The time when winter turns to spring is one of chaos at SAREC. The crew goes from "repair and maintain" to all-out farming and ranching. Our cows started calving in mid-March and as this is written, we are about 80 percent done. We hit some tough weather and for the first time in years, lost a couple of calves. The feedlot is empty, except for the SAREC replacement heifers. We're proud of those heifers; might be the best group of replacements we have ever raised.

Al Unverzagt and Larry Miller are working like crazy on our dryland crop area. We have a long-term research project that’s done, and we are going to reseed about 150 acres to permanent cover. We are also working with Calvin Strom and Pete Stahl at the Reclamation Center on specifications for some of that area. We’re seeding spring triticale and will use that stubble to plant our permanent covers this fall.

Troy Cecil and Larry Howe have almost completed cleaning the entire feedlot. This involves fence removal, then scraping all of the manure into piles. The manure is then applied to farm ground in an effort to enhance soil organic matter and fertility. We try to apply about 15 tons of manure per acre.

We are also collaborating with others on some excellent and creative projects. Roger Stockton, State Agronomist for the Wyoming NRCS is working with our Farm Manager Bob Baumgartner on an exciting cover crop project. Cover crops have great potential for enhancing soil quality and also providing cover and supplemental grazing. Bob is also working with Gary Olson and Bud Patterson of TDS in collaboration with Jay Norton, a UW soil scientist on a septage project. TDS has purchased a new tractor and tank with applicator and the septage will be shanked into some of our dryland fallow ground. Dr. Norton will follow up to determine soil changes and resultant crop benefits or detriments.

Average March Temps at SAREC

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Outside</th>
<th>High Tunnel</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>21.8°</td>
<td>29.7°</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>49.7°</td>
<td>86.9°</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SAREC High Tunnel news: After harvesting a crop of winter spinach on March 1st, beds are prepared for new planting. Clockwise from top left: Jerry Nachtman tills in peat to loosen the soil; Prepared beds were planted with spinach, carrots and radishes on March 15th; Temperature summary; Quinoa seed, planted on March 10th, is an inch tall.

For more information, visit our website, Facebook page or contact information to the left:

http://www.uwyo.edu/uwexptn/centers/sarec/index.html
https://www.facebook.com/UWSAREC
Clockwise from top left: SAREC replacement heifers; Al Unverzagt and Larry Miller prepare SAREC dryland and plant with triticale; Troy Cecil busy spreading manure; one of the newest SAREC residents.