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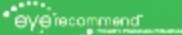
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Dealing with that in-between week

By Ted Brown

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A Ted Bit

This is one of those in-between weeks. You know, when we're halfway in between Christmas and New Year's.

It's that time of the year when we feel the lasting effects of too much food in a short period of time, and too many places one had to be as well—not to mention the strain on the old pocketbook—accompanied by another kick when the credit card invoice arrives in a month.

Years ago, before I retired from the newspaper, in-between week was dedicated to catching up, making sure story and photo files were up to date and filed, and generally taking a light week, as it was the quietest week of the year.

I no longer check in at the IFP office, rather email this column to the office every week, but I find I still view that same in-between week as a time to catch up on things I've been procrastinating about for months before, like getting the farm financial books in order for year's end, making a new spreadsheet in preparation for 2017, and most importantly trying to look busy while The Sidekick is home for a few days off work.

The seasonal tablecloths have been washed, folded and put back in the buffet drawer, and I find myself eyeing the decorations, thinking we can soon pack 'em up for another year.

I believe in-between week is one of those natural catch-up weeks, when we do what we need to do—and little else.

For example, I took advantage of The Sidekick being home, and had her help me in the barn, as we sorted some sheep, so the younger (hopefully pregnant) ones were moved from the breeding pen, and replaced with those who didn't test

pregnant when we had the vet in to pregnancy check them a week or so ago.

(Those ones are getting one more chance to procreate, and should they fail this time well they'll be heading off to the stockyards.)

It's a week we take time to install and hang those items you (or your spouse) received for Christmas, and to actually sit down and (privately) read the owner's manual for that toy/gadget/tool you received so you don't appear quite as stunned as you might fear.

I find in-between week is a time when afternoon naps tend to happen a bit more frequently, and The Sidekick is actually quite happy to nod off too.

It's a week when the stress level drops dramatically, since all the chores and commitments associated with Christmas have been met and we can simply chill out for a bit.

It's a week to watch a marathon television series that runs for four or five episodes straight. Recently we watched the Victorian Bakery series on PBS. I had no idea bakers in the Victorian era worked so hard. Geez, I know I'll certainly appreciate my next piece of bread with my dinner, after watching the three episodes in a row.

The week is a quiet preparation when we know the end of the current year is nigh, and within a few days, we'll be facing a brand new year.

So as you make your way through in-between week and the year comes to an end brace yourself to begin another year hopefully full of happiness and positive expectations.

And I wish you all a very Happy New Year.



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