

# Okay, I've reached my limit!

It's now official, I've finally reached my saturation point—I officially despise winter.

This has never happened to me before.

I've always been one of those people who enjoyed the change of seasons, and agreed with every artistic, passionate, possessed idiot who said 'it's so pretty' when it snows (YET AGAIN!) while I waited patiently for spring to arrive.

But this year— well, I've had it.

I feel like I've been up at 5:45 a.m. more times this year to clear the snow than I have in the past 10 years.

I've piled snow all over the farm to keep the driveway open, and it's still coming. And I'm sick of hearing those people who say "At least living on a farm, you have lots of places to put the snow." Yeah, maybe, but do they have to dispose of the snow around several outbuildings?

Or snow from a quarter mile long driveway?

Not too likely.

And we won't even talk about having to hire someone to sand the lane so the furnace oil truck can get in and out without having an environmental spill on the side of the driveway.

Wednesday morning was the straw that broke the camel's back (like any camel would be so stupid as to live in this environment— hell no, they live in the desert!)

I rolled out of bed at 5:45 a.m. to head out and do battle with the snow in the driveway.

My tractor, Old Faithful, sat in the shed, the quiet hiss of the timed block heater cutting through the silence of the shed in the darkness.

I felt a warm fuzzy feeling as the commanding roar of her diesel engine awoke, indicating she was stretching her claws, ready to head into the fray.

But, as I started to blow the snow, Old Faithful suddenly started acting tired. Matter of fact, she acted like she was gonna pass out. And she did, smack dab in the middle of the driveway.

I tried to restart it a few times, but she only coughed and died again.

## Ted Brown



I was in trouble. It was a frozen fuel line, not a good thing in a diesel, especially one that had stopped yards from a warm workshop.

The mild and extreme cold spells had taken their toll on Old Faithful's fuel lines. She was dead in the water until I thawed those lines, blocked by moisture accumulated from condensation.

I can't print my comments when it happened, but I jumped in my SUV, engaged four-wheel-drive and made my way (precariously) around the tractor, in search of diesel conditioner— at 6:30 a.m.

I finally located some conditioner and headed back to thaw the line. The fuel line was too frozen to bleed, so I eventually had to drag the air compressor from the driving shed to the tractor, and blow the lines out, so the conditioner could get through. It worked, but the line blew back— in my face. It was that point I declared I'd had enough of winter.

Making a long story short, I got Old Faithful running and finished the lane— the whole quarter mile of it— then dragged myself back to the house more than three and a half hours after I'd set out.

So in the next week or so, if anyone so much as breathes "It's pretty" or "Oh well, you have lots of space to pile it"... Well, I just might do something uncharacteristically drastic.

Like go someplace warm for a week.

—Ted Brown can be reached at [tbrown@independentfreepress.com](mailto:tbrown@independentfreepress.com)



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