozen. We will have farm fresh eggs throughout the winter so give us a call if you want a really good omelet!

# Patty the Goat Sneaks a Baby into the Herd!

## BABY JUNO SURPRISES THE HEMEGROWN ACRES CREW

Patty is a Boer goat doe who has been one of the most loving goats we have ever had. She loves to be scratched and nuzzles easily when you ask. She has never broken the rules on her own, such as running through the fence to the greener grass on the other side, unless peer pressure made her go along.

So we were very surprised when she betrayed our trust by sneaking in a baby goat!

Apparently she was hiding it in her belly. She has always been a big girl, not fat really but chubby, one of those pretty girls who just always carries a little extra weight. So we had no idea that she was actually letting a baby grow inside her until she felt comfortable enough to let it out!

Now, to be truthful, we do let our does hang around our herd sire, Badge. And he has been known to pressure some of the girls into...well...you know. So we should have guessed that he had conned Patty into this sleight of hand (or belly, as the case may be).

Once the baby was on the ground we were initially a bit perplexed, but our attitude soon changed when we saw just how cute the new baby was! Energetic and strong, and having that funny white jiggle on her head just like her Daddy, we soon knew that we would forgive Patty for this trickery and welcome Juno (as Patty said to call her) onto the farm.

Patty did have a brother, Jupiter, but after a few weeks he unfortunately

caught a cold and went to that big goat herd in the sky. :(

But Juno and Patty are doing quite well. We keep them away from the herd for now, living in the barn with their own private pasture. This makes sure that Juno has all the time she needs to grow up a bit and lets Patty take some well earned time off.

We will be looking for a new home for Juno soon. Although Patty is unregistered, Juno's dad is a 100% boer registered with the American Boer Goat Association. So if you are looking for a wonderful, sweet young doe to have as a pet or add to your herd, give us a call!



*Hiding inside her mother, Juno sneaks into the herd. Since she is so cute we voted to keep her!*



*Baby Juno*