

March 10th—Daylight Savings Time began here today. I decided to take a look back through some of my journals and read a little about March 10th on other years in the recent past. Here's what I discovered:

2007: 31 degrees this morning. Rained last night. Took the snow down a bit, but there is lots of it. Can't get around in the woods yet, not enough to tap trees. Runo did get through with the tractor. I followed on foot, a pretty good workout even with a track. Worked on my red socks during the evening.

2008: 9 below zero. I used the heating pad on my sore back, but it did improve during the day. I baked a cake this morning, and we had soup for dinner. I was able to help with chores this evening. Had a letter and other reading material from Susanne. Sunny today, but not warm.

2009: A nasty day. Wet and sloppy. We boiled sap all day. I made pizza for dinner. We bedded sheep pens, cleaned the duck pen, did chores. Gathered 250 gallons of sap.

2010: Have made three batches of syrup. It rained a lot last night, and the snow is about gone on the fields. Runo's Värmland harness came today and looks really well made and even pretty. We have over 100 lambs now.

2011: 27 degrees and a little snow in the air. Had a single lamb and a dead lamb when I checked at 4 a.m. I gave the dead lamb's mother a triplet, smeared her nose with Vicks, and she seemed happy to take the lamb. Another lamb was born while I was there, and by the time I left the barn at 4:45, that ewe had a second lamb. They are coming steadily now, and we are working in shifts.

2012: 10 degrees. Saw two sandhill cranes today. The family crew tapped 209 trees in just under two hours today. In the afternoon, I finished a pair of felt mittens.

2013: 28 degrees. Rained off and on all day. Side roads are slippery. Runo cleaned the boxstalls. We did our evening chores. Trying to get used to Daylight Savings Time again.

2014: 20 degrees. A thawing day. The sun shone most of the time, too, so it was a nice day. I was just getting ready to prepare our noon dinner when the phone rang. It was Joanne, calling from Tucson. We had a good and long conversation.

2015: 25 degrees. Runo saw a killdeer today. It was clear and mild today, but the ground is frozen so hard that the silver maples didn't run a drop today. The hard maples by the lane ran a bit. I worked on the loom this morning while I was waiting for my bread to bake.

2016: 34 degrees. Above freezing all day. Runo did the morning chores while I ground rye and wheat and baked bread. We had chicken/barley soup, too, for dinner. I cleaned the chicken coop. The hens went out, but did come back in to lay their eggs. There were swans on the water hole all day long.

2017: 10 degrees. Another cold, windy day. The temperature dropped from 10 to 3 during the day. We finished cooking 6 quarts of our backyard syrup today. It tastes good. We sheared a pen of sheep today, but it was hard shearing; it was just too cold.

2018: Zero this morning. Another cold March day. I made soup and put it in the crock pot so that we could get started shearing a pen of sheep. It went well, and we did our chores and settled down for an evening with our books and a dish of ice cream each.

And now, today, March 10th, 2019: It was 25 F. this morning, but not at all a mild

day. We had rain, sleet, and then snow during last evening and over night, and today was one of those typical nasty, windy, raw March days. Certainly aren't many signs of an early spring. The maple trees are standing undisturbed—not a spile put in or a hole bored yet, either in the woods or in our backyard trees. Reading about past years on this date reinforced the fact we know—that March, in our area, at least, is totally unpredictable. Temperatures and weather conditions fluctuate wildly. Part of life in Michigan.