



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."



February 2012



Brock and Dot Reserve Grand Overall

February started off with wind and then 70 degree days, sunshine and no wind for a couple of days. It was perfect weather for picture taking! We got all the fall calves videoed and pictured as best as we could. We are preparing them for a video online auction, our first one so we are not real sure what we are in for but guess if you never try it your will never know if it works or not. I do know, how much work a real production sale is and am not ready to par-take of that event for a long time. I have always said our next sale will be a complete dispersion. Ha Surprisingly the cattle worked pretty well for us. Abbie and I didn't kill each other in the video ring and only a few words of endearment were spoken. Ha The calves are really young but it always seems we get in on the action a day late and dollar short so we are calling this the "Sweethearts Online Video Auction" They will be able to bid on them from February 13 to February 20th a whole week of suspense.



TCL Chops Syd—a keeper

I picked up a couple more web sites to design and manage! I may have bit off more than I can chew again! Oh well, love designing and maintain them. [Flying B Farms](#) from MS and [Cowboy Rigs](#) from Pryor OK. I also had a call from a man in Colorado that is interested in my designs. I think he really wanted to sell semen on his bull but you know me, I tried selling him semen too! Ha Not many women out there selling semen is there? Ha My nail lady just gets a big kick out of hearing me talk about selling semen. Ha

We were surprised by friends from Bassett area, Chuck and Ann Shaw yesterday and so enjoyed their visit! The only thing wrong was it was way too short a visit. We hope they can make it back again someday soon. They got to watch us video a couple of calves and see the cattle.



TCL Chops Val—a keeper

We are getting rain today and it cooled down to normal temperatures for this time of year. I spent most of the day working on web sites and cattle pictures. It always seems that they all break loose at the same time needing updates.

I have a new free-lance writing project for [Ozark Farm and Neighbor](#) and that will take me to Carthage MO to some friends place. Looking forward to that interview. They want Larry and Peggy Aschermann's neighbor story. I think I can do that.



I guess that's it for now. Check back later for more exciting times. Sure wish we could have traveled to Nashville with Nick and Larry for the National Cattlemen's Convention, but it is what it is! We are stuck home with the cattle again being cattlemen. I sometimes think those events are for retired or only rich cattlemen to attend. They certainly have more hands to help than we do at home to be gone in the middle of the winter. Be careful and don't get hung up in ..poison Ivy friends.

TLCC Barts Haven Y1320 Sold in the online auction to repeats customers and friends the Paul Family. Thank you!



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



February 2012—Continued



TLC Silver Link Grand Champion Bull
2012 Ft Worth Stock Show.



TLC Silver Link Grand Champion Bull
2012 National Western Stock Show.



TLC Steers with Haylee and Makayla Baker of Florida. Wishing them good luck at their final show. This was taken last fall. So they are a whole lot bigger now!

This weather this month has been pretty much unbelievable and so much appreciated after the very stressful winter we had last year. Being short on hay it has very much been a blessing. The cattle have been able to graze pretty much all winter, even though their isn't much out there that is green. The mineral tubs we purchase from Missouri Livestock Supplement has made the difference in how much hay we needed to put out also! With it costing an average of 20-40 cents a day it has saved many buckets of feed we usually put out to the young cattle. It runs from 12 to 16 percent protein depending on which tub we put out! It helped our conception rate on the rebreeding of the fall cows too. It's time to bring the bulls back from their herds and I am sure they are not ready to give up their girl friends yet. Bart loves his girl friends and works harder than most bulls by trying to keep them all herded in his space! He still waits for a back rub each time we are in their pasture. We sold some of our replacement heifers to a bull customer this past month and will deliver them in March. Our total numbers are down some compared to a few years ago. We have been culling some older cows that really aren't part of our program anymore. They made good recipients though and it's hard to let them go to slaughter but it's the facts of life unfortunately for all cattle breeders. They had an easy life here for a long time and we treat them all like the queens they are for as long as we can. Ha

I have been dragging pastures early this year due to the nice days and rain we have been getting! It sure makes the pastures look better and stimulates the ground some by adding manure stimulant back into the soil. The north side is pretty much done and I even got Abbie enthused about dragging or harrowing what ever you call it so the south side is getting it now. I have come a long way since I first drug the hill tops with my golf cart and bed springs. Yes I know what a sight but don't ask a Sandhill girl to worry about how she looks doing a job! We just get it done! Ha

We got our feet wet offering 19 head for a video online auction. That was an experience and proves a point that you can't control who you deal with when you do an offering like that. It seems to bring out all the opportunist and cheap skates in the world! Trying to get something for nothing. We showcased them for a week! Way too long to drag it out, but we learned! The bidders waited until the last minute to bid hoping they caught the cattle for the base price. The joke was on them though as they had not read all the information available to them telling them how long that animals was being offered. Plus we had the right to reserve a certain price for them to bring. We had the last word if we would accept their bid offer. We also staged the selling time on each lot to finish 10 minutes apart. The first one went off the screen and sale at 7:00 p.m. and went along until 9:00 p.m. When all the lots went off the screen! So in other words they missed bidding! Then was upset. You meet all kinds in this world and sometimes you are better off not selling to some people! It wouldn't matter if they were made of gold they would find something to complain about. Dad always said things like, "He'd complain even if he was hung with a new rope." The saying holds true even today! We do appreciate the folks that did buy three of our heifers and we also know that they will do an awesome job with them and be treated well in their programs. We received calls from Michigan and Florida after the sale so it is not a total loss. We had over 6,000 pages loads in a few days. So a whole lot more people know we have cattle for sale than before we started the online sale! Thanks to Rod @ livestockauctions.com for your expertise and patience with us first time online sellers. We appreciate you working with us. He is trying hard to do right by his customers and build a business. If you can't appreciate someone willing to work these days you aren't very appreciative of our society. Most people these days are happy to live off welfare and milk the system for everything they can get for free. They let us all do the work and they sit back with their new best tattoo, rings in their noses and body parts and grin high on meth! Don't get me started! Ha Just go to Wal-mart and look at the crowd? If that wouldn't make you pack your bags and head to Canada outback I don't know what would! Ha

I will live another year to celebrate a birthday this month! I am happy to be still kicking high! Maybe not as high was I used to but I can still reach a rear end if I have to! Ha We aren't planning a trip to Las Vegas this year, darn! My girls and I had a great time last year exploring the sin city! It's a nice place to visit but I sure wouldn't want to live there. Too much is too much! I like it just where I am! My cattle, horses and husband doesn't talk back or make life unbearable! It's a win win situation! Come back next month for hopefully more exciting times! God Bless you friends!