



AZTX CATTLE CO. NEWSLETTER

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FARWELL FEED YARD — MAJOR FEAT ACCOMPLISHED 2250 DAYS WITHOUT A LOST TIME ACCIDENT

On March 12th there was something cookin' at the Farwell Feed Yard and it wasn't just the feed mill. Manager Rodney Wren and assistant Manager Robert Smith were grilling steaks and cooking cobbler for their employees. On February 6th, 2009 they had reached 2250 days without a lost time accident. Working in a feed yard, there are all kinds of things that can happen especially when you have to deal with livestock and machinery. So when you can go 6 years without any employees having to be off because of an accident on the job, it is most certainly something that should be celebrated.

The employees at Farwell Feed Yard understand the importance of safety and the rewards it brings back to them. Robert, the assistant manager, believes their success is due to the fact that several of their employ-

ees have been with them for more than nine years. They know their jobs and they do them well. Robert said that in this field we don't take many opportunities to thank the men who are out there doing the work every day, and so that's what the steaks and cobbler were for. It was a chance for the employees to be recognized and treated a little special for their major accomplishment. Along with a great meal the employees also received a vest with the AzTx/FFY emblem and a cash reward.

As manager of the feed yard, Rodney takes full responsibility for the good and the bad that goes on at the yard, but when it comes to "safety" he says it's the employees who should be congratulated for their accomplishment. They have been dedicated to maintaining the safety incentive program established and this is one way that the employee can actually benefit from a company program. Rodney takes pride in building a strong team of leaders who are respected and have experience. Any time you can reduce the cost of an injured employee means that dollar



can be put to more constructive projects.

Rodney says, "Hats off to all employees of Farwell Feed Yard, Great Job!"

And Robert would also like to say, "Thank you! Without dependable, responsible men we could not have reached this goal. Great job and I hope to get to do it again when we reach 2500 days accident free!"



2009 GRADUATES



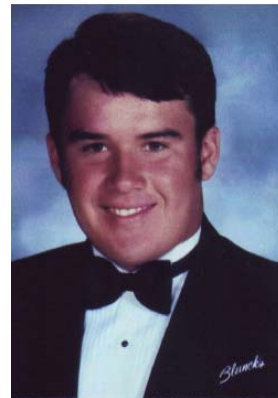
James Robert Josserand, son of Barry and Christie Josserand. James Robert is graduating from Canyon High School and plans to attend Texas A&M in College Station majoring in Finance.



Andee Josserand, daughter of John and Sandy Josserand. Andee is graduating from Hereford High School and plans to attend the University of Texas-San Antonio on a volleyball scholarship. She plans to major in orthodontics.



Kathy Boos, daughter of GCFY manager Mark Boos and Robin Boos. Kathy is graduating from Garden City High School. Her choice of college is still undecided, but plans to attend with a scholarship in Track & Field and major in Elementary Education.



Johnathan Edwards, son of Scotly and Carrie Edwards (DFY). Johnathan is graduating from Farwell High School. He will be attending Wyotech in Dayton Beach, FL in the fall.



Rebecca Boos, daughter of GCFY manager Mark Boos and Robin Boos. Rebecca is graduating from Wichita State University with a degree in Social Work and plans to stay in Wichita to work on her masters.



Tarynn Fries, daughter of Chuck and Connie Fries. Tarynn is graduating from Hyles-Anderson College in Crown Point, Indiana with an Associates in Science. She has plans to be married in July.

WORRIED?

As we proceed toward the future, I have real concerns about the prospects for our country. Do you? It seems to me as though we have let our apathy and philosophy of a "free lunch" allow our leaders to get in a very harmful thought process.

We know there is no such thing as a free lunch, and we also know that freedom is NOT free. Yet it appears to me that the American public has refused to face these facts and are allowing our elected leaders to take us down the road that we all know is impossible to sustain and will ultimately destroy our country as we know it today.

Is all lost? I think not, but I also think that the American public must

start to face the brutal reality that there is no free lunch and that each of us must be responsible for ourselves and our actions. I have a firm belief that God will intervene, but in what way or manner, I have no idea. We face a very difficult situation, but it is not an impossible situation. We can change what's happening if we truly want to make that change. Do we, or do we continue to allow this country to erode?

As responsible men and women, let's start the ball rolling to make the tough decisions and turn this country back to a nation of "In God We Trust!"

