

Kinship

Knox is telling little cousin Coney, “Our branding irons are on fire!”

Words and photo © Lindsey Dell’Orto.



Coney Dell’Orto, five, and Knox Dell’Orto, nearly six, are first cousins and having a cowboy chat at the Wooster branding in Copperopolis, Calif., in January 2022. The picture always reminds me of that old Osh Kosh B’Gosh ad, “You been farming long?” and it looks like “You been ranching long?” They are the best of friends and look like they are conspiring something over a cup of hot cocoa. ■