



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.

Breaking up is hard to Moo...

Two weeks ago we weaned and vaccinated our calves. As you know we are certified for Animal Welfare and one of the animal welfare practices that plays a major role in calf health and long-term performance is fence line weaning. Traditional weaning often involves separating calves completely from their mothers overnight, creating a stressful situation for both cows and calves. The result can be days of bawling, pacing fences, reduced feed intake, weight loss, and weakened immune systems. Stress during weaning can also increase the risk of sickness and respiratory issues in young calves.



Fence line weaning offers a calmer, more natural alternative. With this method, calves are separated from their mothers by a secure fence or corral that still allows nose-to-nose contact for several days. Calves can see, smell, and interact with their mothers while gradually becoming independent. Research and real-

world ranch experience have shown that fence line weaning can significantly reduce stress behaviors compared to abrupt separation.

The benefits are:

- Less pacing and bawling
- Better weight retention after weaning
- Improved immune function
- Reduced risk of illness
- Calves transition to grazing and feeding more smoothly



As you can see in these pictures just taken a few days after weaning, neither the cows (above) or calves (below) appear to be stressed at all!



For a grass-fed beef operation, this transition is especially important. Since our cattle are raised entirely on forage, we want calves to adapt naturally to life as independent grazers without the setbacks that heavy stress can cause.

Fence line weaning also fits well with our overall philosophy of stewardship and animal welfare. Calm cattle are easier to handle, healthier, and generally perform better throughout their lives. We believe animals raised in a low-stress environment simply do better — and we think that quality ultimately shows up on the plate.

Like many things in ranching, working with nature instead of against it often produces the best results. While there may still be a little conversation across the fence for a few days, the transition is much smoother than the traditional “all at once” approach.

This year it was a family affair as we had four generations working the cattle. A big thank you to the weaning crew!!



Beef Updates:

BULK BEEF

Whole, half, or quarter beef

- We are sold out of our pre-sales for 2026. We are putting all customers (previous and new) on a wait list and will be contacting them when something becomes available.
- If you want to be on the wait list, let us know, and please contact us with any questions

RETAIL BEEF

Cuts directly from MJ Ranch

- We are also completely sold out of our retail beef here at the ranch due to the high demand. Since our inventory is down this year, we have decided to temporarily suspend our retail beef sales this spring. We will revisit this decision in the fall.
- Joyce is introducing some tallow products. Contact her for more information.



What's New on the Ranch

May was a big month working the cattle. In addition to weaning the calves, we moved all the fall market cattle to our “finishing pasture” next week. With all the rain we have had lately, the pastures are all lush and green. I can all ready see the significant gains on the calves we are finishing for the fall. They are looking great! We also had cull our some of our older cows. Our herd was getting older, and we had some very high performing cows that were getting up there in age (we had several that were 14 and 15 years old...which is quite old for cows). So, we had to cut back the cow herd a bit. Although it is hard to say good-bye to some of my favorites, it is was necessary to keep our cow herd young and healthy.

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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