

John's Journey - Day 21

April 21, 2009

Pine Bluff, AR to Rison, AR

Mike Wolley came by early this morning and brought me three bales of hay. These are large bales - probably equivalent to about four bales from back home.

I got off to an unusually late start today. It was 8:30 before the wheels began to turn. As I pulled out this morning it was raining slightly but the horizon looked bright and within a few hours it cleared up & the sun came out.

Mack was off apparently too long. He did not want to work at all today. I fought with him most of the day. The sheepskin is working really well on that britching strap. Thanks to Joe. Hopefully tomorrow Mack will be ready to work.

While driving down the road today, several trucks loaded with chickens were heading north - the smell brought back memories.

When I was 17, I was offered a job at Martin's Chicken Farm. The pay was excellent (\$10/hour) and I accepted. The job description was simple, catch chickens. I agreed & started to work that night at 9:00 PM. It was an experience that I'll never forget. I only lasted about 3 hours & I was done. I told the man I didn't even want to be paid - all I wanted was out of that barn. I know I smelled of chicken crap 2 weeks later. I learned later that there were over 20,000 chickens in that barn & there were two more just like it. That was the dirtiest job of my entire life.

We drove about 18 miles today. I'm stopped at a roadside park at the Junction of 79 South & 212. The mules are tied up to a tree tonight.



There's a gas station just across the street. I talked with several people there while I bought 2 gallons for gas for my generator. When I got back to my wagon, I noticed that once again I have a brake line leak. I just can't seem to locate exactly where it is coming from. My best guess now is from the valve.

Tomorrow we will be heading toward Fordyce, AR.