



Preble Today

Volume 3, Number 2

For the People of Preble

Fall, 2012

Message From the Supervisor...



Town Supervisor Jim Doring and State Senator Jim Seward cut the ribbon dedicating the new conservation efforts recently completed at town hall.

For the past two years, the Town Board has been working on an energy retrofit for the Town Hall building. This project has now been com-

pleted. The project consisted of three phases: the building envelope, HVAC and photovoltaic electrical generation. The building envelope

required installing new windows and insulation. We also had National Grid replace fluorescent lights and ballasts. The Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning required three Mitsubishi heat pumps. By installing these heat pumps, we completely eliminated our dependence on heating oil. However, the heat pumps do run on electricity. To power the building's electrical needs we installed rooftop photovoltaic panels. Town residents can go to www.preble-ny.org and click the link for "photo electrical production for the building" to monitor our electrical generation. As I've mentioned previously, this project would not have been economically feasible without the availability of \$70,000 worth of grants and subsidies. Since this financial aid was available, the Town Board took advantage of the opportunity. If anybody would like a tour of the building to look at the system, please let me know.

Three years ago the Town of Preble won a \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant. This grant has now come to completion. As you look around the town, many properties have been greatly improved. We are grateful for this grant money and we are pleased to see grant recipient homeowners have the opportunity to

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**Town of Preble
P.O. Box 234
Preble, NY 13141**

Preble Today

Offices at Town Hall
Preble Road, Preble, New York 13141
Town Hall (607) 749-3199

Town Supervisor: - James Doring
Email jdoring@twcny.rr.com

Deputy Supervisor: Peter Knapp- 607-749-2336
Town Council: Debra Brock- 315-696-5549
Linda Riehlman - 607-749-379
Dave Morse- 607-749-2856

Town Clerk and Tax Collector:
Jane Davenport - Phone 607-749-3199
Email prebletownclerk@centralny.twcbe.com

Deputy Town Clerk: Mary Ann McCloskey

Town Justice: Donna Doody - Phone 607-749-2377

Justice Clerk: Tina Goddard

Highway Supt.: Jeff Griswold - Phone 607-749-2710
Deputy Highway: Dale Mosher

Building Inspector and Code enforcement Officer:
W. Rick Fritz - Phone: 607-591-9898

Dog Control: Paul Burhans, Phone: 607-749-2734
Lindsay Anderson

Assessor: TBH

Town Attorney: Donald Armstrong

Bookkeeper: Gina Nourse

County Legislator: Don Boyden
Phone: 607-749-8709

Planning Board: James Harris, Chairman
Barbara Albro
Tim Coyne
Maureen Knapp
Jim Seaman
Don Armstrong, Attorney
Mary Anne McCloskey, Secretary

Planning Board regular scheduled meeting:
4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm

Zoning Board of Appeals: Daniel O'Shea, Chairman
Amy Bertini
Robert Lieber
Al Socha
TBD
Don Armstrong, Attorney
Mary Anne McCloskey, Secretary

Zoning Board of Appeals regular scheduled meeting:
1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm

Board of Assessment & Review:
Ann McLyman
William Underwood
Charles Dalley

Recreation Chairman: Babe Carroll
Phone 607-299-4474

Historian: Anne Henderson, Phone 607-749-2044

Population: 1,393 (2010 Census)
Registered Voters: 910

Town of Preble website: www.preble-ny.org
Cortland County website: www.cortland-co.org

Preble Today is a publication of the Preble Town Board.
Preble community members, friends and families are invited
to submit materials and ideas for future newsletters to:
Laura Doring
6785 Steger Rd.
Preble, New York 13141

Or email to: laura.doring@yahoo.com
Or jdoring@twcny.rr.com

Supervisor's Report - Cont'd

upgrade their homes.

I am pleased to announce that the Preble tax rate has dropped from \$1.1965 per one thousand dollars of assessed valuation in 2012 to \$1.1901 for 2013. Our Town Board continues to work diligently to keep our town taxes as low as possible. The town taxes are a very small portion of our total taxes. It is this small portion of property taxes that the Town Board has control over. The Town Board has no control over the school and county taxes.

