Winter: a Time for Introspection

Winter may elicit images of snowy landscapes and cozy fires or activities such as snowmobiling, skiing, or ice fishing. But the season also brings periods of silence, times to renew connections with family and friends, and moments for reflection and renewal.

Winter is a time of dormancy, implying a temporary suspension of activity. In plant science, dormancy is a time when seeds, buds, bulbs, tubers, or whole plants are not actively growing but are protected from the environment. This slowed activity in a secure space provides an opening, an opportunity, for introspection.

In agronomy, winter gives us a chance to catch our breath, repair equipment, and order seed. We go to Extension meetings to learn new things and get CCA credits, and consultants make plans with their farmer-clients. It’s a time to re-think the previous season and figure out what we can do better next year. All of us, whether we are students, researchers, teachers, Extension specialists, or CCAs, need a suspension of activity, a time to think about the past and to plan for the future. I hope you all can carve out some time for a break from busyness that you can set aside for introspection.

In January, the new presidents of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA will gather in Madison with the staff to set goals and make plans for the year ahead. As you make time this winter to think about your lives and careers, please also take the time to think about the future of ASA. What ideas do you have to improve our Society? How can we do a better job of empowering scientists, educators, and practitioners in developing, disseminating, and applying agronomic solutions to feed and sustain the world? Please email me at jessica.davis@colostate.edu to share your ideas so that we can move forward together and plant seeds for an even stronger future for ASA.

doi:10.2134/csa2017.62.0117