



The Struggle is Real

I love sharing my stories as well as hearing other people's when I work with clients or teach classes to farmers and ranchers around the Northwest. They are always so much funnier after the fact or when they are about someone else's family and operation, but we all have them.

If you think that you are unique because you struggle to get dad to switch how he keeps track of your inventory or you and mom are in a hard transition spot with who handles the books or grandpa transitioned out of managing the cattle and yet still seems to be right in the middle of it, you aren't! Farming and Ranching is one of the most unique industries out there. Partly because of the nature of the business, but also because it is almost always very family involved. There are either multiple generations involved or at least a husband and wife combo. On that note, just a quick shout out to any young couples reading this, make sure you can work cows together before you get married, for if you can survive that your marriage can overcome any challenge it may face. Any couple that has been married for years and worked cows with their spouse just laughed out loud cause they know exactly what I'm talking about.

So, what's my point? That if you are transitioning your operation into using QuickBooks, transitioning the next generation into taking over the QuickBooks, or changing your QuickBooks set-up you are going to have some personal and potentially family struggles as you work through it. Please don't feel alone, I can help you work through most of them.

I had one situation where husband and wife reviewed the bills regularly that had been paid or were to be paid. The wife had already put them into QuickBooks and filed the invoice away in the cabinet. Her husband always ended up wanting to see the detail on many invoices they discussed so she eventually started scanning them all into her computer and attaching the image to the check record inside of QuickBooks so she didn't have to dig through file cabinets on a regular basis. They simply pulled up the image on the computer.

There were the two generations of ranchers that work together, but live miles apart at separate location. They started using QuickBooks Online so that both generations could access QuickBooks anytime they wanted to discuss things and the older generation wasn't cut out from being able to see the QuickBooks file just because they passed the torch.

At one class we talked about setting up excel time sheets through google docs that employees can access and maintain on their phones and not have to show up to the ranch office in time with a piece of paper when the wife was ready to run the payroll.

This is just a very small sampling of things that people have brought to me or that has been discussed in one of my classes over the years. I love talking about these real things because I learn so much and can help solve these challenges that so many of us face. So, as you are working through whatever change you may be in the process of making on your operation, take a deep breath and know that you aren't alone. I love to help people, whether it be with QuickBooks or an Ag Loan (that is my main job doing loans), I'm always available. Also check out my new Facebook page for regular education opportunities with QuickBooks and information updates. www.facebook.com/3barconsulting

Good luck as you head into fall!

Cassi Johnson

Pacific Intermountain Mortgage Company

www.pacificim.net

cassi@pacificim.net