

From Across The River

Mike Dee, Aca President



December sure was a busy month around the ranch. Every morning is a new adventure, with the sunrise comes the opportunity to see how our herd has expanded. Calving season is one of the most rewarding times in ranching business. Our grass is a little short and we are going to stretch our hay as far as it will go, but it is a wonderful sight to see a pasture covered with good cows with healthy calves by their sides.

With three young daughters, Christmas is a very busy and exciting season. All three performed in the choir Christmas program, as a family we joined our 'cross the river neighbors for caroling, Christmas celebrations in Fayette and Pickens counties, capped off with most of my family coming to the ranch for our after Christmas family celebration.

Wintertime has reached us in West Alabama. We spent several days with the temperature in the 20's. We had some ice and a stray snowflake, but no pipes froze and we seemed to come through it well. Small things like putting out hay, feeding, and making sure the cattle have water all seem to take a little longer below freezing. Three days below freezing, followed by four days above sixty degrees, if you do not like the weather here in Alabama just be patient because it will change.

With Governor Riley calling the new legislators into special session we took the opportunity to invite the 44 new freshman legislators to the Cattlemen's Building for a reception. Your Cattlemen's Association joined forces with Alabama Poultry and Egg Association, Alabama Farmers Federation, Alabama Forestry Association, and Alabama Rural Electric Cooperative to host the legislators and make them aware of the importance of rural Alabama and the producers that they are in Montgomery to represent. Production agriculture is extremely important to the state's economy. However, those of us involved in agriculture represent a small percentage of the voting public. Therefore, coalitions like this one representing rural Alabama are essential in getting our voices heard. You can be very proud that Martha Davis made sure that beef was the centerpiece of the meal.

With all the hustle and bustle to finish the year, get ready for the Holidays and to plan for next year, I took a moment to slow down and reflect on 2010 as it comes to a close. What a wonderful world we are living in. Each calf I see born I marvel at the amazing miracle of birth and the start of a new life that will grow, flourish, and reproduce. I relish that God sent his only son to be born to give us the gift of everlasting life.

A new year has begun and with it comes great opportunity. The January calendar is filled with county meetings across the state. The strength of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association is you the members and your involvement in your local chapters. Please try to attend your local county meeting and show your support.

God Bless you and your family and Happy New Year!

Mike Dee



2010 COUNTY PRESIDENTS

Autauga.....	Lee Pittman
Baldwin.....	Danny Coleman
Barbour.....	Mac Strickland
Bibb.....	Kevin Bolding
Blount.....	Charlie Head
Bullock.....	Guin Butler
Butler.....	Keith Meridith
Calhoun.....	Mathew Smith
Chambers.....	Chris Langley
Cherokee.....	Don Hanton
Chilton.....	Jason Staggs
Choctaw.....	Bill Adams
Clarke.....	Stacey Dunagan
Clay.....	Donny Daugherty
Cleburne.....	Ashley Truett
Coffee.....	Mike Bailey
Colbert.....	Randy Davis
Conecuh.....	Buddy Howington
Coosa.....	Howard Collins
Covington.....	Wayne Reynolds
Crenshaw.....	Charles Shepard
Cullman.....	Tim Plunkett
Dale.....	Robert Dyson
Dallas.....	John Westbrook
Dekalb.....	Dale Graben
Etmore.....	Charles Tew
Escambia.....	Stanley Johnson
Etowah.....	Rodney Butler
Fayette.....	Jeff Sullivan
Franklin.....	Greg Smith
Geneva.....	Mark Bedsole
Greene.....	Richard Harvell
Hale.....	Gary Broussard
Henry.....	Charles Armstrong
Houston.....	Richard Meadows
Jackson.....	Richard Barton
Jefferson.....	John Morris
Lamar.....	JD Bowman
Lauderdale.....	Jim Allen
Lawrence.....	Roland Coan
Lee.....	Bret Johndrow
Limestone.....	Grant White
Lowndes.....	George Hammonds
Madison.....	John Pulliam
Madison.....	JB Turner
Marengo.....	Jody Rankin
Marion.....	Todd Walker
Marshall.....	Danny Panky
Mobile.....	Doug Earle
Monroe.....	Daren Bosarge
Montgomery.....	Dan Jones
Morgan.....	Larry Bucklew
Perry.....	Kenley Harrison
Pickens.....	Tony Fuller
Pike.....	Chris Chandler
Randolph.....	Jenny Allen
Russell.....	Denn Wilson
Shelby.....	Ronnie Cook
St. Clair.....	Mike Bowling
Sumter.....	Mike Cole
Talladega.....	Frank Banister
Tallapoosa.....	Gene Smith
Tuscaloosa.....	Johnny Morrow
Walker.....	Judd Aldridge
Washington.....	Billy Covington
Wilcox.....	Dale Williamson
Winston.....	Brian Hutcherson