



Welcome to the Thorne Ranch Diary and, "The Adventures of Dear Abbie's Wife."

Hello & Welcome to our Diary page. The purpose of this diary is to record our adventures, folks who stop by, travels and events at the Thorne Ranch. It was primarily meant for family and friends in the beginning, but we have grown a large number of faithful readers over the past years. We don't intend to offend anyone or to glorify our life here. It's pretty boring most of the time as you will see! We are pretty common folks trying to make a living doing what we love, breeding and raising cattle. Our wish is that someday this Diary will be enjoyed and appreciated by our grandchildren and great grandchildren. In the mean time we hope you get a few good laughs at our expense. "Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself."

November 2011

This month has been filled with lots of special memories of our family and friends. If I don't record it, I am sure to forget what happened that day as we get busy with cattle and daily life on the ranch. I sometimes wonder what we do with all our time. We always have so many projects to get done and then there is the daily care, feeding, doctoring of the cattle. So it is nice to look back and see that we actually did accomplish something with our days on this earth.

I have been working on a couple new website designs for friends. [Nolles Cattle Company](#) from back home in Nebraska. Also a new website design for friend Shelly Willis with her "[The Turquoise Boot](#)". Always a treat to create something for my friends that may help them market their cattle or Western Bling. We finished up weaning the late spring calves and got the heifers all bangs vaccinated. The Nowakowski family came to pick up their three heifers they purchased from us. So glad they all got a good new home! It's like sending the kids off to a foster home or new school. Amazing how attached you get to your animals.

We have been busy one week this month setting up open cows with pre-breeding shots, worming and multi-min shots. That was fun as always it was just me and Abbie. I wish we could find a decent hard working person that really wants to learn the ropes of raising cows and calves. Unfortunately they think it's a romantic cowboy job, which it's not. We got it done though and now it will be setting up for breeding with cidars and shots to bring them all into synch.

I went with Renita to Tulsa one Monday afternoon and we had a fun time shopping at Garden Ridge. We are both celebrating loosing some much needed weight. Amazing how easy it is to pack it on but so hard to hack it off! ha

Brock is showing TCL Chops Dot and getting along really well at the OCCA shows this month in Perry a couple of times and also in Elk City. He was in Wilburton last weekend and he won Grand with his Angus. His Hereford and Dot won Simmental Plus breed. So he is racking up the points again this year. Dot even won Grand in one ring at Perry. That is encouraging and Brian says she should be awesome by OYE in March.

We had a young man stop by selling semen and he was impressed with our herd. He said he had been to a lot of places but never had seen such an awesome cow herd. He fell in love with several of our replacement heifers. Of course we purchased more semen too. Ha We made it over to OK City one night to visit with our good friends Tom and Pam Munk. We watched the Cutting Finals at the AQHA World Show and then had a late night dinner at I-Hop with them. We got home late or should say early morning. It was worth it though and wish they lived closer to us.

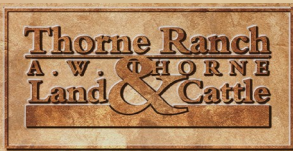
I rode with Carol up to Prassaic MO one Sunday afternoon to watch her bulls that were on test sell. We had a good time and enjoyed our day away. Girl time, and of course we talked kids, cows, and husbands. Ha

I baked up a storm with pumpkin and pecan pies, cinnamon rolls and dinner rolls on Tuesday and Wednesday the kids made it from Texas. Jeffrey, Diann, Logan and Grace. Also their new side kick Belle. A black lab cross border collie pup. She kept things picked up while she was here. Our friend Clark Benefield came and delivered the saddle he has been working on for us so that the kids could have a saddle to fit them. It simply looks awesome! He does such great work! Anyway we saddled up Tee and they rode him most of the afternoon. I saddled up the blue roan filly too. The wind was pretty terrible but we endured. Jeffrey helped Abbie insert cidars and was happy he took my place so I could play with the kids and horses.



Lindy and TLCC Tigers Blondie win Charolais Plus breed at Elk City, OK. TCL Chops Dot and Brock won breed several times and was Grand in one ring in Perry OK. Congratulations TLC Cattle Kids.