Thanks to the members of the Preble Garden Club for the work they do throughout the year in Preble. The gardens at the Preble Town Hall are a source of enjoyment for town residents and Preble visitors alike. The Preble Memorial Boulder site and the Preble Park entrance are nicely kept as well. The efforts the Preble Garden Club members make in caring for these gardens is greatly appreciated by the community. Thank you very much.

Several residents have complained about open burning in Preble. Please go to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regs/4261.html> to review the state regulations pertaining to backyard burning. If you do burn, please do not burn plastic or rubber. These fumes are toxic and have an adverse affect on the respiratory health of all who breathe them. Please consider wind direction and your neighbors when you burn.

Although Hurricane Sandy did not have much impact on our area, it was a good drill for preparedness. By being prepared for disasters and disruptions, each family can strive to become more self sufficient. This spirit of preparedness and self sufficiency will take some load off of our federal, state and local governments including our own local fire department should a true emergency come to our area in the future.

Have a wonderful holiday season. Please consider attending a Preble Fireman's Breakfast over the winter months. This is an excellent opportunity to support our local fire department and to mingle with friends and neighbors while partaking in a truly delicious "all you can eat" breakfast!

At Your Service,
Jim Doring, Supervisor

Historian Notes

By Anne Henderson



Former Postmaster Sue Whiteman, substitute mail carrier Ellen Diliello, and former mail carrier Betty Banner are looking over the display table of old records and photos.

In early November, we celebrated the 200th year of the postal service in Preble with refreshments and memorabilia at the town hall. The Postal Office was originally established in Baltimore. As the town grew, it has moved to different locations around the town.

In August an historical program and picnic was held at the Preble Park. Nearly

forty people showed up to hear Anita Wright from the Cortland County Historical Society. Anita spoke about the history of the Cortland County Fair. People spoke about their memories of the fair. There was much laughter over some of the memories. Anita was very well versed on this long time county event. Taylor Currie of Preble,

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Interview with Preble Resident, Ron Masters

By Deb Brock

Ron Masters says he's no different from any other person in Preble. His words of humility are just one of the many qualities that has endeared him to all who are fortunate enough to have met him. You may know Ron because he tells a story so well, and he has so many great tales to share. Perhaps you work with Ron at the Preble Food Pantry. You may meet him at the Cortland County Junior Fair or work with him on the Junior Fair Board. He may have coached you in youth softball and baseball teams where he helped you gain athletic skills and learn competitive and sportsmanlike behavior. Some of you may have played with Ron on the church softball team, or may have faced him as a competitive and worthy opponent on the ball field. You may have ridden many miles with Ron driving the school bus, and may even have been mentored by him along the way in such things as hunting strategies and turkey calling skills. Whoever you are, newcomers and life long residents alike, you are embraced by Ron's kind and caring nature. He is the spirit of community that makes Preble a place to call home.

The Masters family has been in Preble for generations. Ron has only lived in three houses in his life, all in Preble, all still standing and all within sight of each other. Ron's father Gerald was killed in a farm accident when Ron was very young. His mother Evelyn, older sister Marilyn, brother Wayne and younger sister Geraldine lived with his paternal grandparents on the family dairy farm. His young years included farm chores such as feeding calves, sweeping mangers and helping his mother in the garden. When he was old enough, he began milking the family's herd of cows with his grandfather. The work then was different than today, with most of the labor done without the help of machines like skid steers or silo unloaders. He's not complaining.

Ron credits his mother, Evelyn, for instilling a strong work ethic in him and his siblings. His mother was an artist, with flowers as her medium. She worked all year planting, cultivating, harvesting and drying flowers that she used to make bouquets and arrangements that adorned weddings and were sold in the community, including the LaFayette Apple Festival, where she was an exhibitor for many years. Ron remembers the gladioli beds he worked in with his mother. Twenty 120 foot long rows of bulbs to plant, tend, pick blooms and then store safely in winter so that the cycle could begin again in spring. Evelyn worked hard and, self taught, developed her talents. She passed these qualities on to her children. Ron and his family believe 'Mom IS us'.

