



The VIEW FROM HERE

Kyle Haley

I am pleased to report it has been an excellent 30 days since I last sat down to write this column. I have to admit, all too many times I take the good news I hear, nod my head in approval then go back to putting out fires.

Let's begin with the good news from the National Western Stock Show, most of which you will read about throughout this issue so I won't repeat it. Suffice is to say, the cattle were better than ever and breeders from across the country are poised to make a positive difference in 2010. I heard reports of quite a few bulls trading hands in the yards—which is always a great sign. Also, other breeders told me they have been getting more calls for breeding bulls than they have in recent years. Yep—the 2010 National Western Stock Show was a great way to kick off the new decade.

More good news occurred for many of us in the Limousin family regarding the successful surgery of Ron Wayland, Wayland Limousin, Arnett, Oklahoma. Many of you remember Ron for serving as the Oklahoma Limousin Breeder's Association Executive Secretary. At any rate, it took a team of doctors and nurses, a barn full of prayers, three surgeries and nearly a year, but Ron's ticker has been successfully repaired. By the sound of his voice over the phone the other day, it won't be long before he will be back out amongst his cows. He told me he is looking forward to calling in one of the "hundreds" of gobblers with beards like paint brushes that he claims to know the secret location of.

In other exciting and positive news, the Brian Skaggs family has tons to be thankful for. Jhett Skaggs, the son of Brian and Audra, and little brother of Merit, underwent a successful heart transplant two years ago at the age of 10 months. On February 1 of this year, the family got a knock on the door from Ty Pennington of Extreme Makeover Home Edition. In less than a week, hundreds of people donated more than 55,000 man hours to erect a new home and barn for the family.

At press time, Brian, who serves on the North American Limousin Foundation Board of Directors, told me the family still hasn't completely come to terms with the tremendous outpouring of generosity, not only from Oklahomans, but from people across the nation. Tentatively, the episode featuring the Skaggs family is scheduled to air sometime in the middle of March to the first of April. I assure you, we will have photos and more complete details in future issues.

Last and certainly not least, was the goings on at the Emerging Leaders Academy in Kansas City, Missouri. An excellent group of bright, young, enthusiastic Limousin breeders got together to help "tune on" the NALF strategic plan that was unveiled during the breed's annual meeting in Denver. Man are these guys sharp. I can say without doubt or reservation, the breed is in very capable hands. The best news is that this exercise is intended to be a yearly function with a new group of emerging leaders attending each year.

I don't know about you, but with January 2010 being such an exciting and positive month, I can't wait to see what the rest of the year has in store for us.

LW