



The VIEW FROM HERE

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I have never been one to get too wound up about politics. And much like religion, even when I do form opinions, I tend to keep them to myself.

That said, I do believe there were many things to learn from the recent election.

The most important thing I realized is that regardless of which side of the political table you sit on, I am an American first and a democrat, republican or independent second.

The same can be said for people in the cattle business. Our strongest allegiance should be to the beef industry, the breed or breeds we choose to integrate into our programs should be second, and our own operations should be last. We are all beef producers and we should support each other whenever possible, and we should speak with a unified voice when it comes to many of the large issues that affect us all.

The same philosophy holds true within breeds. I see no reason we shouldn't all learn to stand on the same side of the fence when it comes to promoting and supporting the Limousin breed. I know most of you have a certain allegiance to a specific kind of Limousin, be it fullblood, purebred, Lim-Flex or percentage. I also know how easy it is to get hung up in what we believe benefits certain segments of the industry while losing site of what is truly important to the overall beef industry.

The bottom line is, if the beef industry as a whole suffers a setback, we all suffer a setback. The same can be said for the Limousin breed. Regardless of what the percent blood is of the cattle roaming your pastures, supporting what is best for the Limousin breed as a whole has about as much to do with your long-term success as just about anything you can do as an individual.

I am going to crawl out on a limb here and say our country needs the thoughts and views brought to the table by democrats, independents and republicans.

By the same token, the beef industry is equally dependent upon Limousin genetics regardless of whether they are fullblood, purebred, Lim-Flex or percentage.

One of the most hard fought, political elections in the history of our country is over. And regardless of whether your candidates were winners or losers, I urge you to think about some of the comments both presidential candidates made.

Senator McCain said in his concession speech, "I urge all Americans who supported me to join me in not just congratulating him, but offering our next president our good will and earnest effort to find ways to come together to find the necessary compromises to bridge our differences and help restore our prosperity, defend our security in a dangerous world, and leave our children and grandchildren a stronger, better country than we inherited."

In his speech, Barack Obama said, "In this country, we rise or fall as one nation, as one people."

To quote John McCain one last time, "Regardless of our differences, we are all Americans."

Replace the word "Americans" with the words "beef producers" or "Limousin breeders," and it becomes obvious how important it is for us all to be on the same page.

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