

# The Farm



**THE VAST FOREST SURROUNDING OUR MONASTERY** is home to many wild creatures, furred and feathered: fox, moose, owl, bear, deer, geese, ducks...to name some. With the coming of spring we prepare to welcome other creatures. It is time to welcome our farm animals. By the end of March, we have ordered our three sheep, fourteen chickens, two pigs and our rabbits for May arrival. Our bees that have over-wintered in six hives will be put out to pollinate trees and garden, gathering honey to be harvested in the Fall. Our barn cat, Shadow, will start her patrolling. By the end of May, the oinks, bleats, clucks, and buzzing of a small Vermont farm will mix with the coyote calls, fox barks, hoots and honks of the forest celebrating another year of life around us. ■