Ron began his formal education at age five at the Preble School. The first two years of his

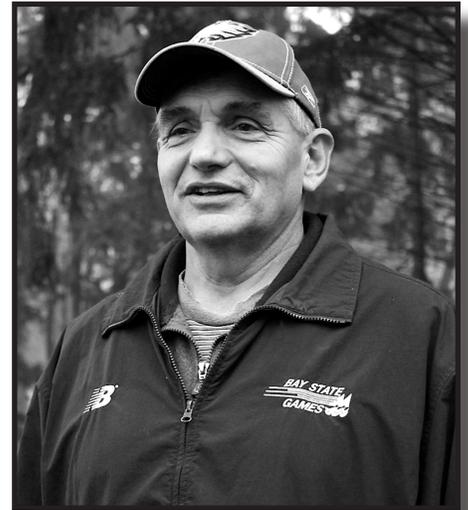
classes were held in the east side of the school, which is now the Town Hall office. The next two years were spent in the west classroom which is now the US Post Office.

4-H and FFA were important influences throughout Ron's elementary and high school years. He travelled to Waterloo, Iowa to participate in the National Dairy Judging Event twice. Soon after his graduation, he was appointed to the Cortland County Junior Fair Board and was named the treasurer. At age nineteen, he was one of the youngest members named to the the Fair Board.

His education continued after high school at the family farm, working with his grandfather. He retired from milking in 1994 and continued the farming operation with replacement heifers and haying. Ron has been asked why he still works so hard at making hay. According to some of his neighbors, he's bound by his history and his love of the land to do that each year. It's still an important part of his life.

Most important to Ron is his family and his community. His greatest blessing is his family. He and Trudy have been married for 43 years. They have four sons, Brian, Chris, Kevin and Alan and a daughter, Jill. Four granddaughters balance out the family. As for the Preble community, he is proud that folks help each other when needed, and care about one another at all times. He is grateful to be part of that kind of community.

The Cortland County 4-H Animal Non-ownership Program is of special importance to Ron, and one he is able to work with in his posi-



Ron Masters

tion on the Cortland County Junior Fair Board. When his daughter Jill was in 4-H, she was able to experience caring for and showing calves from the Bill and Sue Wright farm. That was an important opportunity for Jill. Many area farmers continue to participate in the non-ownership animal program in Preble and Cortland County. Ron believes the non-ownership program brings agriculture to kids that would otherwise not have the chance to learn all that raising animals can teach. This year the youth exhibitors in dairy at the Cortland County Junior Fair reached an all time high, an exciting indication of the success of 4-H programs in the county.

Ron is a hunter. His best way of explaining his love of hunting is the sign that says 'Gone Thinking'. He loves being in the woods, experiencing all the life that rustles around him. He has helped a few youngsters get their first turkey, which brings him a lot of satisfaction. He teaches them that the way to bring in a turkey is through patience and persistence. That might explain a lot about Ron in general.

When asked what would be the next adventure, he talks about traveling a bit. He would like to see the places he is learning of through the genealogy work being done by his family. England and Germany are countries of origin for the Masters. He would also like to visit the Williams' in Idaho, and all of the places between here and there that have intrigued him through the years.

For the future, Ron believes: "Change is important. One thing about Preble that should remain the same is the feeling of a small community. There are so many nice people here. People care about each other and help each other. I wish everyone could have a community like this". Ron leads by example. We are blessed.



Ron's first day of school in 1949.

Agricultural & Farmland Protection Update

Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan Executive Summary

The County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board members recommended approval and adoption of the Homer, Preble & Scott Agricultural & Farmland Protection Plan by the three towns on September 24, 2012. The plan is currently being reviewed by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for final approval. It will then be considered for inclusion in the local Town Development and Land Use Plan.

Vision statement

The Towns of Homer, Preble and Scott value agriculture and recognize the importance of farms in maintaining rural character and strengthening the local economy. The towns seek to proactively support agriculture by working to retain valuable farmland for current farmers to use and to provide opportunities for the next generation of farmers to be profitable. They seek to provide an economic climate to allow agricultural businesses to succeed in an evolving economy and ensure strong public support for farming in the region.

