



South Carolina Angus Association News

Sharon Furr

May 2017 and June 2017

Happy Late Mother's Day and Early Father's Day!!!

It's so hard for me to believe, but our beautiful Springtime in the South has come and gone, and summer is fast approaching, especially temperature wise!

I hope this article finds all of you getting much needed rains, and that your grasses are thick and lush and growing all over your pastures and in all of your fields! I also hope all of you have at least gotten one cutting of hay and are looking to get another shortly. I hope as well, that all your calves are on the ground with the exception of a few and that you're getting ready to breed once again for another spring calving, if that's the program your farm or operation is on.

Great news coming out of NCBA, shared by Ashley from NCCA, with cattlemen all over the US.

Restoration of US Beef Access to China

"Impossible to Overstate How Beneficial This Will Be for America's Cattle Producers"

WASHINGTON (May 11, 2017) - National Cattlemen's Beef Association President Craig Uden today issued the following statement regarding the announcement from the White House that an agreement has been reached that will restore U.S. beef access to China:

"After being locked out of the world's largest market for 13 years, we strongly welcome the announcement that an agreement has been made to restore U.S. beef exports to China. It's impossible to overstate how beneficial this will be for America's cattle producers, and the Trump Administration deserves a lot of credit for getting this achieved. We look forward to providing nearly 1.4 billion new customers in China with the same safe and delicious U.S. beef that we feed our families. I look forward to the day when we can serve President Trump and President Xi a dry-aged American-made New York strip in Beijing."

Being a cattle producer myself, I know there is a strong demand in our own country for premium high quality beef, but not only are we as Americans demanding prime, but there is a strong demand from foreign countries, and the demand is only rising especially for premium high quality beef! This is great news!!! Maybe cattle prices will once again start to trend up a little, yes?!!

Summertime is a busy, busy, busy time for our Juniors. Be on the lookout next month for the calendar of events.

Today I leave you with a Mother's Day story – one I wrote years ago, but just love – my hope is you will enjoy it as well!

A Mother's Love

Being raised in the country and pretty much on a farm all my life, I was given the opportunity of seeing a lot of different kinds of 'mama's'. I have very fond memories and even today I see such beauty between a mother and her baby and or babies. Now, I also know there are exceptions to every rule, but for me I know no different, I know there is no greater love than the love of a Mama.

When we were little Granny always had chickens. Most of the time her hens laid eggs, and each morning she would gather the eggs up and that was that. But every year she would have one or two she would let set. And sure enough before long, there would be a mother hen in the back yard with about a dozen little bitties running all around. Oh it was the most beautiful thing seeing all those little tiny fuzzy yellow babies. I remember how protective the mother hens would be about their bitties. If they sensed any danger they would cockle over and over again to their bitties and spread their wings out and all the bitties would run up under their mamas' wings for protection. She would then run with her wings spread out with all her bitties under her until she got to safety, never thinking of herself, only her babies. A Mother's love.

Next, I remember begging for a cat when I was very little. Mama didn't like cats, so it was a hard sell. But nonetheless a lady Mama worked with had a cat, who lucky for me had kittens, and sure enough she let me get one of her kittens, I called her Mana Kitty. I really couldn't say Mama Kitty, so Mana had to do. I loved her. She was black with a little white nose, three white socks and a white belly. One day I couldn't find Mana Kitty, I remember calling for her over and over and over again. I went to the barn and out through the woods calling her, but she never came home. I was so sad that night, and when I said my prayers at bedtime, I remember asking God to bring Mana Kitty home, I had no idea what had happened to Mana Kitty. To my surprise the next morning Mana Kitty was waiting on the steps for me, but she wasn't alone, she had carried each one of her babies up onto the steps for me to see. She looked up at me with her beautiful face, her long whiskers and purring ever so gently, I think she was kinda in a way saying to me, 'it's my first time, can you help me out here, I'm not sure what I'm doing, but I know you can help'. Little did I know, but she had had these babies in the barn and over in the night had brought each one, one by one, ever so gently to the steps and laid them down for me, for my help, for my love. A Mother's love.

Birds have always fascinated me. I love watching them build their nest, ever so perfect, for that long awaited time when they will have baby birds, and they will be ever so comfy in their intricately woven little home of paradise. The mother bird will go out time after time and find

food for the baby birds. Each time she arrives back at the nest, the babies will chirp ever so loudly, ever so excited, mother is back! She will do this day after day, hour after hour, never tiring, only thinking of her babies, always keeping the nest in full sight, never taking her eye off the goal, her babies. And once the babies are big enough to learn to fly, well that's something to see. She will go out onto the perch or a limb real close to the nest, and coax her babies out. She will fly from the perch to the ground, over and over again, calling them to her each time, never tiring, back and forth and back and forth, as if to say, 'follow me it's okay, you can do it', this will continue until one gets up enough courage to try and get to mother. She will do this all day long until each baby is out of the nest and to safety. A Mother's love.

As far as the mama cows go, you know me and the mothers and their babies, they are my life and I love them. I can't think of a greater love than that of a mother cow. I have seen so many mamas' lie down and have their calves, it's a miracle really. I compare the mother cow to us in so many ways. When you get a live calf on the ground it's something, but when you get two live calves on the ground (twins) it is unbelievable and extraordinary. And watching the mama with her baby and or babies, I never tire from watching this. The entire birthing process, it's just awesome to me. I find myself pushing and breathing and coaching her along, and praying for God's hand of mercy, and when the baby gets here I am shouting with joy for mother and baby, and praising God for life and health, and I am congratulating mother on the new arrival, and telling all the other mother's that we have a new addition. It's overwhelming really. Sometimes I find myself laughing and saying, "Oh mother, I know I have no idea what you are going through, but I feel like I do". The mama cow will clean her baby ever so gently and coo to them nonstop and then once the baby has gotten up on their feet and nursed, mother will put the baby down to sleep and she will lay right with them, as close as she can get, and continue to lick them and coo to them. Never tiring, never ever tiring. A Mother's love.

A real Mother's Love, well that's protection, that's feeding them when their hungry, that's teaching them how to spread their wings and fly, and even sacrificing themselves for the goal – their baby – that's dragging them from here to there, making sure they get to everywhere their supposed to be and cooing to them, and comforting them, and being with them through thick and thin, yes that's a Mother's Love. For me I know no different, I know there is no greater love than the love of a Mama. Happy Mother's Day to all you mother's out there!

My belief is this; Anybody can have a baby – but not everybody can be a MAMA!







Don't forget.....If you need to reach me, or if you have something cool to share with me, or if you have any great pictures from any event you have been to, please don't hesitate to call me, or text me, or email me – I'd love to hook up with you.

SCAA, c/o Sharon Furr - Secretary, 2049 Boyd Road, Blackstock, SC 29014, or to my email address below.

Contact information: 704.577.3639 – spanishoaks@truvista.net

I can't wait to see you on the road, but until then.....



PEACE



LOVE



COW

Sharon