

During my years in the National Association of Farm Broadcasting (NAFB) I became known as the broadcaster who would do top 5 lists or top 10 lists. Influenced of course by David Letterman but also by an FM disc jockey I worked with in Sioux City, I would put an agricultural twist on the lists. My first top 10 list that I co-wrote with several of my co-workers at KMNS/KSEZ however had nothing to do with agriculture. It came about because one summer day in 1993 there was going to be a big parade in Sioux City of which the radio stations were playing a big part. As the parade started rolling, the mayor's convertible remained mayorless. Bob Scott, who was the mayor at the time, got delayed getting to the parade. As it became time for the mayor's car to get rolling, it was still empty. But only for a brief time as Chuckles the Clown thought he would sit in the back of the car and pinch-hit for Mayor Scott and wave to the adoring crowd. This lasted for the early part of the parade until the 'real' Mayor stopped the car and canned Chuckles.

The story did not stop there. First off, the Sioux City Journal reported that Mayor Scott was quite upset at Chuckles and the parade organizers. Secretly the organizers thought it made for a better parade but they never told the Mayor that. It became a little bit of a brouhaha but then settled down. That is until the radio staff I was a part of came up with the Top 10 differences between Mayor Scott and Chuckles the Clown. Unfortunately I do not have a copy of the original list even though I've been searching for several years. I do remember my favorites though. One stated that Chuckles wanted a big red nose on the new water tower being built on the south side of town. One other difference I remember is that Mayor Scott actually has a larger shoe size.

That was the beginning of me taking top 10 lists to new heights (or lows). In going through some of my old radio folders, I saved a number of old lists. My morning co-host was Gary Ellenbolt. We would talk about the odd news items of the day. One day it was the story of North Dakota thinking of changing their name because the word north brought about a cold connotation about the state. With that in mind, we came up with the top 5 name suggestions for North Dakota.

#5: Northern South Dakota.

#4: The Minnesota Panhandle.

#3: Montana – it'll make the sky look even bigger.

#2: Fargo, the whole state's as funny as the movie anyway.

And the number one suggestion for a new name for North Dakota: Canadian Samoa.

Here was an ag related top 5 list. Top Five Rules for Living on the Farm.

#5: Never chip, chop or scrape frozen manure with your mouth open.

#4: Never let a farm dog lick you in the face.

#3: Never question anyone yelling “Run for it!”.

#2: Never assume a frozen manure pile will hold your weight.

#1: Never tie yourself to a rope halter or vice versa.

I attended and reported from World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wisconsin several times during my career so of course a top 5 list was written about that. Here are the Top 5 Things you can say at World Dairy Expo (WDX) and not get slapped.

#5: Look at the body on that one.

#4: Yeah but look at her rear end.

#3: Boy is she set firm and high.

#2: Look at that fat heifer.

And the number one thing you can say at WDX and not get slapped: ‘What a cow’.

In my years at KMNS radio in Sioux City, we were a country station. So inevitably one of the top 10 lists was our favorite country songs. Note that these titles were made up I think.

#10: Her Teeth Was Stained, But Her Heart Was Pure.

#9: Please Bypass This Heart.

#8: I Still Miss You Baby, But My Aim is Getting Better.

#7: I’m So Miserable Without You; It’s like Having You Here.

#6: If the Phone Don’t Ring, You’ll Know Its Me.

#5: I Liked You Better before I Knew You So Well.

#4: If I Can’t Be Number One In Your Life, Then Number Two on You.

#3: How Can I Miss You If You Won’t Go Away.

#2: Mamma Get a Hammer, There’s a Fly On Pappa’s Head.

And the number one Country Song Title: She Got the Ring and I Got the Finger.

The tribal wisdom of the Dakota Indians, passed on from one generation to the next, says that when you discover you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount. However, in today’s modern business world, because of heavy investment and governmental oversight, there

are other factors to consider. With that in mind, here are the top 10 useful strategies to deal with a dead horse.

#10: Threaten the dead horse with termination.

#9: Provide additional funding to increase the dead horse's performance.

#8: Arrange to visit other sites to see how they ride dead horses.

#7: Lower your standards so that the dead horse can be included.

#6: Reclassify the dead horse as living-impaired.

#5: Hire interns to ride the dead horse.

#4: Appoint a task force to study the dead horse.

#3: Declare that the dead horse has lower overhead and therefore performs better.

#2: Promote the dead horse to a supervisory position.

#1: Call the dead horse a consultant, at least the back half of the horse.

One more top 5 list I used on the air. Top 5 actual excuse notes from parents sent to teachers.

#5: Please excuse Lisa for being absent, she was sick and I had her shot.

#4: Please excuse Jennifer for missing school yesterday. We forgot to get the Sunday paper off the porch and when we found it Monday, we thought it was Sunday.

#3: Please excuse Roland from P.E. for a few days. Yesterday he fell out of a tree and misplaced his hip.

#2: Please excuse Jimmy for being. It was his father's fault.

#1: Please excuse Tommy for being absent yesterday. He had diarrhea and his boots leak.

Picture to the left is Emery in 1994 from the 62 Country KMNS radio studios in Sioux City, Iowa

