



Farm News from January

Expect the unexpected. This thought did not even cross my mind as I was pulling a heavy load of silage bales up an icy hill close to home.

I was almost to the top when the wheels started spinning on the slippery road. The crest of the hill was so near, "just a few more feet, come on!" Not to be. But instead of coming to a stop we (truck, trailer, bales and me) started sliding backwards. "Oooo! Can I keep this rig on the road?" It did not take long for the answer to become "no". The back of the trailer slid in first. Then the front of the truck slid into the other ditch completely blocking the road. Any vehicles that wanted to pass would now have to make a 40 mile detour.



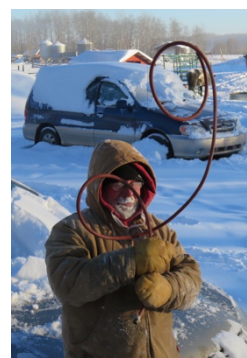
How to fix the problem was the thought that occupied my mind until I finally concluded, "call a tow truck". \$420 later I was back on the road.

No one would ever figure this one out: Here's how to start our Versatile tractor: Look for the tin can on the floor. With the key in the "on" position and the tin can in hand, get off the

tractor. Stand in front of the rear wheel, reach inside the engine compartment, take the tin can and use it to touch two wires at the same time to short the solenoid. The tractor should start. Should, unless it's too cold.



The "polar vortex" made it to Goodfare. Our digital thermometer froze so we could not get a reading. My neighbours' thermometer registered -48.3 C., bit chilly. What about the animals? The piglets born the day before were buried in the straw keeping cozy with their mom. The cows were all frosted up. The wild turkeys did not seem to care. The bison had no issues in their winter coats. Only us



humans seemed to have problems, and our machines. We needed to heat the tractor with a propane torch for a few hours before it would start but the rubber hose for the torch was so cold it

snapped. It took a lot of firewood to heat the house that day.

Jerry