

## THINGS I ENJOYED DURING 2015

*Dr. Gary Bates, Director  
UT Beef and Forage Center*

Usually January is a time to look forward to the New Year. Lots of people make New Year's resolutions that they forget about within the first couple of weeks. I thought it would be a good idea to come up with a list of things I liked from last year. There were a lot of enjoyable things that happened last year. Here is a partial list, in no particular order.

- **Fishing with my son.** Every Saturday during the summer, my son and I would stop working at 3 to 4 o'clock, go get an Icee and worms, then go fishing. This summer we may try to move it to Central Time.
- **Going to church with my family.** I love when we get dressed in our best and go to church on Sunday mornings. Standing and singing during worship is a wonderful experience.
- **Teaching my oldest daughter to drive.** She got her drivers permit this year. Letting her drive me everywhere we go was an enjoyable experience. Feel confident the joy will get greater the more of a memory it becomes.
- **Writing this article.** The TCA gives me the freedom to put whatever I want into my monthly article. Sometimes it's on forages, sometimes not. But the opportunity to write whatever is on my mind makes this a lot of fun. Knowing that you read it is icing on the cake.
- **Going to college baseball games.** Jed and I went to a lot of college baseball games this year. Not sure if there is anything better than sitting in a stadium eating peanuts, talking baseball with my son. We came away with 4 or 5 UT baseballs in the process. One was a foul ball from his favorite player.
- **Watching my kids compete in sports.** Whether it is swimming, baseball or basketball, I had the blessing of watching my kids compete in sports. Seeing them work and succeed at something is special.
- **Making tea in the morning for my wife.** Many mornings I try to make a cup of hot tea for my wife. That way when she gets up, she has it available. There are lots of things I don't do, and many examples of my shortcomings as a husband. But every cup of tea is made with love and adoration.
- **Eating a good meal.** I enjoy sitting down and eating a meal full of flavors. I am blessed to have a wife that is an absolutely fantastic cook. Sometimes we go out to eat, but rarely does it taste better than what she cooks at home.
- **Twitter.** I am potentially the funniest, most entertaining person in the entire social universe. My sarcastic wit is sometimes so sharp I cut myself. @DrGaryBates is followed by literally dozens of people around the world. I'm sorta a big deal.
- **Seeing friends across the state.** Not many people have a better job than I do. I get to talk with friends, talking about a subject I love. Anytime I travel somewhere across the state, there will be friends, sometimes old and sometimes new, that I enjoy getting to see.