

Appila

20th August 1902

God's Greetings to you!

I really must write to you once again. I have been waiting and waiting for it to rain first, so that I could write to tell you that the wheat was up. But it is still not up; the sown land looks like fallow. But God be thanked, last night it did rain half an inch. Till yesterday we'd had only about 3 inches during the last 10 months. So things look very sad here and there's no green feed at all. We have to hand feed all the livestock, but thanks to God we still have fodder. I couldn't sell no hay for a long time now, because no doubt my horses will eat it all. Chaff sells for £6.10 shillings a ton and there is hardly any to be had.

Hopefully more rain will come soon otherwise there will be no harvest around here. Yesterday I took 40 sheep to the Gladstone Market, but there must have been 8 or 9 thousand sheep there and hardly any buyers. So I brought them back again. Perhaps there will soon be feed so that I can keep them. Things look better near Laura and at Gustav's. At least the wheat has germinated there, even if only thinly. Wheat is priced here at 4 shillings 1 pence a bushel, bran and pollard at 1 shilling 10 pence a bushel. It's good that I still have the land near Laura otherwise I might not harvest enough for seed and bread, for it doesn't look that here.

In your area the wheat should be stretching up by now. 8 days ago we had a very heavy frost, so that the garden pipes burst in three places; a thing that has never happened here before. A lot of people from the North are coming down here for feed. But one can only help them a little or not at all, because one doesn't know what one will still need for one's own stock. We do hope that this time there has been more rain further up, for the need was really great there because there has been nothing there for so many years now.

Old Mr. Hirsch also died a few weeks ago. It was a big interment, there were 65 vehicles in the funeral cortege. I have no other news to write.

Have you made a lot of fallow already? I have fallowed about 230 acres. I have one worker but if it does not rain again soon I will have to let him go soon and stop fallowing because the sown land will still be fallow.

God be thanked we are all still well as we trust you are too. So I'll close now in the hope to hear from you again soon. With many greetings from me and Mother.

I remain, as always, your brother

Richard Becker.

Also greet your parents and relatives and write again soon.

English Translation

© Rufus Pech