YOU HAVE TO SET PRIORITIES

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Things seem to be really busy right now.   With three kids, all going different directions, my wife and I spend time coordinating who taxis each kid to where they need to be.   Most of the time, it ends up being my wife's responsibility, because I am traveling.   And we need to get things ready for Christmas, because family will be coming in.   I am only responsible for a couple of presents, but man, are they important ones.   I can't afford to mess up on those.   I have fields to mow, wood to split, I still don't have the blackberries cleaned up, and on and on.

I know that I am not the only one who has this type of issue.   Everybody has more things to do than there is time to accomplish.   We have to make choices on what we want to get done, and what we want to leave until later.   Sometimes we choose to do what we like the best, and let the less enjoyable jobs wait.   That job would be painting for me.   You have to be too neat for me to like to paint.

There are situations like this that occur around the farm.   There are always more jobs to do than there is time.   Often we avoid the jobs we don't like and work on the things we find more interesting.   But what if the job we are avoiding happens to be one of the more important tasks? Something like that can cause a problem.

A thing each of us needs to do is prioritize the things that need to be done based on their impact on the operation.   If we can identify the jobs that have a large impact on the production and profitability of the farm, we can start to prioritize the jobs.   If there is something that is critical for the success of our cattle or forage production, then it helps us see the need to work on this, even it is not our favorite job. Once you have things categorized, it is easy to set the work schedule.

First – most important, most fun
Next – most important, less fun
Next – least important, most fun
Next – least important, less fun
Last – painting

In case your were wondering, fishing counts as a job.