

Neighbors are still making maple syrup, and it looks as if there might be more good “runs” before true spring comes. Here, for us, though, it was time to pull our 20 taps and get on to something else. Also, we noticed yesterday that the silver maple north of the cabin was filled with honeybees, an indication that any syrup we might make would have that distinctively unpleasant “buddy” taste. The silver maple detects spring earlier than hard maples do.

So, a few days ago, we pulled the spiles and thanked the stately sugar maples and the spreading silver maples for their sap that is providing us with a year’s supply of maple syrup and sugar. We washed the pails and the gathering equipment, Runo scoured the sap pan and swept out the little sap house. We stored all the equipment there and closed and hooked the door. On to the next project.

That, this time of year, means that the lambing season will soon be our main concern. We may have one more “lamb-free” week, but then, if all goes well, we should be busy for three or four weeks. Our hope is always to have good twins and singles, no triplets, no pet (bottle) lambs, and no ewes that need help lambing. The fulfillment of these desires varies from year to year. Last year, we had a particularly trouble-free lambing season, but we know that it might not be as easy this spring. We will see what happens and deal with any difficulties as they arise.

It is hard to keep our minds on what we need to do and anticipate here at home when our country is in such chaos. We did not choose this disruption, illegal activity by the present Administration, or power ceded to Trump’s largest campaign donor. And, I don’t think even Trump voters, misguided as they were, bargained for that situation. The fact that Republican Senators and members of Congress are afraid to hold town meetings with their own constituents is evidence that even Republican voters are fed up with the activities of Musk and the non-action of their representatives. One area person who lost a federal job complained that “I voted for him three times! It isn’t fair!” Someone replied to her that apparently, she wasn’t paying much attention the last ten years.

Where will this all go? Guess it depends on all of us.