

Big Maple Family Farm, LLC

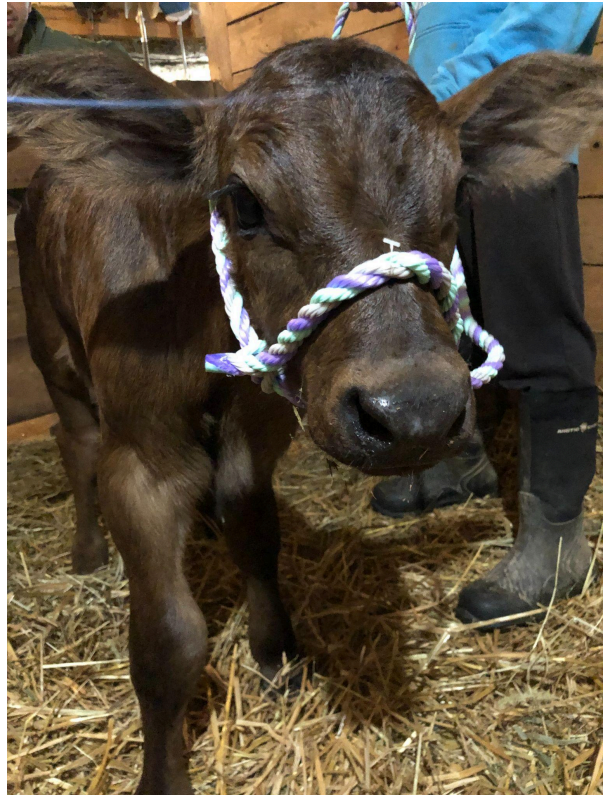
NEWSLETTER

May 19, 2025

Life on the Farm

Spring time leads to new life in our trees, grass, and our animals on the farm. Even though lambs are born during the winter, there are still animals to become new moms and bring new life. This mother's day weekend, we were blessed with lots of new life on the farm.

Over the last 4 years our farm has moved into learning more about cows. Even though the 3rd generation raised dairy and the 4th generation grew up around cows, there is so much more to learn about beef cows and let's just say we are learning. Not all lessons have been easy, but they were worth it to get us to where we are.



In 2024, we welcomed our first calf since 1986. Three more calves would be born however 2 of those three would pass giving us a 50% survival rate. We were not proud of that, but what we learned in that calving season brought us to 2025 season and it hasn't started out with easy decisions. Mother's Day weekend we welcomed our first calf of the season at 5pm in the evening. Calf was born healthy and mom didn't seem to have any problems. She attended well to the calf, but not all was what it seemed. You see calves need to be up and nursing within 4 hours can go as long as 6 but it becomes critical from what we read if you don't see baby nurse.

The cow that had this calf, lost her baby last year after having the baby born healthy and what we thought was

attentive care to the calf, we later realized that the calf was not actually nursing and the extreme heat caused us to intervene last year, with a devastating loss. We made the decision last year to let the cow try again as she was a first time heifer. We spent hours watching this new baby and mom. We wanted to see her and the baby succeed. After consulting another beef cow farmer and no





visible nursing time, we had to make a call. By now it is dark, so safety was a huge deciding factor. We opted to pull the baby from the mom and bring him to the barn. We would feed him ourselves with a bottle. We are glad we made the decision we did as we could have been looking at a much different outcome with this calf. He is now a week old, has been visited by the vet and is healthy and thriving. The boys have named him Moose him working on halter training and well he even took a visit to the house to see grandma. Moose is doing great and we are patiently awaiting the birth of three more calves soon. Say a prayer that all continues to go well and we make wise decisions throughout the rest of the birthing season.

Leadership Doesn't Just Begin on the Farm

Over the years of being a farmer we have learned the importance of what our voice can do whether we are voting, being a part of our community, or just helping to educate people about our farm. There is always an impact that can be made and in fact, it might be able to change the lives of others.

Last summer, I decided to embark on the Leadership Elk/Cameron Class that is held each year through the Community Education



Center. As you know, here at the farm, we have a passion to ag-vocate and be a part of our community in

positive ways. So, this class was right up my alley, especially at a time where I felt that I might want to run for an elected position. The class gave me opportunities to learn about our community from manufacturing, to tourism, to safety and health perspectives, and closing it out was county and state leadership positions. Each month, not only did I learn



about the community but I also learned how important it is to continue to speak up about agriculture. In a world where sometimes we see land as a valuable asset to building more communities, and growing the manufacturing, or growing our ability to have more oil and gas that voice of the community can help remind others that the farms and the land is needed. The trip to the capital was a great one and we got to check out the blessing of the baler signifying the start of the farming season, we visited with local representatives and also got to check out the treasury. If you have ever thought about learning more about our community, then we highly recommend this class and its perfect timing as they are accepting applications now.

Planting Season 2025 Has Begun

Mother's Day weekend was so beautiful! The weather was perfect for planting so we took advantage of it and got the potatoes planted. We may have gone a little over board with what we thought our space could hold and we barely fit all the potatoes! We got them all in along with a second planting of sweet corn. We have some beans and zucchini planted as well and under a frost cover right now, but it is looking like they need to be let out soon. The season is kicking off and we are preparing lots of great things to grow. Now all we need is the right conditions so we can plant some more.

Farm Updates

This is such a busy time of year but we also want to update you all on the things that your farmer is doing here on the farm or other happenings. On Mother's Day weekend we welcomed not only Moose the calf, but Peanut the Sheep had a beautiful baby lamb, a mama duck hatched some ducklings this past week, and well we also have been working to rehab a baby lamb.



When we say we wonder where the time goes, it goes to all these different places. Animal Care, planting, marketing, and so much more takes up our time that it is often hard to remember to update you all on our day to day happenings. The farm is a busy place all around and we are always excited to share with you the things that we are doing.

**The lamb pictured here we have been working to rehab poor muscles after becoming weak. We are working on nutrition, standing, and walking. Each day he gets stronger and we see bits of progress but we are not out of the woods with him yet. One day at a time.

Did We Say GIVEAWAY?

The best form of Marketing is by word of mouth and it comes from all of you! Here at the farm, we are working to grow our following, build up our customer base, and just overall teach people what we have to offer. Our offerings do not just include the food and products we have but also the horse program as well. So we need your help! Throughout the rest of May, we are encouraging you share about your experience with our farm on social media, email, text, etc with family and friends. We will be giving away a \$40 assortment of Pasture raised meat, canned goods, and other products to the winner. To enter, please take a screen shot picture of your post, email, or text and send it to Amanda at ambalon46@gmail.com or 814-335-0804. We will be drawing the winner on June 2nd so be sure you enter today!



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