



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."



January 2012

January 2012 didn't sound as good as I thought it might. Our beginning of the year started off with two of the family in the hospital. Delynn had her gallbladder removed in North Carolina. Son in law, J Fred had six by pass surgery on his heart in Amarillo in the same week. But everyone seems to be doing well now and on the road to recovery. We had a call of course to pick up the new bull about the same time. So we split up and I went southeast to Arkansas and Mississippi and Abbie went to Amarillo, Texas. I spent Wednesday and Thursday night with our friends the Hill's in Lake Village Arkansas. It was over 400 miles to their place and I sure wanted to spend time with them versus going to Memphis TN and meeting Greg there. Jane went along with me to pick up Flying B Cutter on Thursday night at Winona MS and we made it back to their place about 9:30 in the moon light! We let him off the trailer and next morning he was ready to jump back on the trailer to come home! He has a wonderful disposition and will let you catch him easily in the pen with a halter. So he will fit into our program very well. Our plans for him are in the replacement pens. We are increasing our Simmental herd extensively.

I stopped in Alma AR on the way home and had lunch with friends and customers John and Ruth Kelly at the Cracker Barrel. Always nice to catch back up with friends. They are pretty much retired but still have a few cattle that are half Angus and Braunvieh. He says he has a nice crop of calves each year that wean off good to sell, that keeps them going in their retirement. He joked his son in law weaned off calves the same age half the size that were straight angus.

We got us a new Nikon D5100 Digital camera for our Christmas present so have been experimenting with it on several groups of cattle. It also has video capabilities which makes it nice so you don't have to carry two cameras. The weather has been unbelievable for this time of year and almost too nice. I am afraid it will catch up with us about calving time in a couple of months. It always does about then and turn off nasty! Oh well out of our hands so might as well just prepare for the worst! Gosh I hate coveralls!

Will catch back up with you in a few days.. Hopefully the weather will hold for this month! Good luck to everyone heading to Denver! We hope you all come home with lots of prize money and banners. Kind of glad we aren't going out this year. We haven't had the flu or crud yet this new year and I hope we can keep it that way. Ha That place is well known for the Denver Crud. Be careful friends don't let it catch you!



Flying B Cutter 208Y Sired by Flying B Cut Above aka Fat Butt and out of a half Angus half Simmental cow.



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We are still having spectacular weather for the first of the year. Only one little cold spell on the 10th of January when we got a skiff of snow. Cooled things down for awhile and made us really appreciate the 50-60 degree days we had been having! Cattle are still grazing a little in some of the pastures. But most are all on hay and enjoying it the sunshine! No roses yet but give us time.

We made a couple of trips to livestock auctions in the past few weeks. Amazing how some are run pretty well and others run like they look. Real holes in the ground. Don't think we will be taking anything back to one that crammed their weight up cows all together in a pen full of water and mud. I was ready to load them and leave and take them somewhere else! But we didn't and will never take anything back there again. You are charged for yardage and that is supposed to include a dry pen, hay and water. The stock yards we went to the other night we saw sellers leaving bags of feed and hay? Not a good sign. So guess you get what you pay for at the larger well run auctions.

Randy showed Link at the Denver Stock Show and was Grand Champion Purebred bull again. Happy he is doing well for them. I am even happier that I didn't have to drag cattle to Denver and brave the weather. It must be a sign of old age huh? Ready for my rocking chair! Ha Complete with a cowhide on the back! Ha



Star Power bull calf we raised that we need to clip up to see what is under all that hair.

Cutter (what a name for a bull) I still can't quite call him that? It sounds like a steer name? Anyway he kept us entertained one day by getting his head stuck in the fence above the water tank twice. Good thing we found him or he could have been a dead bull. These animals all have personalities that come out at certain times. Most people don't give cattle much credit for having thinking minds. I am here to tell you they do and if they get something in their head they can be more stubborn than people. He just knew he could get through that pipe fence into the other pen with a couple of other bulls. I am sure he just wanted to play big bull, little bull! ha

We made it to Ft Worth to see Link win the Bull show and see True Grit perform well in his first show for Jose. We spent the night with the kids and Grace had her bags all packed ready to come to Oklahoma for a week and a half. We had a great time as usual with Miss Grace. Of course her finer traits are all blamed on me! Ha Grace got to participate in the clipping of the fall calves and she was such a good girl through it all. She played in the barn office with her coloring book, her Barbie dolls and her paper and pen most of the time. She came to help us once in awhile and brushed on the calves while they were in the chute getting their hair cuts and groomed. We had some help from Rod Pepprel too. He learned how to clip pretty quickly so that he could get them videoed. We sent Grace home with Aunt Joyce to Texas on Sunday the 29th. It was tears to see her go and the house was way too quiet after she left. We finished up clipping and what a sigh of relief. We made it to one of Brock's basketball games. That was fun for a change of pace besides wrestling a calf and set of clippers. I finished up freelance article for Chell and Ethan Propp, for the Ozark Farm and Neighbor magazine. That was a fun experience and looks like I will be doing several more in the future. Dot and Brock did well and were selected Reserve Grand Champion overall heifer in Weatherford OK. They are doing really well against some tough programs. We are very proud to say the least!