

WHEN A CITY GIRL *goes country*

By Annette Bridges

Oh, how I love my country life. Let me count the ways. I love driving a truck and trailer for my hubby to load round bales, but I adore driving my red tractor to pull a trailer and loader while he stacks the square bales.

I delight in marking rows for my hubby when he is putting out fertilizer. I rather fancy opening the gates when we are moving cows.

I definitely relish being another set of eyes to be sure no calves get left behind when mammas move to a new pasture.

I cherish that I am strong enough to fill the mineral feeder and that I can actually lift that bucket without help. During winter months, I am nuts about adding creep pellets to the feeder for our sweet calves while my hubby puts out round bales for their mammas.

I flip over cutting strings off the round bales using the new cutting tool the hubby got in his Christmas stocking. I hold dear when we give cubes to our cows; it is fun to see how excited they are. We have some “bucket chasers” as my hubby calls them, and those girls bring me many giggles.

I am wild about helping with vaccinating our calves. My job is holding the syringe and marking chalk.

I do not really like saying goodbye to steers and heifers that we sell, but I revel in doing my part in getting them safely loaded up in the stock trailer.

I am sweet on driving our Ranger while my hubby trims the tall grass under the hot wire fence while we putter along.

I enjoy taking my sweet hubby a tall glass of iced tea for him to



Annette Bridges loves going on daily rides in the Ranger to check cattle. (Photo courtesy Annette Bridges)

take a break from cutting and baling hay. He never forgets to say thank you.

I am passionate about keeping a record of when calves are born and any other documentation we want and need to track. I am especially fascinated with taking photographs of all the new babies.

Needless to say, I am absolutely crazy about going on daily rides in our Ranger to check on our beautiful bovines. What I treasure most about summertime is watching the sunset over our green pastures.

I do have a hankering for cook-

ing and eating the veggies my hubby grows in our garden. My man loves to eat good food.

I am quite fond of taking walks around our ranch driveway. I just sometimes forget how much I love it.

I am enchanted as I watch the martins fly in and out of their house. My in-laws put the martin house up in 1975, and it has been filled with martins every spring and summer since.

I am super smitten with the swing set my hubby built for me. I can swing while watching our cows graze. I am really mad

about the smell of fresh cut hay as well. It tickles my heart to hear birds singing when I wake every morning, and I am grateful to not hear the sounds of cars and sirens. The millions of stars I can see on a clear night captivate me.

Have I said how much I simply love breathing fresh country air?

I love watching our calves run around and play chase with each other, and I love rubbing the head of any cow that will let me.

I guess there is not anything I do not love about my country life. Looks like I really am a city girl gone country. 🌾