

RAAA Board of Directors

President

Kelli Brown
Throckmorton, Texas
kelli@rabrownranch.com

1st Vice President/ District 6 Director - Great Plains

Joe Mushrush
Strong City, Kansas
redcows@mushrushredangus.com

2nd Vice President/ District 4 Director-Southwest

Tom Woodward
Omaha, Texas
tomwoodward@brosecoranch.com

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Laurence Mendoza
Valley Springs, California
dzaredangus@yahoo.com

Director Region B

Kim Ford
Bertrand, Nebraska
thefords@crossdiamondcattle.com

Director Region C

Tommy Coley
Birmingham, Iowa
tcoley1952@aol.com

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Rita McPhee
Lodi, California
info@mcpheeredangus.com

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Esther Fischer
Harlowton, Montana
fischerra@mtintouch.net

District 3 Director - Rocky Mountain

Forest Dunning
Sheridan, Wyoming
trreds@rangeweb.net

District 5 Director - Northern Plains

Gary Jacobson
Hitterdal, Minnesota
gjrangus@feltontel.net

District 7 Director - Northeast

Martin Morgan
Leicester, North Carolina
m.morgan@att.net

District 8 Director - Southeast

Raymond Prescott
Gray Court, South Carolina
bullhill2@mindspring.com

District 9 Director - Midwest

Ryan Ludvigson
Holstein, Iowa
rl_ludvigson@hotmail.com



Board Commentary

by Esther Fischer, District 2 Director - Montana

A Rancher's Resume

When you are driving down the road headed to bull sales this spring and the radio is blaring the same old comments about the bailout plan, recession and unemployment rates, I hope you take a moment to think about what you are doing.

As of today, unemployment is at 8%. 3% of that 8% will never be employed or cannot be employed, which puts us at an actual 5%, but that still leaves 92% of us employed. It's hard to believe that 5% would cause such a ruckus.

Have you as a rancher ever thought about how your resume' would read?

Occupation: Rancher

Can you imagine the unemployment clerk rolling her eyes and shaking her head and saying, "Oh dear!" But wait, the next question is what skills do you possess? Ah, we've got her now, let her read this list!

Cattle Buyer-at some point we have each bought a bull, cow or maybe some calves.

Veterinary assistant-after all, we give vaccinations, doctor the sick, bandage the cuts, assist in birthing and the list is truly endless.

AI Technician-have to get those cows bred and use some of the best genetics available.

Cowboy-got to be able to catch the critter, either by horse or ATV if it's out in the open.

At this point, the clerk is still shaking her head and wondering what to do with me. Okay, let's really dazzle her.

Environmentalist-keeper of the land at its best!

Data Operations Controller-look at all the data we collect and use, weights, Id's, EPDS.

Computer Tech-We can take all that data and get it in/out of the computer or email someone to help us.

Nanny-Now I know this is a big job name, after all we probably at some point have had to take care of that baby animal.

Procurement officer-have to buy feed, minerals, and ranch supplies.

Marketing Specialist-we have to be able to sell the animals we raise, whether it is bulls, steers, heifers or whatever.

Maintenance Manager-we can fix anything from "a to z" and everything in between

Recreation Manager-after all, we have to be able to plan what bull sale or cattle event we are attending, as it is probably our vacation for the year.

Psychologist-you have no doubt worked cattle with your spouse!

The Unemployment Clerk is certainly impressed now and has me in her files for a job, but asks, "How many people I am applying for?" Now it is my turn to shake my head and head out the door. She just doesn't get it!

I know you can sit back and think of more, but this was just a start. We as ranchers, have to have a well rounded education; some by hard knocks, others by seminars, classes or whatever to keep abreast of the changes that are headed our way. Rest assured, you still have your job-**RANCHER!** Being CEO of such an organization should land you big bucks so that you can retire, instead of just being **TIRED!!!** ■