

## WEATHERING A WINTER STORM IN NORTHERN MICHIGAN!!

With temperatures near 0 degrees and the wind chill hovering around minus 12 degrees, the week of January 20, 2013 was a challenging one for all of us at BSCFAS.

Two of the three pot-bellied pigs were house pets before coming here and their first winter outdoors (2011-2012) was relatively mild - so they fared well then. I added straw bedding in their 8x16' enclosure (about 4' deep) before the cold spell hit. They had fresh water in heated water buckets and I added about a ¼ cup of additional mini-pig food twice daily, along with a few extra peanuts and apple slices for dessert which kept them happy.



### Burrowing Into Bed!

I also added straw on the floor of the indoor aviary when I discovered that the peacocks, guinea hens and chicken were snuggling on the floor rather than roosting at night. It was probably easier to keep their feet covered and pulled up next to their bodies. They, too, received extra rations of 'all-flock' pellets and cracked corn.

The ten equine did fine, too. We kept them in the barnyard with access to the barn as it was too windy out in the pastures. Their winter coats are thick and adequate as evidenced by the snow which stayed on their backs. (If the snow melts, we know their coats are not sufficient to retain body heat). Their hooves were trimmed so that snow and ice balls did not accumulate on their feet.



Blossum & Beulah!

During that kind of weather, everyone receives a little extra nourishment as they are burning more calories to maintain body temperature. That includes all 21 of the barn cats, who snuggle in a heap on the large heated dog pads and/or sleep on the backs of the goats!



Six Cats In A Bundle!



Reuben & Basil!

Marty put pads of straw down to make a 'floor' for the Scottish Highland steers who spent several days in the wind shelter. They seldom go into the shelter but made good use of it during those occasions when it was really blowing.

The eight dogs who live in the house made quick trips in and out to do their business. But Savannah, the Great Pyrenees was put out on a long lead. This kept her from going too far from the house and forced her to stay inside. She really prefers to be out on guard duty and wasn't very happy about that!

The Jersey cow, lamb, and seven elderly goats all stayed in the bar, contentedly lying around and chewing their cuds!

With layered clothing, winter muck boots, and doing chores on and off with house breaks throughout the day, we all survived the chilly weather. I actually think it was easier than doing chores in the heat & humidity of August 2012!

Stay warm! Cherry