



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.

Preparing for the Worst, Hope for the Best

I was recently looking at the Farmer’s Almanac and in particular, the long range weather forecast. The forecast for our region is above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation. In other words, a drought is predicted for this summer. As with most weather related problems, it is important to have a plan in place before the event actually happens. During a drought, you can easily get into a situation where you have areas where you have water, but no grass and in areas where you have grass, you have no water. So having both good water management practices and good forage/grass management practices are essential.



Over the years, we have tried to get creative with our watering systems. Most of our ponds are fenced off and a pipe place in the

dam to a waterer outside the pond where the herd can access it from various pastures. We have even used old tractor tires, turning them into watering tanks below the ponds. On our finishing pasture, we utilize a solar pump placed in the middle of a spring fed pond. The water is pumped into a 1500 gallon tank on top of the hill. The water is then gravity fed to 12 different hydrants. This allows us to water the calves as they are moved daily into different paddocks using a portable water tank that can be attached to one of the hydrants. These types of watering systems are also environmentally friendly and prevent pollution and runoff into our streams and creeks. Of course, we do have several watering systems that utilize the rural water system and can be used if the ponds run dry. As a last resort, we would haul water to the cattle.



As you know, we practice rotational grazing all the time. It is especially important to make sure that we do not overgraze pastures during a drought. Overgrazing will only make matters worse as you remove the soil covering and the soil temperature increases. Having diverse forage is also important. Some grasses are more drought resistant than others, so a good mix of cool season grasses and warm season grasses is necessary. A reserve hay inventory from good seasons (like last year) can be used to supplement the herd and slow them down from overgrazing pastures.



In the end, the calves may be smaller and leaner, but hopefully we would not need to resort to selling off part of the herd, as many ranchers do during these times. Of course, part of the plan is to pray and hope that the weathermen are wrong!

Beef Updates:

BULK BEEF

Whole, half, or quarter beef

- We are currently sold out of our pre-sales for 2025. We will put those still interested on a waiting list if something becomes available.
- For those on the waiting list, we will contact you when there is availability in the order you were added to the waitlist. Then, 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 mjranch66044@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

We have been busy harrowing the fields where the herds stayed during the winter. We use a chain-based harrow pulled behind a tractor. After moving the cattle from the pasture, we harrow the whole area for uniformity by spreading out all manure piles. Harrowing also lifts up dead thatch and remaining hay residue to allow air movement which helps the soil to breathe and improves water infiltration. This weekend we will start moving the herds from their winter pastures to full rotational grazing. It is fun to watch the sheer joy of the cows as they are finally put out from their winter pastures to the spring pastures after eating hay for 4 months. Since the grass is not well established, we will need to move them quickly.

We will be hauling our spring beef to the processor on April 15th. We will be emailing our spring customers shortly with the details.



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](#)