



Our Beef is...

100 % grass-fed. No grain

All natural. No hormones or antibiotics.

Certified by A Greener world as 100% Grass-fed and Animal Welfare Approved.

Working the Herd

Earlier this month we weaned the fall calves. Weaning can be a difficult and stressful process for the cows, calves, and us. However, it is a necessary part of the business. The traditional method of weaning is to separate the calves from the cows and immediately move the cows as far away as possible from the calves.

Here at MJ Ranch, we wean the calves using a slower, two-step process. The calves are separated from the cows in the corral and fed high quality hay and mineral supplements. The cows are then allowed to be in the pasture adjacent to the corral where they can see, hear, and even lick their calves. This is known as “fenceline” or “nose-to-nose” weaning. The cows are then given access to other pastures and will choose on their own to graze elsewhere in a few days. After the cows have moved on to greener pastures, the calves are turned loose into a separate pasture.

Although, it can still get quite loud out here for the first couple of days, both the cows and the calves are healthier, happier, and less stressed. This also results in

less weight loss of the calves during the weaning process.

A big THANK YOU to the weaning crew!!



During weaning we also do our own vaccinations of the cows and calves. Vaccinations are a hot topic these days and I am routinely getting questions regarding the use of mRNA vaccines.

The quick answer is that we do not use mRNA vaccines. Despite what you may hear or have read on social media, there are no mRNA vaccines that are currently approved or licensed for use in cattle in the United States, so these vaccines are not



even available for use in cattle in the USA.

However, we do vaccinate our cattle for some diseases known to infect cattle in this region. The certification standards we use through A Greener World not only allows vaccination, but even requires them by stating “if there is disease or known risk of disease on the farm, vaccines must be used.”

The vaccines we use are what are known as “killed or inactivated vaccines.” Vaccines work by imitating an infection—the presence of a disease-causing organism in the body—to engage the animal’s natural defenses. The active ingredient in all vaccines is an antigen, the name for any substance that causes the immune system to begin producing antibodies. In killed or inactivated vaccines the organisms have been grown in culture and then killed to destroy any disease-producing capacity.

On our ranch, calves at weaning are vaccinated for blackleg and pinkeye. Cows are vaccinated twice a year for leptospirosis. These diseases can be devastating to a herd. Vaccinations are an important part of our health plan for our herd.

Beef Updates:

BULK BEEF

Whole, half, or quarter beef

- We are currently sold out of our pre-sales for 2024. We will put those still interested on a waiting list.
- The way it works is: 1) You tell us you want a quarter, half, or a whole. 2) We will follow up with you with additional details. 3) You can confirm your interest and send a deposit (\$100) to reserve your beef
- Please contact us with any questions.

RETAIL BEEF

Cuts directly from MJ Ranch

- We have a very limited quantity of retail beef, primarily ground beef, available on the farm. Contact Joyce at mj ranch66044@gmail.com or 785-865-2503 if you are interested. Please leave a message if we do not answer.



What's New on the Ranch

I mentioned last month that we were expecting our annual audit from A Greener World. We did complete the audit and passed with only two minor observations, which really did not have to do with our cattle (one observation for a new requirement to have our label approved by A Greener World, and the other one for not keeping a log for predator control). Both observations have been resolved. As always we are happy to share the results of our audit with anyone that is interested.

The fall calves have been moved to our finishing pasture where they will spend the summer fattening up on some diverse and plentiful forage in that pasture.

Next up is hay season. We will be cutting, raking and baling hay for the next six weeks or so, weather permitting, to get all the feed for the winter months.



Our beef is all 2-year old, 100% grass-fed Angus beef, that has **never** been fed grain, always been kept on pasture, never in a feedlot, no growth hormones or antibiotics, and always been given humane care....as certified by A Greener World. We have 2 certifications: Animal Welfare Approved (humane care) & Certified Grass-fed (fed only grass/hay)!



Connect with us!

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And on Facebook and Instagram [@MJRanchLLC](#)