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I retired from the University of Nebraska Panhandle Research and Extension Center in 2008 and contracted back for half time for one year to finish a couple of projects that I was working on. We stayed in Scottsbluff as I retired and since have mostly been involved in my livestock and farming enterprise. Perhaps I am carrying out my dream when I was 6 years old, “I want to be a rancher”. I also have done and do a little consulting but charge about what it is worth so I don’t make much in my consulting. I still have a cowherd and retain ownership of the calves through harvest but the drought caused me to reduce the herd considerably. As the cow herd was dispersed I increased my sheep flock in the last couple years. The sheep flock is a source of lambs for the grandkids 4-H and FFA projects plus other 4-H and FFA youth primarily in this region. I still lead a 4-H club so keep involved in the local 4-H youth which I enjoy.

Our two grandsons live in Denton, Nebraska with dad and mom, Royce and Angela Schaneman both UNL Animal Science graduates. Our oldest grandson, Payton is 6’4”, 16 year old and aspires to quarterback the Crete High School football team. He also participates in basketball, baseball, FFA, student council and stays on the honor roll. The younger grandson, Carson (14), is more into the computer world and likes to build and program robots. A recent project was to build a robot that would help seniors – like grandparents. Our oldest daughter, Cynthia, married a local boy and lives a couple miles away and has worked at the Farm Service Agency close to 25 years.

As I get older and slower I rely more on my Border Collie dog to move the livestock around which I enjoy training from pups. It is a pleasure to watch them learn and gain plus they don’t talk back much. I still enjoy riding and driving quarter horses to carriages, however at this stage I have to cut back on the training to ride and spend more time on driving – safer, for an old man. The livestock keep me busy during the winter and then my farming of alfalfa and a small cornfield occupy my summer time.

Doris and I have cut back on travel but did spend a couple weeks on a riverboat tour of Germany a couple years back.

I still volunteer in several activities including the Cattlemen’s Ball of Nebraska which has raised close to \$9 million for cancer research at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Buffett Cancer Center. I also stay involved with the local Nebraska Cattlemen’s Affiliate, the local and State Sheep and Goat Association and local 4-H activities. Retirement was a little bit of a challenge because I so much enjoyed working with wonderful associates in Animal Science plus the cattle producers in Nebraska and I miss those contacts. Living in Western Nebraska still allows me to talk cows from time to time so life is good.