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To: Rains County Leader

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Winterizing you Home and Farm

With the first cold snap of the year I thought winterizing your home and farm would be a timely topic. When going into the winter we must prepare our home, ranch, and equipment in order to save us both time and money.

First and foremost we must wrap all outside pipes and faucets that are left exposed. There is nothing worst than fixing a broken pipe in freezing cold weather. Home improvement stores will have what you need to wrap all exposed pipes.

We also need to think about our vehicles. Make sure that you check that anti-freeze levels in all vehicles including farm trucks, tractors, rtv's, and RV's. This is also a good time to do any yearly maintenance to all vehicles.

Let's not forget our pets either. Make sure that you have adequate shelter and warm bedding for all our outside pets. During extremely cold periods you might want to put a heat lamp out for your pets. When using a heat lamp take extreme caution not to catch anything on fire. Use heat bulbs instead of a standard light bulb.

Where outside potted plants are concerned either put them in a greenhouse or bring them inside this time of year. They still need sunlight so to arrange them by the windows if possible. When possible take them outside during pretty weather.

Lastly, check you chimney and wood stoves to make sure that the flutes are not clogged or stopped up. Birds love to nest in them if possible. With that being said make sure that you have plenty of dry wood stacked up, it is awful hard to start a fire with wet wood.

I hope that each of you have a warm and safe winter.