Welcome to the Thorne Ranch Diary and, "The Adventures of Dear Abbie's Wife."

November 2011—Continued



We were so proud of Logan when he decided he could rein Tee by himself and he sits a horse like he was born in the saddle! It's not like he doesn't have it in his genetic background. Ha I'd live in the saddle if I could! Nothing better than a trust worthy horse between your knees. Grace even rode with out someone holding on to with Logan walking her around the pen.

We made a trip up to see Grandma Thorne on Saturday and then we took off for the Oklahoma Aquarium . Which was fun for everyone! Abbie even enjoyed it. We then headed over to Bass Pro Shop for shopping, and then celebrated Abbie's birthday at the Mexican restaurant next door. The kids got left this morning to head back to Texas. So the house is quiet again. It is surprising how quick it turns quiet. Hally is happy to have her house back and not sharing space with a puppy. Looks like we don't need to add to our family for quite some time afraid she would have a heart attack. ha

Jeff Morrison came early Tuesday morning and we got all the horses feet trimmed and the old mare shoes back on. Plus we got them all wormed again! I hear they have opened up the slaughter horse market again. I hope that will make them worth a little more. Not that I would ever send mine to the killers! Ha

I made it over to Stillwater OK to pick up more ZKCC Chopper semen and to also have Cut Above or DBA Fat Butt, tested for quality since we are planning on using a bunch of that semen, it would be nice to know if it's good enough to settle our cows. Heck of a note when you have to follow up on other people bulls. But that is the way it is at our place! Better safe than sorry! Which has happened several times with un-reputable semen distributors. I won't mention any names but we never got our money back or good semen replaced on several bulls we had tested once just to make sure. Even though he said he would make it good they never did. While I was there I got to see ZKCC Chopper bull in person! Wow he is lucky to be alive after he was injured in the wind damage and tornado that went through there last spring. His neck is finally healing up some but he is always going to have a big hole in his neck. Plus he lost his tail.. But what a sweet guy he is..he came right up to me and I scratched all over him. His disposition is awesome! That sold me more than the big baldy face! Ha Yep our whole herd is changing dramatically since my love affair with that white face. Must be something left over from my Hereford days. Ha Back to Chopper...his conformation is so good! Big foot, sound feet and legs, good slope in his pastern, clean fronted, big hiped, square hiped, huge testicles, scurrs (I checked and he had them) strong top and rib eye, and deep heart girth and low flank! Do I need to go on and on? Ha I couldn't find anything wrong with him except he is missing his tail! They need to hook him up a fly swatter on the end for next summer! ha



Abbie pulled cidars on 30 virgin heifers today while I was gone so we will be giving them another shot tomorrow and then breeding them Friday. Also then we will be pulling cidars on all the rest on Friday too.. So it looks to be a busy coming weekend. I have been working on sending 50 embryos to Columbia South America this week! That gave me a lot of computer time making out application forms. You almost have to jump through hoops to get it done but would be a good thing if we can open up a market for frozen babies. We have plenty in storage that need to find a home and new recipient momma!





Welcome to the Thorne Ranch Diary and, "The Adventures of Dear Abbie's Wife."

Hello & Welcome to our Diary page. The purpose of this diary is to record our adventures, folks who stop by, travels and events at the Thorne Ranch. It was primarily meant for family and friends in the beginning, but we have grown a large number of faithful readers over the past years. We don't intend to offend anyone or to glorify our life here. It's pretty boring most of the time as you will see! We are pretty common folks trying to make a living doing what we love, breeding and raising cattle. Our wish is that someday this Diary will be enjoyed and appreciated by our grandchildren and great grandchildren. In the mean time we hope you get a few good laughs at our expense. "Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself."