Introduction

In 2007 the Towns of Homer, Preble and Scott discussed applying to New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for funding to develop a Joint Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan (AFPP) focusing on protecting farmland in the Towns of Homer, Preble and Scott. It was discovered that only two towns could be on a single application. At that point the one application was made for Homer and Scott and a second application was made for Preble. The two applications were awarded funding in 2008. The AFPP is a report on the state of agriculture in the Towns of Homer, Preble and Scott today and a template for the future of agriculture for the three towns. It provides a snapshot of various economic data as well as data on land and soil resources, regulatory issues and trends in agriculture and land use. The AFPP contains a number of recommendations for action by the three towns both regionally as three towns and as individual towns when appropriate. In addition there are recommendations that others in the community can undertake to promote the long-term viability of agriculture in the three town region.

Overview

The Towns of Homer, Preble and Scott are located in the northwest section of Cortland County and have traditionally been recognized for their many small dairy farms; yet many of these farms have diversified over time to include significant cash crop production. Farmers in Homer, Preble and Scott maintain significant acres of land in agricultural fields, pasture land and woodland, which totals about two-thirds of the geographic area of the three towns. Farms contribute significantly to the scenic character, open space and the quality of life valued by all residents of the three towns. The agricultural land base remains concentrated and generally has not yet been fragmented to any large extent by low-density residential development or larger scale land subdivision. Within the valley areas of Homer and Preble however gravel mining, commercial and industrial development are viewed as possible threats to farmland along the I-81 corridor.

Process

While permanently protecting farmland is a frequently sought after tool to conserve farmland, there are other tools and actions that can be implemented to help farms remain viable and keep quality farmland in production. To determine what tools might best compliment the three town region participation by the public throughout the planning process was important to the Towns of Homer, Preble & Scott Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan Steering Committee. The Steering Committee was comprised of town farmers, residents, Cortland County Planning Department, Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cortland County and consultants from American Farmland Trust. To engage as much of the public as possible various outreach methods were engaged over the plan's development. The results of this process are a set of five regional goals and recommended actions to be implemented to accomplish the goals both on a regional (three town) basis and on an individual town basis.

Results

During the inventory and analysis of local conditions it was determined that approximately 51% or 32,963 acres in the combined

three towns are in agricultural production followed by forest and conservation and then single family homes. It was also determined a significant amount of the farmland in the three towns falls into a US Department of Agriculture classification of Prime Soil or Farmland of Statewide Importance. The location of these high quality agricultural soils is limited to particular areas of the world and even the United States. When these soils are converted to nonagricultural uses the ability of that soil to produce food and fiber is lost forever. Understanding where these soils are located will allow those making land use decisions in the future to direct development away from this limited and valuable resource.

As the largest land use in the three towns, agriculture is a critical component of the rural and scenic character so desired by residents and the thousands who pass through the area on I-81 and NYS Rte. 90. While residential, commercial and industrial development may offer the tangible benefit of increased tax base, many communities today value the intangible benefits of the open space that agriculture provides to the community character and quality of life. There are tax advantages to maintaining farmland and keeping control on residential development according to Cost of Community Services (COCS) studies developed by American Farmland Trust which examine the difference between taxes generated by different types of land uses and the cost of services each type of land use requires. Ideally, the community, as a whole, should determine what the correct mix of residential, commercial and industrial development is correct.

Impact

Farmers in the Towns of Homer, Preble and Scott are fortunate to have access to a considerable number of agriculture related business enterprises within their boundaries. In addition Cortland County provides a relatively robust array of agricultural support services to farmers in the towns. Altogether over 60 businesses including specialized consulting, direct marketing, farm service and supplies, farm equipment sales and repair, farm finance, livestock services and wholesale marketing are located within or serve farmers in the three towns. Convenient access to agricultural support businesses is critical to

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C-OFOKLA Update: Did You Miss These Exciting Talks?

By Tarki Heath

The Cortland-Onondaga Federation of Kettle Lake Associations has had another great year. Our education and awareness presentations cover several topics that can be serious, interesting and fun. The topics are varied and the discussions are lively. If you haven't been to our sessions, please join us. All of our presentations are free and open to the public. Each of our speakers is an expert in their field and we are incredibly fortunate to have such talent graciously share their knowledge. Here is a sampler of our year.

