

Backstory for a day on the Stoltzfus Amish Family Farm, on the outskirts of Castle Rock, Colorado..circa fall 1955. First Amish farm community in Colorado (not really)!

About two years ago the barn and milking shed and tool shed burned severely enough that the remaining standing structure parts had to be torn down. Fortunately the local fire department had kept the fire from spreading to the house, and interesting enough, the corn crib! A week later there were two days of “Barn Raising” in which many in the Amish community came to the Stoltzfus farm and put up a new barn, and a new milking shed and tool shed. On that day 74 able bodied men did the construction, the boys did the painting, and the women and girls handled the food to feed everyone.

Today is a special day for the Stoltzfus family, Mr. & Mrs. Stoltzfus, Daniel and Sarah, are having a baby. So since it is harvest time and much to do on the farm, Amish neighbors have come to the Stoltzfus farm to help out for the day. The Yoder family just arrived, Mrs. Yoder and the Yoder children are waving goodbye to her husband, who is going to the store for some much needed supplies. The Stallion horse has run to the fencing gate envious of the draft horse who gets to leave the farm! And the goat is taking notice! Mrs. Yoder is a mid-wife and is expecting to be delivering a baby in about three hours. Daniel and Sarah have two names picked, Abigail if it's a girl, and Samuel if it's a boy.

The Stoltzfus grandparents are calmly sitting on the porch as all the excitement goes on around them. The expecting mother's grandfather is sitting on the back porch where it is nicely quiet. Mrs. Lapp, whose farm is next to the Stoltzfus farm, has helped the daughters do the family's laundry and is now hanging it up on the wash lines. The young Stoltzfus son Abel is playing catch with their dog which seems to be having more fun tugging on the bed sheet hanging on the wash line! The unseen oldest Stoltzfus daughter, Martha, is busy putting the braided oval rugs back in rooms she took them from. She had them on the wash lines early in this morning, beating the dust and dirt from them.

Mr. Lapp is taking a look at a railing on the white fence that came loose, he will go back to the tool shed to get what he needs to do the repair. In front of the milking shed, Rebekah Stoltzfus is hand feeding a young calf fresh milk that came from the calf's mother this morning. The young pony is inquisitive about the feeding, while the mare feeds on the delicious long grass, and the sheep like eating the short grass down to the roots. The high stone wall needs no fencing as it's height acts as a formidable barrier against livestock entertaining thoughts of escape!

Mr. Hochstetler is pushing the barn door open further so the oldest Stoltzfus son Abraham, who was recently married to his wife Hanna, can move the wagon and horse team out of the barn. The Amish community was worried for a few years about Abraham, wondering if he would join the church or choose a worldly life. His Rumspringa ((meaning 'running around') time was pretty wild, indulging in such non-Amish things like drugs, alcohol, television, dancing and cars. But once he found Hanna, who did not stray during her Rumspringa time, and fell in love with her, he came back to the Amish way of life.

Azariah, Daniel's oldest brother, is plowing the small field next to the drying corn field. The field he is plowing had grown potatoes which were recently harvested and stored in the cool basement of the barn. Those potatoes will feed the Stoltzfus family all winter, spring and early summer until the next potato crop begins producing.

Tomorrow most things on the Stoltzfus farm will be back to normal, except for mom and their new baby, both of whom will be taking it easy for awhile.

Recommended video about the Amish... “The Amish: Back Roads to Heaven”, full movie by Burton Buller <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=CfhwuPehW4>