

VETERINARY CALL

by Bob Larson, Kansas State University

Working Together

This is a wonderful time of year to celebrate life's many gifts and blessings.

One great blessing is sharing life's journey with our community.

For many in agriculture, working in a multi-generational farm or ranch means that our family is more than just our closest relatives. Our family is the group of people we work with day-in and day-out. We get to have a special bond by struggling together through challenges as well as sharing the joys of raising cattle with those closest to us.

In addition to working together as a family, those involved in agriculture also work with the people in their community and region. Communities of people who share the same schools, churches, and

businesses, also struggle together to respond when weather, markets or tragedy make the livestock business particularly trying. They also celebrate together when life's blessings are poured out on those with whom we interact.

Cattle producers are part of the larger agricultural community. We share life experiences with those who till the land, care for livestock, and supply inputs for the production of food and fiber even if we are separated by many miles and vastly different environments.

Although being a cattle

producer requires a certain level of independence and self-reliance, life is a journey not traveled alone. As we celebrate Christmas and the end of another year, recall the blessings of the many communities of family, friends, and strangers that you impact, and look forward to the coming year knowing that you will not be alone. **A**

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