

# President's Message



## Randy Schmitt, President *Rugby*



Greetings from the Schmitt Ranch!

As I sit down to write, time is already chipping away at the fifth month of the year. Here, on our place, the late nights, extra checks and constant watch of calving season have started to give way to something a little more settled. You can look across the pasture now and see pairs spread out, calves up and moving and know, for the most part, you've made it through another calving season. There's something about a fresh set of calves kicking around that reminds you exactly why it's all worth it.

Every year brings its share of challenges, and no two calving seasons are ever quite the same. Weather, timing and a little luck all have their place. Still, there's a real sense of reward in getting a calfcrop on the ground and headed in the right direction. In my experience, a good start pays dividends down the road.

Part of that start is getting calves worked. What begins as a day-to-day, individual effort during calving quickly turns into something bigger. Whether you rope and drag to the iron or run them through a chute and calf table, it takes a crew to gather, brand and process cattle. It's work that still depends on people showing up for each other.

Neighbors, friends and family all have a hand in it, and there's value there that goes well beyond the job itself.

These are the days when experience gets passed down without much ceremony. Younger generations learn by doing, and the older generation keeps traditions alive by staying involved. Coming from a family of 12 kids — eight boys and four girls — I've seen plenty of change over the years. There's less manual labor than there once was, and technology has taken its place in many ways. When I was younger, we didn't rope and drag or use a chute and table. We worked in teams of two, hand-catching and holding calves to get them processed. You learned in a hurry that the better the teamwork the less work it felt like.

Of course, not every job this time of year comes with a crew. There's always a fence to build or fix, and it never seems to fall on a cool, calm day. More often, it's a hot afternoon with sweat running, ticks crawling and mosquitoes buzzing — testing your patience as much as your ability. It's just part of the season and, like most things in ranching, it simply has to get done.

As May draws to a close and we roll into June, hopefully the weather will cooperate enough to wrap up planting. Now, we look for timely moisture to keep the grass growing and crops coming along.

...Continued on page 38

*"The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom."  
Isaiah 35:1*



## PAST PRESIDENTS

- 1988-90:**  
Roger Stüber • Bowman • (701) 523-5371
- 1992-94:**  
Dean Meyer • Dickinson • (701) 225-2736
- 1998-2000:**  
Richard C. Tokach • St. Anthony  
(701) 445-7390
- 2000-02:**  
Gene Harris • Killdeer • (701) 863-6695
- 2002-04:**  
Jeff Dahl • Gackle • (701) 485-3762
- 2004-06:**  
Melvin Leland • Sidney, Mont.  
(701) 565-2347
- 2006-08:**  
Mark Huseth • McLeod • (701) 439-2385
- 2012-14:**  
Jason Zahn • Towner • (701) 720-7247
- 2014-16:**  
Steve Brooks • Bowman • (701) 523-6732
- 2016-18:**  
Warren Zenker • Gackle • (701) 320-2585
- 2018-20:**  
Dan Rorvig • McVile • (701) 797-7338
- 2020-22:**  
Jeff Schafer • New Rockford • (701) 947-2568
- 2022-24:**  
Jason Leiseth • Arnegard • (701) 770-1129

S  
T  
C  
B  
J  
N  
Z  
R  
V  
W

