



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.

Why Wait for Spring? Fall Calving Has Its Perks!

Calving season has arrived at MJ Ranch! Most ranchers in this area, calve in the spring, so I am always getting questions on why we calve in the fall. I have probably shared this story before, so apologies if this is redundant, but one Many years ago I asked my dad why grandpa, and subsequently us, have always calved in the fall. I was expecting the answer would be that some sort of combination of data and decades of experience showed that fall calving was better. The real answer was that grandpa could not afford a whole bull and so he split a bull with the neighbor. The neighbor wanted to calve in the spring and grandpa was fine with calving in the fall.



However, the more research I did, the more it makes sense to have fall calves for a 100% grass-fed beef operation. Of course, much of this depends on the weather and

every year is different, but a few advantages include the following.

1) Better Weather for Calving

One of the biggest advantages of fall calving is avoiding the worst of Kansas winter weather. September and October typically offer more moderate temperatures (except for this year of course with 100 degree temperatures!) and fewer problems associated with cold, wet conditions in March/April.

2) Strong Cows at Calving

Fall-calving cows have the entire summer grazing season to build body condition before calving. Entering calving season in good shape can help cows handle calving, produce milk, and get back into the breeding cycle.

For a grass-fed ranch, this means using the summer's abundant forage to prepare cows for one of the most demanding periods of the production cycle.

3) Calves Ready for Spring Grass

Perhaps the biggest advantage for a grass-fed operation comes when spring arrives.

Fall-born calves are several months old and ready for weaning when Kansas pastures flourishing. The growing calves are ready to take advantage of some of the highest-quality forage of the year.

4) Breeding During Cooler Weather

Fall calving also shifts breeding to the late fall months rather than the heat of summer. Avoiding extreme summer temperatures can benefit both cows and bulls and may help maintain reproductive performance.

And reproductive efficiency matters. An open cow consumes grass, labor, and resources without producing a calf.



Of course, fall calving isn't without challenges. Cows are lactating through the winter, when forage quality may be declining. Good grazing management, stockpiled forage, quality hay, and careful planning are essential.

The Bottom Line is that there is no single calving season that is perfect for every ranch. But for a 100% grass-fed operation in Kansas, fall calving can provide a great opportunity to match the cow, calf, and forage cycle.

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

We have moved all of our calves for sale out of the main finishing pasture and to the pasture near the barn where we can start sorting them. We will be hauling cattle to the processor every Tuesday in September. I know I probably say this every year, but the calves look great this year. I am anticipating hanging weights to be higher than average this fall.

With all the talk and issues surrounding beef this past couple of weeks, we have been getting a ton of inquiries and orders for beef. We are completely sold out this year. If you are on the waiting list, we will keep you on that list for the remainder of this year and into 2027. After rounding up the herd, we did come up a couple of head short which also limited our inventory. Should we “find” these calves or if someone backs out of their order at the last minute, we will contact those on the waiting list.



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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