



## February 2011

We saw a funny little sign that someone had posted on Facebook that reads "Whoever is Praying for snow, please stop". We have to agree with that one!

Huge News for Misfit Acres!! Once again the Carl & Verna Schmidt Foundation has gifted the horses with a \$4000 grant! We are so very thankful for their kind support. Now, our summer hay bill is paid and a large portion of our outstanding vet bill balance is paid.

Yesterday, Augie managed to get his hoof stuck in the round bale feeder. There was a bad spot on the bottom ring that had been repaired once before but he managed to break it again. Augie just waited patiently until Bruce could free him without even a scratch. Whew close one-!

Once again, thanks to the Schmidt Foundation grant, Bruce picked up a feeder for that pasture.

Augie, for anyone who does not know him, is our clown. He is capable of the darnest things and can get himself in trouble. The most fantastic thing about this horse is that when he gets into a mess, he does not panic. He just waits for help. He loves to run off with feed pans and leave them where ever in the pasture for us to find. He loves to climb snow piles and poop right on top of them. He managed to rip down the electric fence line one morning when most of the fence was buried in the snow and not operating and then get it totally wound around himself. Bruce looked out the window and saw a yellow insulator hanging from Augie. Augie did not move - just stood there until Bruce could get to him and untangle him. Between Augie and Little Boy, we have learned to expect the unexpected. Thank goodness those two are not in the same pasture together.

During this cold snap and abundant snowfall, we have put all the little ponies in the corral in the arena. Laminitis issues are doing better but we feel since they do not move around as much, inside is better for them.

Abbey is wearing two lighter blankets during this cold blast and BJ has on his nice one. Montana is hardy as ever and seems perfectly happy the way he is without a blanket. Lucky and April have never been blanketed since they have been in our care. Magic, Augie, and Shadow seem to be unaffected by the cold.

After losing our wonderful Toesis, little Acura went through quite a bout of depression. We were quite concerned that she would not spring back to her bouncy self. She is beginning to come around but still panics when both of us get ready to leave and she knows she will be home alone. Toesis and Acura were truly best friends and for anyone who believes dogs don't grieve, she is proof positive.

In our previous column, we believe we had the wrong dates for the Wells Gun & Trade Show. This fun event is March 12 & 13 at the Wells High School, Wells, MN. And boy has Misfit Acres got merchandise!! Thanks to a very generous donation, we should even have gunsmith and gun collecting books by that date to add to our collection of T-Shirts, stuffed animals, jewelry, and knives. Additionally, our new children's books feature all interests including classic fairy tales, drawing books, magic trick books, learning books about animals, trucks, airplanes, motorcycles, and many more topics. There are very well-made, hard cover books with wonderful illustrations and photos at very low selling prices. We are looking forward to this show. Last year was a total success for Misfit Acres.

Thanks to the wonderful photography of Jenn L. Phillips, specially made photos of Misfit Bill - aka Bruce - dressed in his cowboy attire, on horseback, and shooting his gun were auctioned off on Facebook bringing in \$225 for the Sanctuary Horses of Misfit Acres!!! A signing party was held at Pub 500 to award the winners their portraits. Additional copies of this limited edition print are available at Misfit Acres for \$15.00 each plus postage. Available in black/white, color, or sepia. These are 8" x 10" prints and will be hand signed by the cowboy if you wish.

As we end this February update, we ask each of you to drive very carefully on our challenging winter roads. And be sure to pack extra clothes and blankets in your cars.

As always, visitors are welcome with just a phone call to schedule. The horses love company!

Bruce & Jody Thisted - Misfit Acres Inc - [www.misfitacres.com](http://www.misfitacres.com)

