



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.

Load 'em Up and Ship 'em Out

We are in the midst of hauling our fall calves to the processors. This can be one of the more stressful and even dangerous things we do on the ranch. First there is sorting out the load of usually 8 calves for the next haul. We try to accommodate as many requests as possible to customize the order for our customers. Some customers want larger, smaller, leaner, fatter, etc. This requires us to round up the herd into a pen and separate out the "lucky few" to go to the processor that week. I am not always 100% on my predictions on how they will hang out, but can usually get pretty close.

Next, we have to load them into a truck early in the morning, sometimes when it is still dark outside. If you have not experienced the thrill of loading black cattle into a trailer when it is pitch black outside, you have not lived. Our trailer has two sections, so we load half into the front section, go into the trailer and close the gate, then load the other half into the back section. This is the part where many bumps and bruises occur by getting kicked and head butted.

However, this is necessary to distribute the load evenly during hauling. We learned that the hard way many years ago when we were hauling a load of yearlings a short distance to another pasture. As we were going up and then down a hill, the trailer became detached from the truck as they all moved from front to back at the same time. The trailer with the cattle still inside, then tried to pass the truck going down the hill. Needless to say, it was a mess but miraculously all cattle came away unscathed, but it we sure learned our lesson.



Next there is the driving to the processors. We have to go slow so as not to overly upset or even injure the cattle...not to mention to avoid getting into an accident as our stopping distance is longer with a full load. Many people, often driving to

work, can get a little upset and even aggressive if they get behind us. Last week we were passed on a two-lane road as we were going the speed limit in a driving rain and were abruptly cutoff by an "impatient" driver. Luckily I saw it coming in my mirror and slowed down to avoid catastrophe. Public Service Announcement...please be patient with the farmers on country roads whether they are hauling cattle or driving large equipment slowly. We will try to pull over and let you by when it can be done safely.

Finally, when we get to the processors, we must get them unloaded safely. Some of the cattle can't wait to get off the trailer and come out "hot." Some cattle do not want to get off the trailer. Both can be equally dangerous. In the end, it is worth all the aggravation, since we will now get paid!

A recent customer asked if it was hard to take animals to the processor that you have raised for two years. My answer was that it depends on the animal. There are certainly some calves that are more tame and gentle which you get to know relatively well, and there are some that you can't wait to get on that truck!

Beef Updates:

BULK BEEF

Whole, half, or quarter beef

- We are currently sold out of our fall beef for 2025.
- If you were on the waiting list and were not contacted, we will keep you on the waiting list for 2026. We will not take orders for 2026 until January.
- Please contact us with any questions.

RETAIL BEEF

Cuts directly from MJ Ranch

- We will be restocking our freezers at the ranch in October with very limited quantities. Contact Joyce at mjranch66044@gmail.com or 785-865-2503 if you are interested. Please leave a message if we do not answer.
- Joyce is introducing some tallow products. Contact her for more information.



What's New on the Ranch

Calving season is in full swing. In September, we had 34 calves and only lost one. The hot dry weather recently has been tough on the cows. We are hoping for some cooler, wetter weather soon.



While I am doing Public Service Announcements... please don't release balloons during parties. The balloons land in someone's fields (like ours) and the curious cows will investigate and even eat them. They can get stuck in their stomachs and cause many problems and even death. We have had couple of issues recently on our ranch where we suspect this was the cause.



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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