



The VIEW FROM HERE

Kyle Haley

Since I never seem to keep my New Year's resolutions very long anyway, I decided this year to skip them all together. And since I really don't like black-eyed peas, I decided I will not eat any of those on New Year's day either. The only traditions I plan on keeping are watching college football most of the day and of course the traditional New Year's Day nap because it is probably the last one I will get all year.

This year I decided to spend the time I usually spend making resolutions to reflect back on 2007. During the process, I remembered some good, some bad and some stuff I would just as soon forget. But all-in-all I'd have to say 2007 was a good one.

For some reason, reflecting back on the year that was also got me to thinking about the road I took and the choices I have made that got me to where I am in the first place. Actually, the thing that got me to thinking the most, was a question from my youngest daughter, who at the ripe old age of six, has the ability to stump this college graduate almost daily with her whys and what fors?

Like most conversations, this one started out innocently enough. I was explaining to her that I would be leaving town for a few days on a business trip. Then, like most really good questions, out of the blue she asked, "Daddy, don't you ever get tired of writing about cows?"

The question itself was easy enough to answer—No, I don't get tired of writing about cows.

Then she asked, "How come?"

Again, the how comes rolled off my lips without much effort. But as it often does, the simple and innocent questions of a 6-year-old led to more serious thought later on.

I realize I'm not six, but if you'd allow me, I'd like to pose a couple of questions to each of you as we enter a new year.

Why did you decide to get into the cattle business?

What do you enjoy most about the cattle business?

Where do you envision yourself and your operation five years from now?

If you are like me, you can answer each of those questions fairly quickly. However, I encourage you to put a little more thought into each one of them.

You see, too many times we spend too much time thinking about what we need to be doing, what we should have done differently or why we can't do the things we want to do.

It's been my experience that spending a little time focusing on why we are really doing all of this in the first place is a great way to refocus and recharge.

Now, if I could just come up with a good answer for why you should eat your vegetables.