

Just Another Day... At the Office

By Dina Jackson

You want me to WHAT??? While they are doing WHAT???

This was all I could think of after reading an e-mail I had received from Laura Lee Taylor of **L² Brangus** cattle. Let me explain. I had written to Laura asking for an interview to talk to her about her agricultural achievements and about raising cattle. Laura and her husband, Carlton, raise Brangus cattle and are active in the breed's promotion, in addition to working at their other respective careers.

I'll admit, livestock isn't my forte, therefore, I haven't been in many cow pastures. Actually, I've only been in one and it didn't have any cows in it at the time. I am rather more of the type of person that says... "Hey, look at those cows in the field, isn't that a pretty sight?" as I'm driving down the interstate or perhaps on a back road. So when I read Laura's emailed saying that it was breeding time and we should go out into the pastures to really get the effect of what her ranching job is like, my first thought was... "Wouldn't they want their privacy?"

So as I head out to meet Laura, butterflies in the stomach with the anticipation of being in close proximity with a big animal in heat, I try to concentrate on the beautiful land I'm seeing as I'm driving down Moore Road in Polk County. And then I arrive. I get out of my car and introduce myself, when all of a sudden I hear the sound of what had to be "Sasquatch!"

Laura assured me that it was just a cow and not to be scared. "They won't hurt you," she says quietly, without enough conviction for me. I asked her if she had to do this everyday and she said, "Yes." She and Carlton feed the cattle and take care of several other necessary chores, everyday...like it was just another day at the office. She began to load buckets with grain to feed the cattle. She pointed me in the direction of a topless and doorless blue jeep and said we would be using this for transportation. Okay... so there are no doors for protection. At least it wasn't a saddled horse or mule. Oh well, I've lived a good life. So we headed out into the pasture.

As we slowly drive around, Laura begins to tell me how agriculture impacts her life.

"My granddad let me feed my first calf around age 5. He handed me a bottle and said, "Here ya go." I've been around cattle ever since."

L² Brangus

REGISTERED BLACK BRANGUS

