



The Highline – 02-17-08 Volume 3: Issue: 7

Hello Everyone! It's a crisp 13-degree Sunday morning and as you can see my cat Marvin is soaking up all the heat that he can on the porch swing. Randy and I stood outside and listened to the low howls of the wolf pack that is in the country right now. With the hardening of the snow the coyotes and wolves are able to travel with ease across the top of it. I'll have to pull out the skis again soon and see if I can stay on top of it too! We're enjoying the change in the weather, teens and twenties at night and in the 40's during the day. It's still only February though so we've learned to just enjoy what we get when we get it!



The cows are in close now and we're building beds of straw for them to huddle up on under the trees. C.J. has created a plethora of trails through the trees with a dozer we've rented to get through this harder snow. Riders and the cows can also move around with ease. It is icy though so we move gingerly. The cows are very careful



with each step, as they are carrying quite the load getting closer to calving. Each morning, afternoon, and evening we're taking walks through the herd and noting which is looking further along. Each evening we bring the girls in to the night lot so we can get a good look at them. Tomorrow



morning I'm going saddle up and give them a tour of the calving shed so when the time comes they aren't nervous about going in. I'm pretty excited about it. I'll open the gates to the jugs and the pulling room so they can check them out. Hey, it works for women to tour the hospital, why not for cows too! Once they learn something they never forget, so if we have to bring one in by ourselves it'll be commonplace.



Here are some pictures Kathy took while out feeding. I believe that's Danica's car!



The elk come in like clockwork; as soon as we move the cows into the night lot, they come in and pick at the left over hay.



Here's C.J. busy at work creating feed lanes.

We rent a piece of equipment that's big enough to do the job and not tax our own.

Never fails though, there's always something that goes wrong and needs fixing.





Here's Wes thinking deeply about how to go about loading the hay wagon....

Our schooling in horsemanship continues...by Friday I caught Easy taking a snooze. It's been a full week for

us all! We've been riding 4 to 5 hours straight each afternoon with Shayne teaching at the beginning of the week, and after he left for Washington, Randy picked up where he left off with us for the rest of the week. Each one of us has experienced extreme low points in our riding, but we all are persevering and moving through those rough spots. Speaking for myself, for the first time this week I've felt that I've reached Easy's mind, and for the most part it has been through how I carry MYSELF. I've heard the others say the same thing about their experience this week. Our "moments" of speaking the same language with our horses are getting longer. I've read in Tom Dorrance's book True Unity, that every action we do with



our horse is saying something, and the horse thinks he's doing exactly what we are asking. What WE have to learn is what WE are doing at that moment that is "cueing" the horse to do that particular action. In my case I've gone the complete opposite of creating dullness to sending a whole bunch of energy down to my horse. With the tenseness of my body and carrying myself forward at the trot and lope, I was constantly sending the message to Easy to RUN FASTER! He would, and I would try to slow him down with my hands, but my body was still saying, "go ahead!" The result was a frustrated horse, and a worn out Dori. I worked on myself this week and with my improvement in being consistent with my legs, carrying myself properly in the seat, and being JUST with my hands, I felt the harmony or "true unity" with my horse. You know that excitement you feel when you are in a conversation with someone on a topic that you are passionate about, and they feel the same way? It's like that, only better! Those dreams you get when you are swimming under water, and you can breath. Something that should be impossible, but it's happening and it's natural. Like that. To put all "Ego" aside and soak up all the nuggets Shayne and Randy are giving us has just been AWESOME!

We're in the final stretch before the calving starts. Maybe I'll have a new calf picture to share with you next Highline! Have a great week everyone!

Dori