April: We started our spring season by addressing a critical issue impacting many lakes in New York State, the Nation and the world: unprecedented levels of Harmful Algal Blooms or HABs. Dr. Gregory Boyer is Chair of the Environmental Chemistry Department at the State University of NY – Environmental Science and Forestry School (SUNY-ESF) and Director of the Great Lakes Research Consortium. He travels around the world presenting and conducting research on algae and algal toxins. In April, he presented: Algae: What's Toxic, What's Not?

Although not directly related to the presentations and should be noted that Dr. Boyer has been so impressed by the work of New York's Citizen's Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) that he spent a morning in September on Song Lake, taking pictures of our water quality testers to include on his tour in Korea. Dr. Boyer will continue to work with all our lakes through the Dept. of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Lake Federation of Lake Associations.

May: We turned to more pleasurable inter-



Dr. Donald Leopold on Little York Lake.

ests with the help of Niles Brown. Through his engaging and interactive presentation, we learned about bluebirds and more! His expertise and knowledge shone in his presentation: What Bluebirds Do in Your Backyard When You're Not Looking. Niles is a Retired Cornell Cooperative Extension, 4-H Agent and environmentalist.

June: While some folks at the May meeting were pretty good at identifying the various bird calls that Niles treated us to, very few could keep up with Dr. Donald Leopold, as he walked us around Little York Lake. Dr. Leopold's enthusiasm was contagious as he named every species of tree and plant on and off our path. He shared specific plant properties, amusing anecdotes and helped us learn about the The Plants Around Our Lakes. Dr. Leopold is a professor of conservation biology and forest ecology at (SUNY-ESF).

August: Andrew Brainard, a SUNY-ESF Doctoral student sponsored, in part by C-OFOKLA, presented the preliminary findings from his research on Song Lake, Crooked Lake, Tully Lake, Little York Lake, and Gatehouse Pond in A Kettle Lake Study. While Andrew's research is ongoing, he has begun a list of the various invasive and native species in each of the lakes, which will enhance all or our watershed protection efforts going forward.

September: We held our Annual Water Festival and Picnic, once again at the Little York Lake Pavilion. This year, along with a fantastic array of food, we had the pleasure of Colleen Kattau and Some Guys perform their special brand of music. It was a lovely time for all.

October: Winding down the year, Jim Cunningham, President of the New York State Federation of Lake Associations and the Madison Federation of Lake Associations as well as founder and owner of New Water Technologies Inc. He shared important information on Shoreline Bacterial Source Tracking. This information will help us understand the impacts of faulty septic systems and ways to address this potentially serious polluting element in our lakes. Jim's presentations are always engaging, even on subjects that might otherwise be a bit unexciting.

This winter, the education and awareness committee of C-OFOKLA will be organizing speakers and topics for the spring and summer. If you have ideas, please contact Tarki Heath at cofokla@gmail.com

"We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." — Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac

Historical Notes (Cont'd)



With financing from the Pomeroy Foundation, this historical marker was placed on East Hill on Sept. 12.

crowned 2012 Junior County Fair Queen, spoke of the fair as it operates today. Taylor is a great representative for the 2012 Fair.

In mid September, a new historic marker was finally dedicated on East Hill to mark the location of the first school in Preble. Nearby residents and a representative from the Pomeroy Foundation were present. The Pomeroy Foundation provided the grant money for the sign. I will be seeking another grant from this foundation in November for two more historical markers.

In early November, we celebrated the 200th year of the postal service in Preble with refreshments and memorabilia at the town hall. The Postal Office was originally established in Baltimore. As the town grew, it has moved to different locations around the town.

I'm hoping to hold another historical program during the winter months and invite the Homer Town Historian, Martin Sweeney, come to speak to us. Martin is very interesting, very knowledgeable, and talks in great detail about Abraham Lincoln.

Pancake Breakfast

The Preble Fire Department invites you to enjoy their Pancake Breakfast at the station on the following dates.

