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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Ways to Get Through the Long Winter

What a start to 2019, we have already seen more snow in the month of February than any other previous year setting a record as the snowiest February in Wisconsin. Even though there have been below freezing temperatures as this polar vortex has rolled through, there have been a lot of winter activities that are still taking place.

I understand the everyday struggle it can be shoveling all of the snow we have had recently and waiting for plows to clear the streets to be able to travel. Some drifts have been as high as the truck beds further emphasizing that February truly is a record setting month with as much snow as we have seen. But that doesn't mean that we have to stay cooped up inside the entire time.

The American Birkebeiner "Birkie" just took place in Hayward, Wisconsin with the Kortelopet "Korte" 29K Classic & Skate Ski Race and the Prince Haakon 15K Classic & Skate Ski Race. While it may be cold outside, exercise will keep you warm while getting out and around other people.

In addition, there have been many other opportunities for winter activities such as snowmobiling, curling, ice fishing, and many other local events. It is great to see that even in the frigid temperatures people are still able to enjoy their free time with the ones they love.

Along with all of the snow, there have also been many problems across the state. People are falling on ice, cars are ending up in the ditch, and even barn roofs are collapsing on barns, sheds, and other structures. Also, ice dams have been affecting homes, farms, and businesses due to the large amount of snow fall and freezing temperatures. When these problems occur we need to think fast, act smart, and remain as safe as possible while addressing these issues. There are many people that try help in these situations and sometimes they let their guards down, which could turn into something worse.

Another thoughtful thing is to lend a helping hand to neighbors to protect their assets, which is a positive thing for our communities. You never know when the shoe will be on the other foot and may be in dire need yourself.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers many disaster assistance programs that may prove to be helpful with the storm damage that we have seen across the state. Some of the programs include the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP), Emergency Loan Program, and HayNet.



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For more information on these programs please visit:

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/index>

As always, feel free to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns.

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