



## Around THE WORLD

*DeRon Heldermon*

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. At the time I was writing this column we were experiencing flooding in Oklahoma and people were still trying to harvest wheat, a full month later than normal. I also know many of you are experiencing the driest weather in your history. One thing is for sure—the weather has been crazy.

I made a trip to the sale barn the other day and that always makes for good conversation. One of the larger barns in our part of the country has a special sale the third week of June for cattle that have had two rounds of shots. The sale usually draws buyers from different parts of the country, including some from the corn belt.

There are many things in life that make you realize this is not a perfect world and sitting in the sale barn for a couple of hours is certainly one of those things. While I think we are making huge strides in terms of consistency in our industry, you don't have to sit in a sale barn very long to realize there is still lots of room for improvement.

The most interesting comment of the day came from an order buyer I have known all of my life. Sitting there munching on a hamburger, a reputation set of about 200 black and black-baldy

calves came through the ring. Unprovoked, he said, "Look at that set of calves. I don't understand how anyone in the commercial cow-calf business can afford to raise straight black or straight English calves.

That was like music to my ears, so I dug a little deeper. Come to find out, he was familiar with the calves raised by that producer and after further conversation, we figured out they were a month older than the Limousin x Angus crossbred steers my dad was selling that day. They were a smooth 80 pounds lighter than the heavy end of my dad's calves and the market that day was \$1.17 for calves that weight.

Occurrences like that make me walk away wishing we lived in a perfect world. I wish there was a big ranch somewhere that ran 2,000 commercial momma cows and their manager had the task of selecting \$3,000 bulls from 10 different breeds.

After that, accurate records would be kept from conception to the time those cattle were hanging on the rail. The winner would be the cross that produced the highest net profit at the end of the day.

I would bet my money on the Continental-sired calves to win, place and show, with the straight win ticket on Limousin! **LW**