November 25, 2012

January 27, 2013

February 24, 2013

April 28, 2013

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Ag & Farm Protection (Cont'd)

the viability of the agricultural sector in any community. As in any other economic sector “time is money” applies to agriculture, and farmers need to minimize both the time on the road they have to spend accessing parts, equipment and services, and the response time of such vendors to service calls on the farm.

Past and Future

Agriculture is closely connected with the history of the Towns of Homer, Preble and Scott; yet agriculture has changed dramatically during the last 70 years. According to the Cortland County Natural Resources Inventory dated August 2006, “Once the epitome of family life, the number of small family farms has steadily declined both nationally and locally. In general, small family farms often struggle with profitability and are gradually bought out and replaced by more competitive, large-scale operations. The cost of doing business continues to rise, thereby hampering profitability. Many family farms survive only because of supplemental income from a family member that works elsewhere. Local municipal support for agriculture has often been informal as the Town Board and other boards and committees often have farmer representation on them. The Towns of Homer, Preble and Scott Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan will now formalize each town’s support of agriculture both in the town and in the three town region from this point forward.

Regional Goals

GOAL 1: Ensure land use laws and local ordinances support economic opportunities

GOAL 2: Educate the non-farm public about agriculture

GOAL 3: Protect high quality agricultural lands at risk of conversion

GOAL 4: Ensure that local infrastructure is supportive of agriculture

GOAL 5: Enhance the local agricultural economy and support agricultural economic development initiative’s Regional Goals

For further information: <http://preble-ny.org/projects-farmland-protection.htm>

Town of Preble Building Permits Fall 2012 Report

<u>Date</u>	<u>Property Owner</u>	<u>Notes</u>
04/30/2012	Suit-Kote	Office space - locker room
04/30/2012	Preble Town Hall	Insulation, shed roof, solar system
04/30/2012	Melissa Adams	Horse barn
05/07/2012	John Goddard	Deck
05/07/2012	Steve Brown	30' x 14' addition
05/14/2012	Christopher & Karen White	12' x 18' addition
05/21/2012	Kim Young	Rebuild front porch
06/04/2012	Donna Doody	Pool
06/18/2012	Suit-Kote	Sign
06/18/2012	E. Nathan Shirley	Deck addition
06/18/2012	Dennis Morgan	Install hood system
06/18/2012	Carl Grillo	Replace 10' concrete wall
07/09/2012	Wesley Swayze	12' x 16' shed
07/23/2012	Micheal Woodward	Deck 8' x 12'
07/23/2012	Linda Searle	Fence
07/27/2012	Kathleen Caughey	Pool
07/30/2012	John and Barbara Dafeo	Addition 26' x 34'
08/20/2012	Suit-Kote	Maintenance and fuel
08/20/2012	Malcom Nye	Demo - removal
08/27/2012	Diane Bickerton	Fence
09/10/2012	John Currie	Replace garage
09/10/2012	Robert Brock	Shed 14' x 28'
09/17/2012	James A. Consequelli	Pole barn 30' x 40'
10/01/2012	Distinctive Innovations	3 Season room 15' x 18'
10/22/2012	Randy and Cassandra Merritt	Wood stove
10/29/2012	Eric and Margaret Shirley	14' x 12' addition

Code Enforcement Officer Rick Fritz holds office hours in the Preble Town Hall each Monday afternoon from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M., and can be reached other times at telephone number 607-591-9898.

Highway Department

By Jeff Griswold, Highway Superintendent

I would like to take a moment to recap some regulations in Preble. Effective from November 1st 'til April 1st, there is an Ordinance prohibiting parking on any Town road. Also from December 1st 'til April 1st, certain roads in town are designated as “seasonal”. No plowing or sanding will be done on the following roads during this time; Dawson Rd., Foley Rd., Maycumber Rd., Preble Hill Rd., Hill on Wright Rd., Maple Ridge Rd. from the Seasonal Sign to the Town Line and Vormwald Rd. Also, remember it is against State Law to put anything in the roadway. This includes snow and leaves. Also, our 3 plow routes take about 2 hours and 45 minutes to complete. So please be patient if you don't see us more often than that. As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact me at the Highway Garage at 607-749-2710. Have a safe winter.