



December 2012



The Cornell Family has had a very busy year with lots of visitors, travelling and business opportunities.

Cattle prices are up and farm markets well attended. This year, we used YouTube as part of our bull marketing. We sold more bulls than ever. It was a great experiment and one we will continue in the future.



We also installed some tile drainage this year. It was a first for us and will hopefully allow us to expand the types of crops we grow.

We had some local young people work for us this year as well as a relative from England. Tom is hoping to study agriculture at university and needed some work experience. He was here from July to late October. His sister Ellie visited just before he headed home. Our equipment purchases this year were a combine and a couple of old tractors that Gordon is fixing. Thank goodness he loves working with machinery.



On a sad note, our border collie, Liz died one day after Rebecca and Garnet got home from school - almost like she was waiting for them. It's been different not having a dog around. Our Christmas gift last year was "Dora" the cat. She has taken over the house and made sure that mice, chipmunks, squirrels, are long gone.

Kim continues to travel throughout the region for Farmers' Markets in Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout, Kenora, Atikokan, Fort Frances and Red Lake. Our sales keep increasing in this area and we are always developing new products. It seems to be an expanding market for us. Besides our beef products, Garnet raised some chickens for us to sell. They were all sold within a couple of weeks.

Rebecca and Garnet are both at the University of Guelph – Rebecca studying Veterinary Medicine and Garnet studying Earth Surface Science with a minor in Music. They live together in Rebecca's condo. Rebecca has a year and a half left to go and Garnet will be finished next June. On the way home from school in April, they had the unfortunate experience of hitting a deer in Northern Michigan. No one was hurt but the car had to be repaired. This summer Garnet worked for a local mine exploration company - Rainy River Resources as their environmental student. He loved the work and it was right in his field. Rebecca spent another summer working in southern Ontario for a veterinary clinic in Tavistock. She has been doing some research with local dairy herds and recently won the Ontario Association of Bovine Practitioners' student case competition with her research data. She also won the Keith Gilmore Scholarship.

Kim and Pat continue to be busy with church and community commitments. Pat also continues to work as a Justice of the Peace based in the Fort Frances Courthouse. She has been doing a bit more travelling for work – Kenora, Sioux Lookout, Thunder Bay, and even Brampton and London. It keeps her busy.

We all had a few trips this year but Garnet has been the busiest. This summer he traveled to Dauphin with cousin Laura for Countryfest and then in early December, he met up with cousin Shannon (she's studying in Ireland) in Frankfurt, Germany and toured Munich, Vienna, Salzburg, Prague and England over the Christmas break (spending Christmas with family over there). He won't be back to Toronto until early January – just in time to finish his last semester. In October, Kim and Pat were in England to visit friends and family. It was a great trip and Kim became very adept at driving on the opposite side of the road. His tractor driving experience helped (sitting in the middle of the cab). Pat spent a few days in Toronto with two sisters Brenda and Dianne and had a quick trip to Ottawa.



The highlight of the summer was a Cornell Family Reunion in July, with visitors from Toronto, Atikokan, Thunder Bay, Alberta, England, Australia, and of course, all the local Cornells - about 50 people in all. We had a great weekend, with a barn concert of local performers one night and a local foods dinner the next. We filled out the rest of the weekend with lots of fun including water skiing.



We had three barn concerts this year. Kim Churchill performed in June. He is from Australia and a fantastic performer. If you ever get a chance to see him, don't miss it. We also had two concerts with local performers- one in July and another one in August. The August concert had a Christmas theme.



The live taping has been turned into a fundraising DVD/CD set for the Salvation Army Christmas Cheer Fund. If anyone wants a copy, let us know. Cost is \$20 plus postage. We would gladly send you one. You can see a couple of performances from all these concerts

on the Cornell Farms You Tube Channel. We also have pictures of all the fun on our website www.cornellfarms.ca.

We also hosted a couple of other events on the farm – a school bus trip from Sioux Lookout in May and the Rainy River Hereford Association District Cattle Tour in September. Supper was at Cornell Farms with entertainment provided by local duo “Entirely Mac”.

Last year was a bit worrying with many family members dealing with health issues. This year is just the opposite. It's been a great year. Pat's parents Earle and Joanne spent Easter with us and Pat's sister Sharon and her husband Ed, stopped for a visit. Kim's parents Jeannine and Gordon are spending Christmas in Alberta with Kim's brother Doug's family. Last year, our niece Laura was just recovering from a bear attack. She has recovered well and has been back working in the bush. She's planning a multiple month tour of Central America, New Zealand, Australia, and Ireland in the new year. If you want to hear Laura tell her story, check out this interview on CBC's Voyage North:

<http://www.cbc.ca/player/Radio/Local+Shows/Ontario/Voyage+North/ID/2287305841/?sort=MostPopular>

Well, that's all the news for this year. We send out an 'almost' monthly e-newsletter with all the happenings. If you would like to be included on our e-mail list, let us know at cornellfarms@tbaytel.net. We have been doing more regular updates on Facebook and Twitter. Just search for “cornellfarms”. And don't forget to check out our You Tube channel. Hope you all had a good year and all the best in 2012.



The Cornell First Cousins

Kim, Pat, Rebecca and Garnet

Laura, Drew, Garnet, Rebecca, Shannon, Jaydon