

Taking Stock

ACA PRESIDENT LEO HOLLINGER



As I write this, the weather is as nice as I can remember for this time of the year. This week we've done a lot of outside work on the farm. All the calves have been reprocessed, checked, weighed and all turned out on ryegrass. Cheap gains on cool season forage are a real advantage that we have in Alabama. We just need more people to take advantage of it.

I want to congratulate Mike Dee, all the many volunteer leaders and the ACA staff for the good work resulting in a busy and successful year. I look forward to working with Donna Jo Curtis, Jimmy Holliman, LD Fitzpatrick and the entire board of directors this year. This will be a challenging year; however, challenges always create opportunities.

Now a little bit about my family. Jeannie and I have two children, Bryant and Rebecca. Bryant and his wife Amanda have three children, Mary Forrest, 6, Lee 18 months and Callie 7 months. Rebecca recently moved back to Camden and manages the lab at our local hospital. We are so blessed to have all of our family living near us.

Jeannie retired from the Extension System a few years ago. She is a big help on the farm, keeping the books and weighing all the loads of cattle we ship. She graciously accepts the fact that vacation usually has something to do with a cattle event. I thank her for this.

We represented you at the NCBA National Meeting in Denver last month. With temperatures down to 18 below zero, I've never been so cold! At least 12 members were present to represent Alabama. Lana Slaton is to be congratulated on an outstanding job representing Alabama as president of the National Cattlewomen. Dr. Phil Hardee will head up our National PAC committee. Phil had Karl Rove speak and kick off our PAC fund raising effort. Karl's political insight and knowledge is amazing. I support both the State and National PAC with a contribution knowing it is spent wisely and will give big returns.

Our ACA Convention and Trade Show were great as usual. The speakers were interesting and the Renaissance banquet food may be the best I have had. I had the pleasure of walking Governor Bentley through the trade show. He was amazed at the technology we use today in the cattle industry, our efficiency, and our concern for supplying the consumer a safe, quality beef product. Thanks to all of our sponsors and exhibitors.

Membership is well on its way to our goal of 12,000. Today the U.S. produces much more beef with fewer cattle and fewer cattle folks than two decades ago. Just because a person doesn't own cattle, does not mean they could not benefit from membership in the Alabama Cattleman's Association. Rural residents all have similar concerns and issues to address. Ask a friend or neighbor to join. They may just think like we do, have similar values, or need a stronger voice to express their concerns. Our strength is in numbers. We are a true grassroots association with chapters in all 67 counties. With a more responsible political climate and new ethics regulations, the Cattleman's Association with a strong member base can effectively represent rural Alabama with pride. Be part of this bright future and ask others to join us.

Hope to see you at the Rodeo, March 10, 11, and 12th.

Thank you and May God Bless,
Leo



2011 COUNTY PRESIDENTS

Autauga	Lee Pittman
Baldwin	Danny Coleman
Barbour	Mac Strickland
Bibb	Kevin Bolding
Blount	Charlie Head
Bullock	Guin Butler
Butler	James Owens
Calhoun	Mathew Smith
Chambers	Chris Langley
Cherokee	Don Hunton
Chilton	Jason Staggs
Choctaw	Bill Adams
Clarke	Stacey Dunagan
Clay	Donny Daughtery
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	Toby McCormick
Elmore	Charles Tew
Escambia	Stanley Johnson
Etowah	Jerry Evans
Fayette	Jeff Sullivan
Franklin	Frank Mitchell
Geneva	Mark Bedsole
Greene	Richard Harvell
Hale	Gary Broussard
Henry	Charles Armstrong
Houston	Richard Meadows
Jackson	Patty Moore
Jefferson	John Morris
Lamar	JD Bowman
Lauderdale	Roger Hammer
Lawrence	Roland Coan
Lee	Billy Johnson
Limestone	Grant White
Lowndes	George Hammonds
Macon	Jason Edmondson
Madison	Randy Moody
Marengo	Jody Rankin
Marion	Todd Walker
Marshall	Danny Pankey
Mobile	Doug Earle
Monroe	Wayne Strength
Montgomery	Dan Jones
Morgan	Larry Buckelew
Perry	Kenley Harrison
Pickens	Tony Fuller
Pike	Chris Chandler
Randolph	Jimmy Allen
Russell	Dean Wilson
Shelby	Ronnie Cook
St. Clair	Gary Savage
Sumter	Mike Cole
Talladega	Frank Bannister
Tallapoosa	Gene Smith
Tuscaloosa	Scott Gregory
Walker	Judd Aldridge
Washington	Billy Covnigton
Wilcox	Dale Williamson
Winston	Brian Hutchenson