



## The VIEW FROM HERE

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*Kyle Haley*

Even though we were hot and tired, my little brother and I somehow always found the strength and energy to get the last load of hay for the day stacked in the barn with lightning speed.

After all, if we hurried, we would still have time to grab our fishing poles and hit the pond before supper. And on really special days, we would have homemade ice cream waiting for us when we returned. But we had to be careful, if we got back to the house too soon, one of us might get stuck turning the crank.

I am not sure why, but many of my fondest memories growing up revolve around the summer time. Whether it was a picnic under a tree between baseball games or popping tons of Black Cats on the fourth of July, we managed to have loads of fun during the summer.

It's not like there wasn't plenty of work to be done, but for some reason, hoeing the garden or building fence didn't seem so bad. Probably because our minds were more focused on what we were going to do after we finished instead of on the task at hand. Which probably explains why the rows of corn weren't always the straightest and why the t-posts were driven at various heights.

Another summer is winding down and I trust you and your family had an enjoyable one. I'm sure there was plenty of work to go around, but I hope you enjoyed the time you got to spend together as a family whether you were attending your state field day, ball games or the occasional trip to the lake.

With herd book, field days, the national junior heifer show and various other projects going on, we kept our plates pretty full around here, but looking back at the final results, it all seems worth it.

I hope you feel the same way when you look back over the year thus far. I trust that the long hours and restless nights watching the weather channel and checking first-calf heifers were offset by the good times you had, the memories you made and the time you spent with your family.

While we are faced with our fair share of challenges, the agriculture industry is still a darn good place to make a living and raise a family. While I can't be certain, I am quite sure the poor souls stuck in a cubicle in a concrete jungle somewhere must be envious of our ability to stop by the blackberry patch while checking cows and have a little snack.

Making a living in agriculture has never been the easiest row to hoe, nor has it ever been free from risk, but the rewards make it all well worth it. Don't you think? **LW**