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FREE

THURSDAY, FEB. 27, 2025

Check out these
!!!AUCTIONS!!!

HWY 64 AUCTIONS - ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS!

March 22nd Live & Online Auction – March 23rd Timed Online Auction
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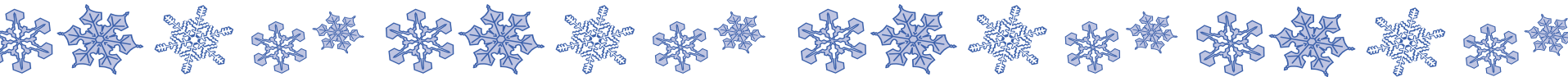
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Weekly connection

Confused calves versus the open gate

We finally got some snow last week. Winter decided to make an appearance before we rolled right into spring, and I'm sure the snowmobile enthusiasts appreciated it. I think we got three snows in five days dropping about a foot of the white stuff here in these parts.

One of those snowy mornings, I took my four-wheeler out to the back pasture to feed my feeder

calves a couple buckets of grain like I do every day. The wind was really blowing, and the snow was flying in my face and eyes. When I got to the pasture gate, I unchained it and drove right through.

Now usually the calves all come running after me and my buckets of grain and I just leave the gate open while I drive to the bunk to feed them. This time I



By **SCOTT CERNEK**
Columnist

drove right by the calves and they just kind of stood there not wanting to walk into the driving wind and snow in order to follow me to the bunk. I stopped and called them and then went a little farther waiting for them to start walking my way. Still, they just stood there and stared so I drove a little further and called them again. All of a sudden, a couple of the older leaders of the pack turned their back to the wind and started heading away from me right for the wide open gate.

Now you have to understand that these calves had never shown me this behavior before and I was in an immediate panic. I knew

if I turned around and tried to beat them to the gate it would cause them all to run right through and out into the open field. I quickly made my decision, and I gave the ATV full throttle straight ahead. My plan was to try and get to the fence downstream a little and quickly climb over the fence in order to cut off the leaders and stop them from walking out through the gate. I flew over the creek on a bridge and raced toward the fence. The drifts were so deep that I buried my machine deep in the snow, so I hopped off and raced to the fence on foot. I quickly climbed over the fence and ran up into the field. By this time, three or four of the bigger calves had walked through the gate and out into the field. I knew that I didn't have a moment to spare so I circled high up into the field on foot. "No, no, no!!" I yelled as I ran, hoping that they would just turn around and go back

into the pasture. I did not have time to chase calves all morning and I prayed desperately, "Lord, please don't let them take off into the field."

Well, all at once the younger ones in the back did not like all my yelling and they turned and ran back into the pasture, and sure enough the older leaders who had already stepped through the gate turned and ran back into pasture, following the younger ones. I ran to the gate with a shout of praise for the Lord who had helped me avert a huge headache. By the time I had dug my four-wheeler out of the drift, all the calves were standing at the bunk eating their grain with a look of complete innocence on their faces.

Of course, a million sermon illustrations popped into my head immediately as I stood there I thought how the gate is the temptation we face to leave God's pasture and enter into a life of our own pleasure and sin. The farmer with the grain is God bringing us the promises

of blessings if we follow Him. The snow and wind in the face is the resistance a Christian feels from the world around them when they choose to live for Christ. The calves turning and walking toward the gate was easier than walking into the snow and wind. God tells us to resist temptation and follow His plan for our lives and we will be blessed. He doesn't force us to follow Him. In fact, He leaves the gate open for us to choose. Sometimes we get tired of the wind and snow in our face, and we think there's an easier way. God warns us when we are going the wrong way and He calls out for us to change our course. His Word lets us know not to leave the pasture, but He gives us the free will to turn back to Him.

All I know is that I was sure glad those calves turned around at the last second and went back to the pasture. It saved me a ton of time and struggle. I think next time... I will close the gate.

Until next week, God bless.

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