

Lots More to the Lot Valley

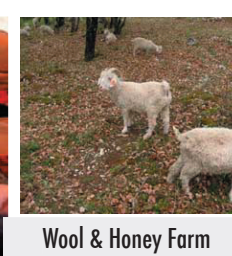
De Ferme En Ferme Highlights Day 2 of our Tour

Sunday, April 27, 2008

Nearly every good sized town has a farmer's market on the weekend, and we wanted to make sure we experienced one, so we got up extra early (9:45) and headed for Cazals, about 30 minutes north of Chris and Adrienne's. These markets are awash with local products and a few boutiques on wheels. Most vendors speak enough English to at least count your change and answer questions regarding prices. Carol bought her first "French" outfit today.



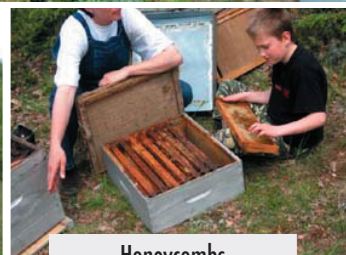
Haute Hat Couture



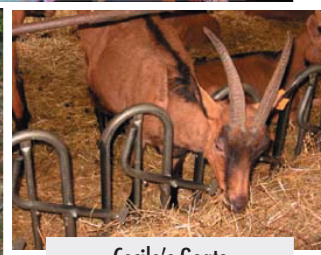
Wool & Honey Farm



Woolen Farm Hut



Honeycombs



Cecile's Goats



Cecile's in Charge Here, Get Over it

Arguably the highlight of this day was a visit with 10 year old Cecile, who was serving as tour guide at a pig and goat farm. (She said in French "get in line here NOW if you want a tour.") Annually, local producers open their farms to the public in a sort of "Parade of Farms" format. Cecile explained the finer points of the goat barn (can you say MN State Fair aroma?) and pig sty and patiently answered our questions in English, including several lookups in our French-English dictionary to make her point. Is this the next French minister of agriculture? We'd be willing to bet.



Bamboo in Southwest France?



Right down our street in Castelfranc is a town park. We were surprised to find bamboo flourishing here at 44 degrees North latitude, about the same as Minneapolis. Imagine the snap on these stalks at 30 below in a wind! You'll also see a monument in almost every town dedicated to their WW I soldiers, but nothing about WW II, a war they got little chance to actually fight in due to the swift takeover by the German Third Reich.