Manager Mark and his daughter Isela have checked on the calves.

We saw an artic hare on a visit to the Museum of the North in Fairbanks. It was May and its coat was changing from Winter white to brown.

The Musk Ox Farm, Palmer, Alaska.
The big red barn is part of the historic Colony Farm built when settlers farmed the Matanuska Valley. Today, the valley is admired for growing giant vegetables that grow huge from the long daylight hours.

The large herd that roam these acres is a continuation of a special project led by John Teal, who wanted to domesticate the Musk Ox and produce Qiviut, a valuable fibre (yarn) collected by gentle combing.

Musk Ox were hunted to extinction in North America in the early 1800's. Called Oomingmak by early Alaskans they are an artic goat that roamed the earth in the Pleistocene along with the Woolly Mammoths.

When I visited the farm I heard Musk Ox snort and bellow and saw them gamble, and sit on their haunches. But I never smelt anything musky, even when I sniffed Littleman's (an old bull) ruff!