Bob Josserand



Adapt and Overcome

With so many obstacles continually coming across our paths in the beef business, more than ever we need ways to adapt and overcome those obstacles...., or they'll overcome us. To do this requires options, the will to examine new options, and finally the will to do things a little different. It also requires us to take our eye off the obstacles and place our eyes on the success waiting for us on the other side. If you can't go around the obstacle, maybe the path is to go over the obstacle and use it to our advantage as a stepping stone to get where we need to go.

You must not forget that consumers around the world still want consistent, safe, quality beef products. I've talked to people in the past week from 3 different countries on two continents and others in the United States experiencing growth in beef products purchased by their customers.

We're working very hard to provide you additional options both in production methods and in markets for the finished product to help you adapt and overcome obstacles that get in 'your' way. If you don't adapt, the obstacles may overcome you.

- Connecting the beef producer to the one buying the beef products is definitely not a new idea. However, in the midst of all the turmoil in the business world today, it has more potential than ever before.
- Putting your beef production options with ours many times provides a way around obstacles such as drought, low calf prices and many others that are out of your control.

Working together many times makes

both partners stronger. It may not be comfortable at first. Change is never comfortable. Watch for more solutions from AzTx Branded Beef to assist you as together we 'can' adapt and overcome those obstacles that stand between us, and the short term success and long term sustainability of our family businesses.

Call us today to discuss marketing options for your calves, outside grazing programs, and feeding and marketing programs for your cattle in our feed yards.

Chuck Fries

AzTx Branded
Beef

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WE'RE ON THE WEB:
WWW.AZTX.COM

WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO
COMMUNICATE WITH YOU THROUGH
EMAIL!

SO IF YOU HAVE ONE, PLEASE EMAIL
AMY AT

AMYA@AZTX.COM

OR GIVE HER A CALL!!!

**Everyone at AzTx wants to send out a
BIG THANK YOU
to all the men and women who are cur-
rently serving our country and those
who have served in the past. Without
you who knows where we'd be?**



Hereford Feed Yard

Wade Lewis—Manager
50,000 Head Capacity
P.O. Box 151
Hereford, TX 79045
1-800-999-5066

Dimmitt Feed Yard

Bob Tabb—Manager
47,000 Head Capacity
P.O. Box 638
Dimmitt, TX 79027
1-877-924-2333

Farwell Feed Yard

Rodney Wren—Manager
30,000 Head Capacity
P.O. Box 215
Farwell, TX 79325
1-800-771-9017

Rocky Ford Feed Yard

Robert Petty—Manager
30,000 Head Capacity
P.O. Box 796
Rocky Ford, CO 81067
1-800-569-1893

Garden City Feed Yard

Mark Boos—Manager
88,000 Head Capacity
1805 W. Annie Scheer Rd.
Garden City, KS 67846
1-800-272-4191

THE STRONG WILL SURVIVE

Spring is here, at least some of the time now. It feels good to be outside working in the yard seeing signs of new life. I always love the seasonal changes and think planting flowers in May is a wonderful way to feel rejuvenated after a challenging day in the cattle business. As I have been planting my flowers, I thought about a conversation I had with my grandmother many years ago and want to share the story:

One day, my grandmother and I were working together in the garden. We were transplanting some plants for the third time. Grown from seed in a small container, the plants had been transferred to a larger container; then transplanted into the garden. Now, because

my grandmother wanted to share some of her flowers with a neighbor, we were transplanting them again. Inexperienced as a gardener, I turned to my green-thumbed grandmother. "Isn't this bad for them?" I asked, as we dug them up and shook the dirt from their roots. "Won't it hurt these plants, being uprooted and transplanted so many times?" "Oh no," my grandmother replied. "Transplanting doesn't hurt them. In fact, it's good for the ones that survive. That's how their roots grow strong. Their roots will grow deep, and they'll make strong plants."

Recently, I've felt like those small plants --- uprooted and turned upside down by the turmoil in the financial world of today. Sometimes, I've endured the changes willingly, sometimes reluctantly, but usually my reaction has been a combination. "Won't these changes in the banking industry be hard on TAG and our customers?" I ask. "Wouldn't it be better if things remained the same?" That's when I remember my grandmother's words of wisdom: For the ones who survive the change, their roots will have grown deep and strong.

Michelle Stockett

