

Take Me out to the Ballfield...(Previously Yon Youngsters Corner)

Without a doubt you can say that our children LOVE baseball and softball. Between the months of March and June the three of them will have played in over 84 games total. Sally, who is now 15, played for the varsity high school team and Drake, who is 13, played 2nd base for our high school. School seasons are completed, with both of their teams qualifying for the playoffs— but not making it very far. Sally just finished her final year of Rec. League ball and is involved in a summer developmental league with her school team through July. Drake played on our Rec. Pony League team and Corbin has finished regular season and is now practicing for a 12 & under All Star tournament to be held the week of July 4th. Sally, Drake and their cousins, Phillip and Alec, from Arizona, will be going on a mission trip with our church youth group to Gulfport, MS, that same week for Hurricane Katrina clean up. We all attended the Eastern Regional Angus Show in Harrisonburg, VA, the middle of June and will show at the Junior Beef Round-Up at Clemson at the end of July. Sally plans to attend the National Junior Angus Association L.E.A.D. conference in Okalahoma City in August just before school cranks back up. Sally has her learners permit and is looking forward to getting her restricted license the end of June so she can drive "solo." Her parents are also looking forward to her running many errands for them! Drake is eagerly awaiting hay season (believe it or not!) as he really likes driving tractors. Corbin has a garden that he is tending to and looking forward to harvesting later this summer. The children's sweet corn patch is ready for harvest and sales are underway for the next few weeks. As always, looks like summer vacation is going to be pretty busy!!!

Tip for the Month: Remember that a BULL is a BULL. Regardless of how good of a disposition they have or how many times you've been in the pen with one, always remember that animals can be unpredictable. Small children often appear as predators to cattle, especially if they are not accustomed to seeing them on a regular basis. Use good judgment in letting children in the pens/pastures with your cattle. Never "play" with your bull or allow him to butt you even if there is no aggression on his part—remember he outweighs you by a bunch!!

Congratulations to Darren Carter and Lindsey Coleman who exchanged wedding vows in June 2006. Darren handles our telephone bids for us at each of our sales and is the auctioneer for the Saluda Heifer Sale. He is also the Vice President of the Saluda County Cattlemen's Association and is a member of the SC Cattle and Beef Board. He was selected in 2005 as the SC Cattlemen's Association- Young Cattleman of the Year.

Kevin 's Notable Quotes from the Beef Improvement Federation Meeting (Choctaw, MS- May 2006)

From Tom Brinks, VP Cattle Ownership and Risk Management, Five Rivers Ranch Cattle Feeding, LLC. Operates 10 feedyards with a total one-time feeding capacity of 811, 000 head which makes them the largest feeder in the world.

"Our top issue is HEALTH. Despite years of work, there is still much more to do in this area. Cattle simply need stronger immunity at the time they leave their farm."

BREED COMPOSITION- "Our first choice is 50-75% Angus and 25-50% Continental. This combination makes a right sized, good feeding, good grading, good yielding animal that covers a lot of important bases."

"One of the glaring problems in our industry is CHRONICALLY LOW QUALITY GRADES in Texas and Kansas packing plants. This is largely a genetic problem with Southern origin cattle that simply don't have enough genetic potential to grade Choice... We need to add more Angus to the Southern cattle population."

"Embrace Animal ID and maintain verifiable age and source records on your calf crop."

From Mark Harmon—Joplin Regional Stockyards, Joplin, MO—

"EID and Animal ID is NOT a problem, but an opportunity."

" Most of today's consumers don't own a lawn mower or a weedeater. "

"It's not about the price per pound, but the size of the check."

From Dave Daley—California State University—"It's the cow's job to produce what's on the farm, not the farm's job to produce for the cow. Our industry and University systems have focused on individual trait measurement for over fifty years....Has anyone thought about measuring return per acre or return on investment?

Thanks to Bear Swamp Angus and Springdell Plantation for their recent purchases of females!