MJ Ranch, LLC November 1, 2026 - Volume 8 Issue 11



MJ Ranch

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.

A Good Cow Shouldn't Require a Rodeo Clown

I have written before about how important cattle disposition is in our herd. Although there are certainly exceptions, overall our herd is relatively gentle to work and handle. However, we recently had an incident with a protective momma cow while we were tagging her newly born calf. This was an older cow that we have never had an issue with in the past (this was her 8th calf). We probably got too complacent, but this momma charged us and let my dad and I have it pretty good. Although like people having a bad day, there are many factors that can set them off, but it certainly got me thinking about the importance of maintaining the cattle herd with a good disposition and docility.



I refer to disposition as how cattle respond to people, handling, unfamiliar situations, and environmental stress. Cattle with good disposition tend to be calm, manageable, and less reactive when moved or handled. Cattle with poor disposition may be flighty, aggressive, nervous, or unpredictable.

A cow's temperament is more than just a personality trait. It is an inherited characteristic that can have a significant impact on herd management, animal welfare, production efficiency, and the overall safety of everyone working around the cattle. While handling practices and environment certainly influence cattle behavior, genetics play an important role in determining temperament.

This is time of year that we are making breeding stock decisions. We are currently trying to purchase a new bull to turn out to the cow herd in late November. Disposition (or docility) is a trait for which all bulls these days are rated. We will only consider purchasing bulls that are rated very high for this trait. We also recently selected our replacement heifers from our herd in October. We monitor our calves during weaning and handling to evaluate them for disposition. We also cross reference that information with their mothers disposition to make the final decision.

Every breeding decision influences the future of the herd. When choosing bulls and replacement females, disposition should be part of the selection process—not an afterthought.

Selecting breeding stock with consistently calm dispositions can help improve the overall temperament of a herd over time. Just like we select for fertility, growth, and structural soundness, we select for cattle that are easy to work with.

Even with all the efforts to continually improve the herd's disposition, we now have a new rule...no more tagging calves without our handy calf catcher to keep us safe..



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Beef Updates:

BULK BEEF

Whole, half, or quarter beef

- We are sold out of our 2026 beef.. 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 have a supply of organ meat (liver, heart, tongue) here at the ranch for sale and the price is right. If interested, please contact Joyce at mjranch66044@gmail.com or at 785-865-2503.
- Joyce is introducing some tallow products. Contact her for more information.



Whatt's New On the Ranch

We have finished hauling all of our fall beef. The carcass data confirmed what we saw visually...that these were some of our best calves we have sold in recent years. The average hanging weights and daily gain for these calves was the highest we seen in the last 10 years. This translated to some very high quality beef. I thought the beef we saved for our family was some of the most tender and marbled beef we have ever produced. We are so grateful to all of our loyal customers and greatly appreciate all the positive feedback we have received this year!

We have many people all ready wanting to reserve beef for 2026. We do not take orders until January.As always, we will allow our existing customers to order first and then open it up to new customers in February (pending availability).



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!

Primary Business Address	Mailing Address
3105 Wild Horse Road	3380 Wild Horse Road
Lawrence, KS 66044	Lawrence, KS 66044

Phone: 785-766-6043 (Mark)
Phone: : 785-865-2503 (Mel and Joyce)
Email: markwilliams6043@gmail.com
Email: mjranch66044@gmail.com

We're on the web at www.mandjranch.com

And on Facebook and Instagram @MJRanchLLC