

Electric Fences and God's Protection

With the timely rains and warm weather we have had this summer, there has been no shortage of thistles in the pasture or weeds under the electric fences. When the weeds grow like this the electric fence shorts out because there are too many plants touching the wire. I usually check the fence every morning to make sure it is alive, so to speak. For a few days, the spark from my tester was growing fainter and fainter and I knew I had to act soon. Finally, I couldn't get any spark at all so I strapped my weed whacker on the back of my four-wheeler and headed out back along the cornfield to the back pasture where I have some heifers.

Earlier this summer my old weed whacker bit the dust, so I decided to spend a little more money and purchase a new one with a little better reputation for longevity and ease of operation. Man am I glad I did. I guess I never realized how nice and efficient a new weed whacker can be. The one I bought works like a charm and I can cut through just about anything that is growing very nicely. The cord feeds out the bottom perfectly and I am very pleased. In fact, I even took it out to the garden to knock off some weeds that had begun to get out of hand. Anyway, I went out to the pasture and cut all the weeds under the electric fences, and when I got back to the buildings the fence was sparking alive and well. It helps me sleep a lot better at night knowing the cows won't be getting out into the cornfields to wreak havoc.

It's so funny how my heifer to bull calf ratio has been working. Last year I think I had something like sixteen out of seventeen heifer calves from my dairy cows, and I got a little spoiled thinking that this was just how it was going to be. This year, however, it has been a complete about-face. After yesterday, I have now had twelve bull calves out of the last thirteen babies. I guess it all evens out in the end. The funny too is that I own a few beef cows and my last seven calves have all been heifers. Hummm, I am wondering if the Lord is telling me that it's time to switch over completely from dairy to beef. The beef cows are sure enjoyable to watch running in the grass with their tails up in the air. The other day a new baby was born and my new young dog, Duchess, was out exploring in the pasture. When the mother cow who had hidden her calf in the weeds saw the dog getting close, she took off after her. Man, did Dutchie run!

It reminded me of how the Lord wants to protect His children. Deuteronomy 31:6 reads, *Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.* 2 Thessalonians 3:3 also reads, *But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one.* Isn't it good to know that someone so strong, loving and powerful has our backs? Until next week, God bless.