

From Across The River

Mike Dee, Aca President



Dee River Ranch is located in southwest Pickens County sandwiched between the Tenn-Tom Water Way and the Mississippi state line. The people that live in town refer to us as from "cross the river", so my wife and daughters found this as an appropriate title for my column.

We live on the edge of the "black belt prairie" and as I write this article the prairie is getting deep. Putting out hay and feeding is getting more difficult by the day, but the cows get more appreciative. (I learned from a close friend not to write bad things about rain.) We were blessed with a nice hay crop and a good fall for growing grass that had the cattle in excellent shape entering winter. I, probably like most of you, am anxiously awaiting the first signs of spring to come.

It has been active year so far. I started the year with a trip to California with my beautiful wife to the National Championship Game ROLL TIDE! I was invited to Madison County to speak at their annual meeting; I loaded Shannon and the girls in the van and made it half way before the transmission went out. We made it home safe but unfortunately missed the meeting. I did make a nice meeting here in Pickens county and a very well attended meeting in Franklin County.

I was able to travel to San Antonio to represent Alabama on the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Federation Board. It was a very productive and informative meeting. Two main points of business we addressed were a restructure in NCBA governance structure and a dues restructure. Personally I feel the governance restructure will hopefully bring strength and unity to the organization. The dues restructure will raise NCBA base membership from the \$50 membership we in the south supported to return to a \$100 minimum. I am afraid they are choosing higher revenues, over more members. On the state level, we work very hard to maintain a first class organization for a very low membership fee. We know the strength of this organization is in the members it represents. When our staff goes to the State Capital to lobby for cattlemen's rights those doors open wide because The Alabama Cattlemen's represents over 11,000 Members.

We just returned from a spectacular state convention in Huntsville. We missed some of the folks from the southern part of the state that were unable to attend due to the winter weather, but had a great turn out nonetheless. I want to give a special thanks to the staff that works so hard to put on a great convention and the North Alabama counties that helped with convention.

I would like to take this opportunity to let all of you who receive this magazine what an honor and a privilege to represent this fine organization. I look forward to traveling the state meeting many of the fine members of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association. I plan on leading this organization like my parents taught me to lead my life, with honesty, integrity, and hard work.

Hope God blesses you with a bright spring and prosperous year.

Mike



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Cleburne.....	Ashley Truett
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