



## GREETINGS FROM THE DEARINGS

We hope this letter finds you and your family well this wonderful time of the year. The past 12 months have been very eventful with many

blessings as well as sorrow and sadness for us. Our biggest news this year was the birth of our son Ethan Michael on September 24<sup>th</sup>. He weighed 8 pounds 5 ounces and was 22 inches long. Ethan is a happy, healthy, strong little guy who has been growing like crazy. What a joy he brings to our family! Big sister Lauren, who is now 2 3/4 years old, just loves him and

likes to help change his diapers and feed him. Our sadness was the unexpected death of Brad's brother, Darin, in April. He had been battling kidney failure and a variety of other medical conditions, but died peacefully in his sleep during the night. We know he is much happier in heaven with all our loved ones and no longer battling his illnesses. Brad still teaches at University High School and at Illinois State University and Jackie is continuing her tenure as the homemaker and stay at home Mom. Dearing Country Farms continues to grow as we expanded our vegetable plots to almost 3 acres this year. Our apx 800 laying hens continue laying eggs, which we sell at the farm and to 4 health food stores in the region.



Every Saturday from May through October we sell our produce and eggs at the Downtown Bloomington Farmers' Market, so that keeps us quite busy and at home most of the time. Word is out about our chicken ranch because we received a call last January about a loose chicken in Bloomington. Jackie made the trip to town and rescued a small English Bantam rooster we named "Banty." The escapade made the papers as Jackie was thanked for being so humane and kind to animals. In February,

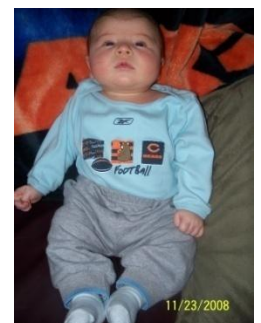
Brad traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah to

attend a conference and was able to see the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. In May, we made our first family trip as Jackie and Lauren rode with Brad to Arkansas as he was a guest lecturer at the University of Arkansas' College of Engineering. We made another trip to Elgin, IL in June to attend a memorable party for Jackie's Grandpa Earl's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. In July, Brad headed back to Arkansas to do another workshop for the University. With Jackie being pregnant during the summer, we were fortunate to have



the grandma's, a few wonderful friends and a couple students work at the farm to help with the produce gardens and the chickens. In August Brad was flown to South Carolina to present at another conference for teachers and met NASA astronaut Pat Forrester. The fall was especially busy as Brad took on teaching two additional classes at the middle school every morning and taught an additional two night classes at ISU. Jackie still sells AVON and continues to have great sales, earning her President's Club status every year. With our egg sales booming and

a "fox problem" this summer we found ourselves ordering another 400 baby chicks, so those are growing now and keeps us on the go every day. Now that Jackie has mostly recuperated and completed her "pregnancy & maternity leave", she is back to the egg business (washing, packing and making deliveries) again. Brad's Mom, Nancy, has been a big help making deliveries to Springfield for us once or twice a month and we really enjoy her visits. In October Brad had his annual tech conference in Peoria, and travelled again in November to Pittsburg, Kansas to present at a Four State Regional Technology Conference. Earlier this month, Jackie's Mom, surprised us with a week's visit. It was a wonderful time and great to have extra help as we prepared for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christmas in the Country. This is a one day event that we started 3 years ago and is growing more each year.



For more info visit [www.cmasintheconomy.com](http://www.cmasintheconomy.com) or to keep up on all our endeavors [www.dearingcountryfarms.com](http://www.dearingcountryfarms.com)



Enjoying fresh corn from the garden



It's Chucky Cheese!



Ethan, 5 days old!



Ethan in here, one month to go!



Patty cake w/ big sis!



Melon from the garden



Posing on the golf cart



Lauren's new "Big Girl" bed



Ethan, 3 weeks old!



Spring planting!



Rescued "Banty" rooster



Lauren, Pat, G'ma Schultz and Jackie at G'pa Earl's Party



Ethan, 1 day old!



Lauren about to get ice cream!



Ethan coming home!



G'ma Rosalie, Lauren, Pat and Jackie in May



G'ma Nancy showin' Lauren how to ride em'



Lauren checkn' the corn



Lauren checkn' the corn



06/28/2008

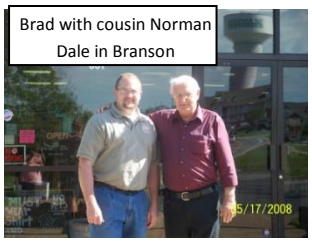


11/09/2008



Lauren and day old brother

09/25/2008



Brad with cousin Norman Dale in Branson

15/17/2008



10/28/2008



Dearing Country Farm booth at the farmer's market

06/28/2008



11/02/2008



11/14/2008



11/08/2008



10/18/2008



Lauren, Jackie, Nancy, Julie, Sarah, Jayda, Katie, Ellen

12/29/2007



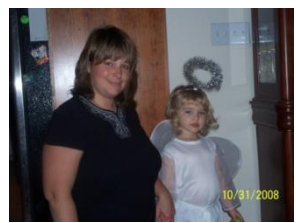
06/28/2008



09/15/2008



10/28/2008



10/31/2008



Lauren and her first snow man with dad!