

# WHEN A CITY GIRL *goes country*

By Annette Bridges

## Ranchers Coping with Unwanted Events

As cattle ranchers, we are faced with countless occurrences that are simply out of our control. Who doesn't wish they could control the weather? We need rain but not too much at one time. We need rain but not when we need to fertilize our pastures.

As much as we try to keep our cows healthy and strong, there will be difficult births, as well as accidents and illnesses. Sadly, we also will have untimely loss of life.

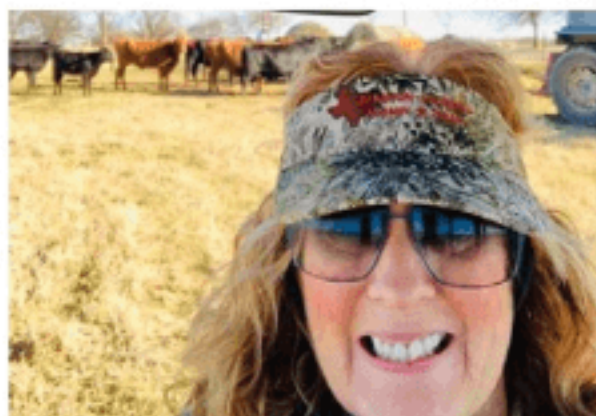
We can only do what we can do. It is what it is, and what will be will be. Do I sound like I'm about to sing "Que Sera, Sera?"

We can have the best intentions and do everything in our power, and that, my fellow ranchers, is all we can do. We must resolve to let go of the pointless ruminating and wishing for different outcomes in those gosh-darn-it situations that really are out of our control.

Of course, sometimes it is easier for me to say what I need to do than to actually put my words into practice. This may explain why I'm always looking for anything and everything to find the inspiration, encouragement or strength I need. I would never have imagined my naturally wavy hair would provide me the insight I was searching for.

For years, I wanted my hair smooth and straight. I could not make it look the way I was certain it had to. I went to the hairdresser twice a week for her to do what I could not.

It occurs to me now that my fervent desire for straight and smooth hair was an outcome of my ardent



For years, Annette visited the hair dresser twice a week. Now she knows it was due to her desire to control all the impossible things in life, but her new conclusions have changed that mindset. (Photos courtesy Annette Bridges)

and passionate desire to control all the impossible things in life I wanted so very much to control. My new forgone conclusions have quite simply changed that.

I've accepted life is messy. Mind you, this is not pessimistic or complacent. I'm still a big dreamer with a lot of determination to do everything in my power to achieve my audacious goals, but I accept there will be twists and turns. There will be failures and

small steps, as well as leaps and hurdles to overcome. As much as I want everything to go precisely as planned and imagined, I concede that may not happen.

There is immense freedom and peace that comes when we accept the messiness of life. We are actually able to move forward faster. We no longer stand in front of mountains wishing and waiting for them to move out of our way. We learn if we can't move them,

there are other ways to get around them.

I've stopped fighting my naturally wavy, curly, messy hair, and I'm learning how to quickly let go of what I can't control or change and move on with living and doing what I can do. So how does that song go?

"Que sera, sera. Whatever will be, will be. The future's not ours to see. Que sera, sera, what will be, will be." ☺