The little breath that started it all

A new farm film takes Lauren back to Hope's first moments and the morning check-ins that followed. Now she'd love to see the fourth-birthday Hope Box from your side of the packing table.

Why the camera came back on

In the old footage that opens Steinmetz Family Farm's November 20 film, Lauren is listening for a newborn goat to breathe. There's a little movement, and someone wonders aloud whether it's a reflex. Then someone says the baby might be trying to breathe. Hope was born on November 10 in the evening, and Justin says that when he watches the footage now, he still listens for the same little breath Lauren was waiting to hear.



Baby Hope in the birth footage, November 10 in the evening. AI-reconstructed from the archival film frame.

Once the birth video spread on Facebook, Lauren's phone kept vibrating with messages and comments from people who wanted to know how Hope was doing. How do you answer that many people when they're all asking about the same little goat? The family turned the camera back on. Those later check-ins grew into the 7:11 morning livestreams, when people who'd come to see how Hope was doing could spend part of the morning together.

Lauren points out another sound the old footage saved for her family. That's Hannah's little voice in the birth video. Four years later, the film has a whole chorus singing for Hope, with Bryce managing to get an interruption in before the song is over. The opening asks you to listen closely. By the time they sing Hope's name, there's no need to turn up the volume. Watch The Stories That Built Steinmetz Family Farm | It Started With Hope

From Lauren's packing table to yours

The packing photo goes back to the preparations for Hope's fourth birthday, when Lauren was putting the Hope Boxes together. Thank you to everyone who bought one and made it part of the way you celebrated her. See the fourth-birthday Hope Box

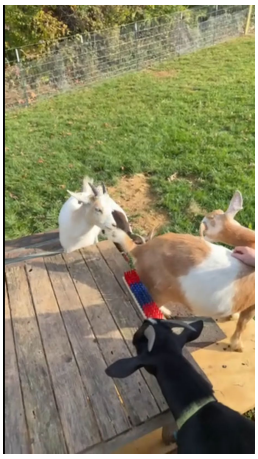


Hope Boxes being prepared for shipment. Owner-supplied photograph.

Lauren would love to see what opening a box looked like at your house. If you bought one, share a photo or a short video of the unboxing or show what was inside in the Goat Crazy! Facebook group. Lauren plans to include some of your submissions in a future video. Share in Goat Crazy! on Facebook

A Saturday visit with Jacob

Lauren invited the Farmily to spend part of Saturday morning, November 21, with Jacob at The Hoof Hang Out. His livestream is now up as a replay. Lauren also shared a separate invitation for Justin to join Farm Life of the Wolf Pack for Thursday's Thoughts. Watch Jacob's Saturday replay · See Lauren's channel posts



The goats gather around Jacob during the Saturday replay featured in Lauren's journal, at 34:36.

The donkeys had other plans for the jumps

An older riding lesson got a new outing in Lauren's November 18 Short. One donkey took an interest in the jumps, and the other followed along. Hannah got off Daisy to set one jump back up. By then another jump needed attention. Apparently the hardest part of setting up a jump is persuading the donkeys to leave it set up. Watch The Donkeys Have Notes on This Riding Lesson

137 boxes are going out today

Monday, November 23 is shipping day for 137 boxes. At Lauren’s packing table, the Hope Boxes went together one at a time. Out on the driveway, you can see what that work adds up to.



Outside the farm, cartons are stacked on a pallet for Monday’s shipment.



Look closely at the blue mailers. One little goat has a message for whoever opens the package: “Have Only Positive Expectations.”



A view from the other side of the pallet shows the blue mailers tucked inside.



A donkey investigates Hannah’s red jump support. Filmed November 7; the Short was posted November 18.

Five fresh picks from Lauren’s November party

Thank you to everyone who shopped the live sale and supported Lauren’s Lemongrass Spa party. This week’s gallery includes Merry Berry Hand Sanitizer 2 oz., Mini Sparkling Citrus Body Icing 1 oz., and Peppermint Stick Hand and Body Bar Soap. The mini body icing is limited to one per order and is excluded from host rewards and promotions.

The Clementine and Clove Polished and Pampered Boxed Gift Set pairs two whipped body butters with two body polishes. The Hot Cocoa Polished and Pampered Boxed Gift Set pairs two body icings with two body polishes. Each set has four 1 oz. items. Browse Lauren’s November party



Merry Berry Hand Sanitizer 2 oz. A two-ounce hand spray with a berry scent. View product →



Mini Sparkling Citrus Body Icing 1 oz. A 1 oz. body-icing sample with sugared grapefruit and soft musk scent. Limit one per order; excluded from host rewards and promotions. View product →



Clementine and Clove Polished and Pampered Boxed Gift Set Two 1 oz. whipped body butters and two 1 oz. body polishes in a ribboned kraft gift box. View product →



Hot Cocoa Polished and Pampered Boxed Gift Set Two 1 oz. body icings and two 1 oz. body polishes in a ribboned kraft gift box. View product →



Peppermint Stick Hand and Body Bar Soap A hand-and-body bar soap with peppermint oil scent. View product →