

Thank you to Roy and Lee Ann in Cross Lake for sharing their thoughts on their farming experience, and sorry for the technical difficulty and that we couldn't include you in the live discussion.

Here are their answers to a few questions from our team.

1. How did you come to start your farm—what inspired you, how were you able to do it?

We have always talked about having our own farm for self-sustainable homestead.

My parents had a farm when I was a young boy, and always wanted to live off the land.

Starting off was hard, there was no help to answer our questions. We had to find out on our own where to buy and get our animals.

2. What are your goals--what is your dream for two years, five years, ten years from now?

In two years, I will have all my animals in proper stalls and more feed. I want to be able to share this experience to anyone willing to learn.

In five years, I will have all poultry chickens, hens, cattle for milking. Hoping to show Cross Lake that you do what you want to feed your family.

In ten years, I can see the farm running at peak performance, selling my poultry, eggs, beef products, having a butcher shop, smoke shop, and more.

3. What have been some of the main challenges? what have been the main opportunities/successes/excitements?

Challenges—having to cross border security to travel to pick up food for the animals. We have gone to Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Swan, the Pas, are all co-ops that we buy from. The cost of gas, R&B, supplies, animals.

Success—having a family farm gives a chance to research and learn more about the circle of life. This farm will help me teach others to realize that food doesn't have to come in plastic wrap.

For every ten people, five out of the group always want to help with maintenance.

There is so much I want to show and teach. Some people are saying they really enjoyed visiting and want to come back.

4. What is your relationship with your community--do they support you, are they interested?

The Chief is on board, but the Council doesn't want any farming, they have why have a farm when we have a store. But I told them the stores won't be there all of the time. High prices. I have three supporters on Council, now I'll work on getting the others in the meantime.