

January is in full swing and February is fast approaching us. The older I get the quicker time just sneaks up on me. With the blink of an eye, it'll be March and then April, and before you know it......well you see where I'm going with all of this.

This past year has once again been a real learning experience for me in the Angus business, and in farming in general. I have been on the road meeting people, going to shows and cattle sales all across our beautiful State. I have seen our amazing Juniors, the future of the cattle industry, in action, I have cried and laughed, I have gained and I have lost, and I have had my 35<sup>th</sup> set of twins on the farm, crazy right?! I have closed yet another chapter in the Sharon book, and I am starting a new one.



Much has been going on in the cattle industry, beef prices are down, commodities are flat, fuel is still down, droughts, floods and devastating cold are causing a real impact on agriculture across

the United States. Our dollar is strong against other currencies, which is good for the economy but not real good when it comes to farming and especially beef cattle. The strong dollar makes our beef expensive, so we have to be ever mindful of our largest competitor Brazil, and up until last month I was very concerned about Australian beef, but they have been suffering a drought, so thank goodness their exports will be down.

My thoughts for 2016: Prices will probably stay lower in the first quarter of the New Year, but I think they will come up a bit in the second and third, but all across the board prices will be down compared to last year's record highs. I also think herd rebuilding is going to continue and a lot of folks are keeping their heifers for replacements, so if you have heifers or know of anyone who has heifers for sale let me know so we can get the word out.

## SALES GOING ON IN THE NEXT COUPLE MONTHS

Below you will find a listing of our upcoming events:

January 30 Tokeena Angus Production Sale Seneca, SC

**February 6** Clemson Bull Test & Replacement Heifer Sale – Garrison Arena Cattle Complex Clemson, SC

**February 13** Black Crest Farms Production Sale Sumter, SC

**February 20** Yon Family Farms Spring Production Sale Ridge Spring, SC

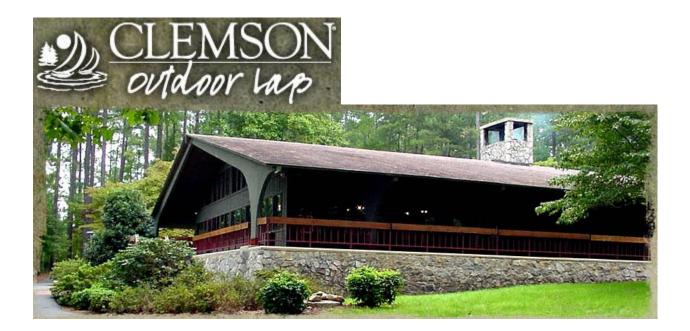
**February 27** Saluda County Replacement Heifer Sale – Saluda Livestock Market Saluda, SC

March 18-19 SCAA Annual Banquet and 45th Annual Carolina Futurity Sale

Let's don't forget 45th Annual Carolina Futurity Sale - March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ T. Ed. Garrison Livestock Arena, Clemson University – Clemson, S.C. If you need more information, please contact Ken Brubaker @ 540.908.5799 or <u>ken@brubakersales.com</u> – or Steve McPhail @ 864.978.6358 or <u>stevemcphail@windstream.net</u>

Also, once again this year for our 45<sup>th</sup> SCAA Futurity, we will be celebrating our banquet at the Clemson Outdoor Lab, 415 Charlie White Trail - Pendleton, SC 29670

Can't wait – so mark your calendars for March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and come be a part of such an awesome night and sale the next day!



Also, I have blocked a set of rooms at the Hotel Tillman, formerly the Sleep Inn, on a first come first serve basis, the rate for SCAA Members will be: \$81.00 - you have until February  $18^{th}$  to book at this rate. It has been fully renovated and is very nice.



Hotel Tillman (864) 643-2070 - 1303 Tiger Blvd., Clemson, SC 29631 (Formerly Sleep Inn) Free breakfast with your stay. Also, if you prefer not to stay at the Tillman, here are a few others options for you:

Hampton Inn Clemson 1 855-271-3622 - 851 Tiger Boulevard, Clemson, SC 29631 Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites Clemson – Univ. Area - 1 877-859-5095 - 1381 Tiger Boulevard, Clemson, SC 29631

Also, don't forget ballots have been mailed out for our new Directors/Officers in 2016 – please be on the lookout for your ballot, fill it out, and mail back to me – due back to me on January  $31^{st}$ !

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. Don't forget too, if you haven't paid already, SCAA dues are

\$20 for one year, so just send a check to: SCAA, c/o Sharon Furr - Secretary, 2049 Boyd Road, Blackstock, SC 29014.

Contact information: home: 803-385-6958/cell: 704.577.3639 – <u>spanishoaks@truvista.net</u>

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



Sharon