



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.

Attitude (and genetics) is Everything

I mentioned in my last newsletter that we have recently had a few wild and even aggressive calves. This is not normal for us. We have always put a high emphasis on genetics, and in particular, disposition and temperament.

In fact, our Animal Welfare inspector commented on our last audit that he doesn't see a herd as gentle as ours very often. Usually when he drives out to see the cattle, all he ever sees is the tails as they run away. With our herd, they all gather around us and I have to honk the horn and shoo them away so that we can go through the next gate.



So why is temperament so important? In addition to the obvious safety issues when handling the cattle, studies have shown that a calmer temperament correlates with better performance in several areas. For example, a study by the

University of Nebraska-Lincoln concluded that "cattle temperament impacts growth, carcass composition, and meat tenderness. Excitable cattle not only have lower body weights, they have slower daily gains, and lower hot carcass weights, yield grades, quality grades, and marbling scores compared to their docile counterparts." In addition to the improvement of the meat quality, the study also showed improvement in both pregnancy rates and calving rates among cows having calmer temperament.



So how do we accomplish maintaining cattle with calmer temperaments? 1) We only buy bulls with a five-star disposition rating. This is my top characteristic that I look for when purchasing a new bull. 2) We only keep heifers from our most gentle cows that allow us to work their calves.

This year our herds seem to be as

calm as we have ever seen. The cow herd moves easily from pasture to pasture by simply following us when called. Our fall market herd is currently in their "finishing pasture" where we practice intensive grazing. They cannot wait to be moved into the next paddock.

No matter how good the genetics, you will always get a few that don't conform, but we hope these continue to be few and far between.

On a final note, we recently sold our beloved bull, Dillion. Dillon has been the best bull we have ever had in terms of disposition, and was responsible for transforming our herd over the last nine years. In fact, we have retained so many of his daughters, we really have run out of cows to breed him too. His replacement was purchased last spring with another bull that is essentially his clone. We did find a great home for Dillon at grassfed beef operation in Illinois, but he will be missed around here.



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

Our spring “cow day” went very smoothly. A big “thank you” to the crew.! It was great to have four generations participating this year. As I have mentioned before, 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 “fence-line” 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.

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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