December 2011

This month has been flying by with A. I. Breeding and we also transferred embryos this past Sunday. So we had cattle in and out of the chute for a week straight. It never fails we end up with a flush or transfer on Sunday. Cattle never seem to work around us. We work around them. We hear that TCL Chops Dot was Reserve Grand Simmental breed champion at Okemah OK over the weekend. Brian said that Brock had already won with his Angus and Hereford so thought possibly the judge spread it out. Because he thinks she is looking awesome. The weather turned off warmer for a few days and we have been enjoying above freezing. We had our last calf the other day for 2011. What a relief to have another calving season over with and then consider we will start calving again the end of March, next year sound better than it really is. The fall calves are growing off good and we have some real nice show prospects again! We got the north south fence replaced between two pastures 17 and 19 this past week! Abbie did most of it by himself and I helped roll up wire one morning. I have been working on websites getting them cleaned up and adding several new elements to them. Just about when you think you have them all handled the web company changed something and will effect your fonts on every site. I don't know who their tech's are but they need to ask before they change everything or drop an element you have been using.

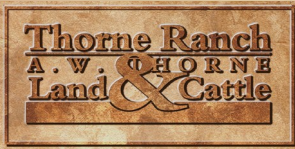
We heard from our Florida family this morning and their two steer calves, a Special Delivery and Dirty Hairy are gaining over 3.75 - 4.5 pounds per day. Then we heard from our Texas family and the Special Delivery heifer they borrowed has been winning some shows for them. So that reinforces our belief that he is going to produce some of our top cattle again. Our fall babies reflect a strong group of them along with our GVC Suh and Bart babies taking center stage right now. It's going to be a quiet Christmas around here. All the kids are going somewhere else this season. So it's probably going to be Abbie, me, Hally, the cats, the horses, the cows, the calves and a partridge and a peach tree. Ha Come back soon friends for more exciting times.

We are on the downhill slide for 2011 and we are so thankful for the many blessing bestowed upon us this past year. We have had the privilege to be caretaker of God's creatures for another year. When you look back we are very happy that our family and friends have also had a good year filled with many blessings, too many to count if you take the time. Everyday is a gift and we should appreciate it and everyone that fills those days.

The weather has been holding and it even got up into the 60's a few days! It sure made working cattle a lot easier. I put a window on my Kawasaki mule and we covered the seat so I am ready for winter. Sure does help when you are out there in the wind. We have one group left to breed and then the bulls are going out to clean up! We have five pretty nice bulls to use again this year.. Yes they are black and calving ease producers. So far the A. I. went pretty well. Not a lot of them coming back in at this point. The transfer went well last week and we are hoping for a lot more Embryo babies next year in September.

We got a couple new stretches of fence done in between pastures. Thank heavens we have finally gotten the exterior fences repaired between neighbors. Good fences make for good relations between neighbors is true. Especially when some of your neighbors aren't very good about taking bulls out, not having a vaccination program, and not taking care of their pastures. They have more cow turds than blades of grass is not a good sign. We have had some good rains and the pasture are staying fescue green and ponds are all full up and staring to go around in places. We supplement with protein tubs again this year and that seems to be helping us keep from using too much hay so far.





Welcome to the Thorne Ranch Diary and, "The Adventures of Dear Abbie's Wife."

December 2011 – continued



We made it over to Stillwater OK for the AGR Winter Bonanza show to see three of our heifers and cattle kids show. We had to leave before it was over due to my Ya Ya Sisters Christmas party and Dirty Santa gift exchange. Brock Courtney and Lindy Nowakowski did well without us in fact probably better since I wasn't there squirming in my seat. Ha I guess I still have that competitive spirit. There isn't much that can compare with walking in a show ring with your bred and owned cattle. That you have seen the dream, the breeding, the conception, the birth, the care, the weaning, the training, and the final results are complete satisfaction. It's even better when everyone else thinks so too! You can see the results at the [News Page](#).

Doug, Joyce, Carson and Brett came for a couple of days before Christmas, always nice to have family drop by. The weather is holding so far and we even got some sunshine after a cloudy weekend on Wednesday.

You all have a happy and blessed Christmas as we "Celebrate our Lord Jesus Birthday" Have fun with family and friends, enjoy your time with them. We will be home with our flock, being the good shepherd. God Bless and see you next year.