



# WHEN A CITY GIRL *goes country*

By Annette Bridges

## Twin Momma Cows

Our cattle ranching neighbors expressed their condolences when I announced the successful birth of twins. I did understand their concerns. We've had twin calves before and many times the momma cow didn't immediately allow both to nurse.

That didn't happen this go around. Our dear momma cow had no problem with both of her calves nursing together. Her biggest challenge was remembering she had two babies. When she was ready to move to a different area of the pasture, she would head out with only one of them.

Day after day we would find "Twin Momma," as we call her, with only one calf and we would drive all over the pasture until we found her second one sleeping hidden in the tall grass. We would load the sweet thing into our Ranger and reunite her with her momma and sister.

We did soon learn "Twin Momma" was much more aware than we thought. On this occasion, as usual, we could not find her second calf and indeed were about to give up.

Sitting in our Ranger in dismay and frustration, we watched "Twin Momma" call out for her missing calf and walk in the same direction where we had just searched aimlessly. Sure enough, up popped her missing twin's head in the middle of an extra tall grassy patch. The baby clearly heard her momma's call and "Twin Momma" knew precisely where her calf was taking her afternoon nap.

Before the twins' second



Annette Bridges' twin momma cow with four calves. (Photo courtesy Annette Bridges)

birthday week, they both suddenly became very sick. A trip to the vet confirmed they had pneumonia. Sadly, one did not respond to the antibiotic treatment and died.

What would happen next was quite astonishing.

"Twin Momma," with her apparent over-abundance of milk and her amicable spirit, started allowing any calf that wanted a little extra milk to get some from her.

At first, my husband was very concerned, fearing her own calf would be deprived of its much-needed nourishment, but this

didn't prove to be the case. Her calf was thriving and growing.

Our biggest surprise happened during one of our evening rides to check the cows when we found Twin Momma and four calves nursing from her at the same time.

I couldn't help but be in awe of her willingness to be so accommodating to four of them, at the same time.

Because I'm always looking for lessons to be learned in my everyday life, I've been thinking a lot about our beloved "Twin

Momma." Did she have something to teach me? Could I become more like her?

More compassionate and unconditionally accepting.

Stay calm when I feel like I'm being pulled in many different directions.

Have the ability to do whatever is needed, even in the face of loss or great difficulty.

As you can probably tell, I have great admiration of "Twin Momma," and I sincerely believe, my friends, we can learn much from our cows. ☺