



Greetings to everyone this holiday season! Wow, another year come and gone, and it was a great one. Lauren celebrated her 3rd birthday in March, and Ethan turned 1 in September. They grow up way too fast! Lauren is very energetic and passionate about most everything. She loves painting, coloring & drawing-yes, she's a lefty. She loves to sing and dance and has quite an imagination at times. And she's already starting to write her alphabet and can count to 30. She also loves frequent visits to the park. This semester it was nice because Brad had a long lunch break so

we were able to have many park lunch times together. Lauren is very friendly and easily makes friends wherever she goes. This year she made several good friends with other "farmers market" kids, some of which were twice her age.

Ethan is "our little man" and very much ALL boy and on the go! He loves his big sister and does a good job keeping up with her. He doesn't miss much, trying to climb and explore



everything he can, learning new tricks all the time. In fact, we had to "cage" the Christmas tree in one of those portable baby play yards so he wouldn't climb it-he's so curious. Not much can stop him as his latest trick is to climb up on chairs and then on the table. Lauren likes to call him "Bam Bam".



Things here at Dearing Country Farms are busy and progressing nicely. When developing any business, there are struggles and successes along the way. This year has been productive and the whole operation is coming together nicely. We have many loyal customers who encourage us and the

hard work it takes to keep things going and growing. Early this Spring one of Brad's students called and had rescued a baby duckling and wanted to know if we could take care of it. We did and now we have "Dezzie the Duck" living with us on the farm. She wanders free all over and tries to be like one of the chickens. We expanded the gardens and were able to keep up with demand for the stores we sell to, as well as the farmer's markets. The hens are laying eggs well so that part of the business has continued to flourish. Due to many inquiries, a new venture this year is that we now raise "meat birds". They are a Cornish Rock breed that we raise then take to Arthur, IL to have processed at an organic poultry facility. So we have fresh and frozen organic chicken meat year round now.... we are finding there is a large demand for this as well as our eggs. Our addition this Fall is that we are now raising cattle for beef production. We purchased two bottle calves and are now raising them with the intention of processing late next year as to have beef available for our customers (and us too of course). Our continuing project for Brad is building a 50 x 80 outbuilding. He started that this Summer. But as you may or may not know the weather this year complicated most farm lives ALOT. So teaching full time at University High School and night classes at Illinois State University and running the farm has caused that project to continue into next year. We envision how nice it will be once we have it completed as it will include a



special room for egg and produce processing/storage, not to mention housing of the farm implements, grain mixing and many other farm necessities. One other addition this year was to have "Open Farm" every second Sunday June through October, where we give tours and have produce available for people to buy.



Jackie continues to be a stay at home mom, which is a full time job in itself, and as always proud to be an AVON lady (this is her "fun job"). She enjoys selling to

her customers and managing her down-line, as her leadership responsibilities are thriving and continually signs up new AVON representatives. She also helps in the garden and with chores as well as being responsible for packing/grading eggs and delivering to the various stores in the area. Her activities right now are limited due to sciatic back and left leg pain(reoccurring) and (new)neck, right shoulder/rotator cuff issues. Her chiropractic care was not seeing improvement, so now she is doing physical therapy hoping this helps. Our "little man" Ethan is quite a challenge at times as he is so persistent to do what he wants to do that his temper will flare up and he pulls her hair so hard that it has to be close to feeling like whip lash. So keep her in your prayers if you would. We hope and pray that this letter finds you well and may you have a blessed Christmas season and New Year in 2010! Love to all, the Dearing family.



