STEINMETZ FAMILY FARM | NOVEMBER 23, 2026

Finding your footing, at vet school and on the farm

Kayla learns what suits her, Hannah and Daisy find more room, and a week of new films follows the farm's plans through a few detours.

Kayla is finding her kind of veterinary work

What is vet school teaching Kayla about her future? Plenty about animals, and something about herself. In these hands-on large-animal lessons, Justin and Lauren's daughter is progressing well. She is also discovering that small-animal work may suit her better. A cow does provide a fairly substantial career-guidance session.



Kayla getting hands-on large-animal experience at vet school.



Kayla is progressing well and learning that small-animal work may be more her style.

She has not made a final specialty decision. For now, she is gaining experience and learning what fits. The family is proud of her progress, and these two photographs give the Farmily a chance to follow along.

Hannah and Daisy take the long way around

Justin went to the fence at sunset expecting a lap or two from Hannah and Daisy. Could a bigger field make a difference? In the smaller riding space, Hannah had to turn almost as soon as she got going. Here, Daisy could settle into a line before the next turn, with Duchess nearby for company.



Hannah and Daisy riding in the big pasture, from the film's 2:43 mark.

Daisy came around at a canter. On a faster pass toward the fence, Justin thought she nearly reached a gallop and asked whether that was the fastest Hannah had ever ridden her. Hannah thought it might be. Her grin gave him plenty to watch.

Hannah wanted to bring the jumps over by golf cart and ride there again, while being careful not to overdo it with Daisy. By the end, Daisy had worked up a sweat and found some grass. Hannah led her back up the lane with Duchess beside them. Watch the big-pasture ride.

Hugh has not read the spring plan

Justin and Andy had planned for only a few spring kids. Then Megan, visiting Trinity, asked whether Hugh was supposed to be loose. He was supposed to be in his enclosure. Instead, he had found the does.



Hugh back in the pen during Saturday's morning rounds, at 1:01:40.

Justin checked the camera footage without finding the escape, but did see Hugh mate with Ombre. There is one date for the calendar; how he got out and whether there will be extra kids are still questions. Saturday's trip to the pink pen also earned a headbutt from Joelle. Farm planning apparently needs a column for Hugh. Hear how the escape came to light.

Jeff came for the Dingo

Jeff came to borrow the Dingo, with hay to unload first. A weak left track turned out to have a broken bearing, so Jeff left with a hand post-hole digger instead. Justin returned to the horse fence with screws; the horses got their rail back, while the machine still had to wait. Watch the Dingo detour.



A closer look at the Dingo's track during the repair detour, at 14:55.

The spa appointment needed a different dog

Michelle had already pampered Maisy and wanted Caesar to have a turn. Getting him into the car became the real appointment: slipped collars, a steak incentive and a dog who was far too much passenger for the available space. Eventually they changed the plan. Maisy took the outing, and Caesar stayed home with his steak. The spa day had a substitute; the steak did not. Watch Caesar's Spa Day Took a Detour.



Caesar gets his steak at home after the spa-day plan changes, at 21:35.

Burlap, raised beds and one missing supply

Why not put all Mary's plants in the ground? Justin asked while helping winterize her garden. Her raised beds let her keep gardening without getting down to weed. Once she explained, the job made more sense: work with her setup, add wind protection and bring two pots into the shed. Burlap and stakes helped; the farm's supply of zip ties ran out before every tie was finished. A garden for spring remained an idea for later. Spend the afternoon with Mary.



Burlap wind protection going around Mary's raised beds, at 36:10.

A word on Fireman

When Mary called about Fireman, Justin grabbed the farm's supply kit and headed to What If Acres. The vet closed the donkey's wound with 35 stitches and 23 staples, and Jeff later walked him back out to pasture. His care continues with Jeff and Mary. Follow Fireman's story at What If Acres.



Jeff leads Fireman back into the pasture after the vet's visit. Frame at 24:40; footage from What If Acres.

Pick a replay for the quieter part of the day

For a different kind of farm outing, Justin and Jeff found themselves taking part in Jacob's rodeo dance contest. They came home with a story, even though Carson won the crowd. Watch the rodeo with Don't Tell the Bishop.



The dance contest at Jacob's rodeo. AI-reconstructed from the archival video frame at 14:55.

There is more to catch up on: Hope's beginnings are featured in Lauren's journal, alongside the later check-ins they inspired. The Dirk Fireman film and the Paranormal Farm Review offer the week's other film choices. Sunday's Christmas merch sale, Take Two is now a replay. The Sunflower morning is older footage from 2022, brought back for a new viewing.

A branch, baby Hope and Small Beginnings

Justin's Christmas memory starts with a branch. As a boy, he lived in a small railroad car converted into a home, where there wasn't room for a full Christmas tree. He put a branch in a pot on the table and added a few lights. That small bit of Christmas stayed with him.



The Humble Beginnings shirt: Justin's Christmas branch and baby Hope. SFF shop product mockup.

His Small Beginnings design brings that memory together with baby Hope and the goats that helped change his family's future. The words come from Zechariah 4:10: "Do not despise these small beginnings." It is a way to remember where he came from, and the hope that grew along the way.

The design is now available in the SFF shop as Humble Beginnings — Hope Christmas Shirts & Sweatshirts. Choose a short-sleeve tee, long-sleeve tee or crewneck sweatshirt, with an optional Scripture back print. These are made to order; please allow 2–3 weeks for shipment and delivery.