



**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.

## *Not Just Grass-Fed...Grass-Finished*

I find myself using the term grass-fed beef a lot during my discussions with customers and potential customers. This is actually not the best term in today's age of labeling. Terms like "natural" and "grass-fed" are not regulated terms by FDA or USDA. Originally the USDA allowed you to label beef as grass-fed is long as at least 50% of the diet comes from grass and forage. The other 50% can come in the form of grain and other sources. In 2016, the USDA grass-fed beef certification program was revoked but did leave some exceptions for small ranchers (less than 49 head). These are very broad requirements with little to no enforcement.

The terms Grass-Finished or 100% Grass-Fed typically refer to cattle that have been pasture raised and have exclusively eaten grass and forage. Only a very small percentage of cattle in the US are grass-finished or 100% grass-fed. In fact, it is estimated that only 3-4% of the cattle sold in this country meet these requirements.

Again, these are unregulated terms by the government, but are defined through various independent certification organizations such as A Greener World. That is why it is important to know your producer or purchase from a producer that is certified for Grass Finished Beef. Most certifications have two major components: 1) Grass-finished beef cattle eat nothing but grass and forage from the pasture, with no supplemental grain at any stage, and 2) the cattle are allowed continuous access to pasture and are not confined.



It certainly would be a whole lot easier sometimes to put them in a lot to be fed and watered, However, even during the winter, we will haul hay out daily to the pastures in large

round bales and unroll them in the pasture for them to eat. With all the snow, ice, and cold temperatures lately it has been a struggle to get the hay out to the cattle and to keep the waterers unfrozen. In fact this is only the second winter in the last 25 years that we have had to feed hay using a tractor instead of trucks due to the weather.

Feeding them out in the pasture during the winter also provides other benefits, even if it is not easy.

1. It allows the cattle to graze more naturally, reducing stress.
2. Feeding in different locations in the pasture allows for more even distribution of manure in the pasture, effectively fertilizing the pasture for the spring growth.
3. Assists in reseeding the pasture, as the grass seeds fall off the hay, they are trampled into the soil by their hooves.

Even though it is not easier at times, we continue to raise our cattle to the highest standard for grass finishing...but it certainly does not keep us from dreaming of warmer days and spring.

*Beef Updates:*

**BULK BEEF**

Whole, half, or quarter beef

- We have been taking orders for our previous customers in January. We will open up ordering for new customers in February (depending on availability)
- 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 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*

As usual, our regular customers continue to be loyal, and we are close to being sold out all ready with our bulk beef for 2025. We will be finalizing all orders in the next week or so to understand what will be available to new (and old) customers.

We will start taking orders from new customers this month. I will be contacting new customers on the waiting list in mid-February in the order we received their requests. If you are a new customer on our waiting list, please check your email and respond as soon as possible.



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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**We're on the web at [www.mandranch.com](http://www.mandranch.com)**

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