LIVESTOCK     STEWARDSHIP  
  
12/8/16  
Generally, on farms/ranches identified as livestock farms/ranches, livestock is one of the largest, if not the largest, investments. These farmers/ranchers visit their livestock daily to insure all necessary items -- water, minerals, grass during summer and feed during winter season --are available in sufficient quantities. Also, their health as healthy livestock raise healthy foods for american families.  
  
I read several reports where animal rights activist organizations would have american, non-agriculture, families believe otherwise. The farms/ranches that I know are very pro-active toward stewardship of livestock -- cattle, beef and dairy, swine, sheep, goats, horses -- and lands entrusted to their care.  
  
I would like to refere you to the Progressive Cattleman web-page and their December 2016 issue for two articles: 1- A Christmas miracle in the Utah high desert, page 32;  2- Celebrating Christmas with the calves, page 20.  
  
Articles such as these and the blizzard of 2013 - a sudden snow storm in the tri-corner of South Dakota, Nebraska and Wyoming; the harvest accident near Bridgewater, Iowa in the fall of 2010; the auction of several 4-H and FFA project animals to assist members with circumstances beyond their control. Many of these same occurrences have happened in our East Tennessee communities, just recently the Gatlinburg fire.  
  
These first hand experiences, other reports and articles have more than convinced me of the stewardship of farmers/ranchers toward their livestock and lands.  
  
Its like the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons are special times to express THANKS to GOD for the enjoyment of freedom, family and a bountiful harvest.  
  
I trust you will enjoy these two articles.  
  
For articles of interest,  
1- [Why Is Agriculture Important](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/why_is_agriculture_important.docx)  
2- [Where Did We As Farmers Go Wrong](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/where_did_we_as_farmers_go_wrong.docx)  
3- [Beef Quality Assurance](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/beef_quality_assurance_0215_comments.doc)  
4- [Junior Livestock Shows, Are They Worth It ??](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/junior_livestock_shows.doc)  
5- [The Blizzard of Thirteen](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/the_blizzard_of_thirteen_our_land.doc)  
6- [Farmers](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/we_are_farmers.docx)  
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