

The Family Cow

Llamas.....the other hummer



The Tradition of the Homestead Milk Cow

It wasn't that long ago that having a family farm meant having a milk cow. I remember my aunt and uncle had a cow when I was merely a pup. I would watch fascinated as my cousin would milk her and feed the cats at the same time. From those early days, through college, and a career, having a milk cow (a Jersey) was one of my goals.

Milk cows today are huge factories in themselves. Every time I go to the state fair I can't imagine carrying around the udders that have been bred onto those animals. You could bury someone in one of those things. It was efficiency gone amuck to feed all those who no longer lived in rural areas. A necessity in today's urban world.

We chose to have a miniature Jersey because we don't want gallons and gallons of milk. We wanted to supply our own needs for fresh milk, cheese, and butter, not the world's market. The miniature jersey is easier on the pastures, small enough to handle (spoil in our case), and gives wonderfully flavorful milk with plenty of cream.

By West Virginia law, we are not permitted to sell unpasteurized milk products. But we can sell the cows. We have no intentions to develop into a large cattle producer, but of course little "Breezy" will calf annually. Because of this, we will have limited availability of heifers, bullocks, and steers depending on what she gives us.

Come meet "Sunday Breeze," you may also find that a mini Jersey is just the addition you need for your homestead.

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