

WHEN A CITY GIRL *goes country*

By Annette Bridges

Chasing Buckets

Are you a bucket chaser? Well, our cow, tagged number five, sure is. Bless her heart, she does not always get her fair share of cubes because she never stops following us in the Ranger where she knows the bucket of cubes should be. She will run past the cubes that are at her feet, never even seeing them.

The more I ponder our number five's bucket chasing ways, the more I can relate. Indeed, I have spent years waiting for that time in the future where I would finally have everything I thought I needed to be happy. I, too, have missed opportunities to feel satisfied and content because I was so preoccupied with attaining my pie in the sky wishes.

Perhaps chasing the bucket is akin to believing the grass is greener on the other side of the fence. That old delusion that keeps one fixated on looking everywhere but at what is right in front of you.

I am a big dreamer of a person who is always planning and making goals, so I am certainly not saying chasing dreams is a bad thing. Though, I can see nowadays how the constant pursuit of more or better can stop me from taking stock of all that I have and from appreciating what I do have.

My mamma taught me long ago how gratitude could help me to see what is there rather than what is not.

I have learned to stop chasing that dang 'ole bucket long enough to register the fact that I already have a bounty to relish, enjoy and be grateful for.

Yep, I am talking about slowing down from your busy life long enough to smell those roses you have been growing in your front yard. Recognizing the source of goodness in your life, and acknowledging the daily moments that bring you joy. Taking time to savor the beauty of life around you, and I am pretty sure we all might find we have more than we realize. Then, just maybe we even have all we really need, too.

I do not want to be in chase of a someday



The bucket-chasing, number five cow. (Photo courtesy Annette Bridges)

that may never come. I am pretty sure that it is high time for someday to be right now. I want to stop adding to my bucket list and start doing what is on that long list right now.

Our sweet bovine number five has made a bad habit of chasing the empty bucket. I think we can all get confined to our habitual routines. Routines can keep us stuck in our status quo to the point of blinding us from what would make our heart sing and keep us from living our life to its fullest potential.

As cattle ranchers, my hubby and I can

certainly speak to this. There is much to do every day taking care of our ranch and animals. It can be difficult to find the time, energy and inclination to focus on fulfilling dreams or doing anything other than our must-dos.

Beginning the senior season of my life is giving me the impetus to do more and do more now rather than let dreams sit aimlessly on my bucket list. It is time to modify, revamp stagnant routines and turn off our autopilot. Now, if only we can teach our number five cow to do the same. 