

Website Article December 31, 2014

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We of course are doing the “routine” chores of wrapping pipes and protecting hoses etc. as well.



Dependent upon the storm we also have a major task of keeping snow and ice off the netting and overhead protection mechanisms for our fowl. In the last arctic blast we received about an inch of snow and then that froze solid as the temperature dropped down to around 15 degrees at night for seven straight days. As you can see below the weight of this type of condition has the potential to collapse our protective systems.



Unfortunately the only way to get the ice broken up and off the netting is to go under the netting and use a broom handle to break the ice up from underneath. This of course drops snow and ice shards down on the volunteers breaking up the ice. Given the fact that we have three major areas with this sort of protective netting it takes us approximately seven hours of tedious work on this first day and approximately one half that amount of time each subsequent day dependent upon the changing weather conditions to keep the netting cleared of the ice and snow.

Beyond these factors the arctic blasts typically deliver us several inches if not a foot of snow and ice or more. This of course covers our pastures and feeding areas and takes away the natural foraging ability of our larger grazing animals.



In effort to keep the animals warm and well fed we double or even triple up on the amount of hay and grain that we give them on a daily basis. We on average will feed our goats and other larger mammals three times a day during these cold periods which adds several extra hours of work each day.

The byproduct of these increased feeding processes is of course more clean up in regards to “poop patrol” and general cleanliness. We also double up on the bedding materials available to the animals in order to provide additional protection from the cold which also adds to the workload and overall costs of protecting our animals.

In addition to these on-going chores we are routinely checking each animal to make sure it isn't showing any signs of distress or discomfort from the cold. Most of our animals are resilient but in some of our cases we have more fragile individuals who have come to us from abuse and neglect cases and are extra diligent in keeping them in warm, dry and protective environments.

In closing, we appreciate all the questions we receive in this regards to the on-going operations of the sanctuary and the care we provide the animals here. If you have further questions in this regard please contact us through the website's email system (i.e. Make A Difference section).