



Around THE WORLD

DeRon Heldermon

We did have a “Bash on the Bayou.” Those of you who didn’t make the trip to West Monroe, Louisiana, for this year’s National Junior Show & Congress and All-American Futurity missed a grand event. Those who did are proud to say we all survived without anyone getting swallowed by an alligator.

The fine folks from Louisiana fed us food we couldn’t pronounce, let alone identify the ingredients, and they made us like it. It was truly a great time and I hope you enjoy this issue that spotlights the happenings of that week.

Sadly, just a few short weeks after returning home, we were reminded what events like this are really about. A 17-year-old Oklahoma junior, Nathan Wright of Afton, who competed at this year’s Junior Nationals, was killed in an automobile accident. This hit especially close to home for me as I went to college with his father, Joe Bob Wright, and have developed a strong relationship with his grandfather and fellow breeder, Hubert Wright of O.T. Farms, Fort Scott, Kansas.

Joe Bob and his three sons had their cattle tied across the alley from my three boys’ cattle. Our families got to spend more time around each other in West Monroe than we had in our previous 20 years since graduating from college. Nathan’s older brother, Bart, was a member of one of Oklahoma’s state fitting teams with my oldest son. We worked together moving chutes, setting up generators and the fitting area and we used Nathan’s heifer for the competition.

The Limousin business is an extension of our immediate families. Just like our own family, it’s the hard work, sweating and laughing together that builds those bonds and brings us all closer.

My heart goes out to the Nathan Wright family. I will always remember the Junior Nationals in West Monroe, Louisiana. It was a time to get to know a fine young man and another great family. **LW**