

**HARRIS RANCH -- A COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

**2023**

**Introduction**

At Harris Ranch, we believe that raising cattle and environmental stewardship go hand-in-hand. For us, as well as our ranching partners, the land is not just where we raise our cattle; it’s also where we raise our families. We have a personal stake in the quality of the environment and are always looking for ways to improve it. For those that raise cattle, sustainability means ensuring that the land will provide for the next generation by focusing not only on the well-being of our livestock, but also on maintaining the land and its natural resources.

Sustainability, as it relates to farming and ranching, means growing crops and livestock in ways that meet three objectives:

* Environmental stewardship and resource conservation
* Improved well-being for the farm family and the community
* Economic profit

Harris Ranch believes that promoting sustainability in all of our agricultural operations is critical to our future and that of the agriculture industry. However, our dedication to the principle of sustainability can only be achieved through our additional commitment to the principles of quality, humane livestock handling and good corporate citizenship.

**A COMMITMENT TO QUALITY**

Over the past five decades, Harris Ranch has grown to be recognized as one of the most progressive, innovative and quality-conscious beef producers in the western United States. Today, Harris Ranch is also one of the most recognized brands of beef in the country. Family owned and functionally integrated, we control cattle sourcing, feeding and processing.

**AN INTEGRATED BEEF PRODUCTION SYSTEM**

Cattle Feeding

One of the keys to producing great beef is meticulous attention to detail – especially regarding feeding practices. Here at Harris Ranch, we believe that corn-fed beef is the most flavorful, tender and juicy beef available. Our feeding division purchases Midwestern corn by the trainload to serve as the basis for our scientifically formulated rations. Our livestock nutritionist is dedicated to helping cattle achieve optimum performance and produce beef of unsurpassed quality.

Although our cattle spend 70 - 80% of their lifetime grazing on grass on western ranches, we finish them in our feeding division for a brief period -- typically about 120 days -- on a nutritionally balanced, grain based diet.

Before coming to Harris Feeding Company, our ranching partners make every effort to prevent disease to minimize the need for antibiotic use. Vaccination protocols to prevent common diseases, supplementation with minerals to support a strong immune system and low stress cattle handling form the basis for achieving this goal.

When young children enter school, they receive vaccinations against human diseases to stem the spread of illness. Cattle face a similar challenge when they move from their original location on a ranch to Harris Feeding Company.

At Harris Feeding Company, antibiotics are used in a therapeutic manner under veterinarian oversight to treat cattle that require medical attention. We believe it is inhumane to not treat an animal that becomes ill. Just like caregivers with children who become sick and need medicine, we administer antibiotics to sick cattle to help them achieve and maintain the highest levels of health. If antibiotics are administered, withdrawal periods – or the time it takes for a drug to naturally be eliminated from the animal’s system -- are strictly followed to make sure no measurable amount of antibiotics are present in the animal at the time of harvest.

In the U.S., an animal treated with antibiotics cannot enter the food system unless the antibiotics have completely worked through its system. In fact, it is illegal for meat products containing antibiotic residues to make their way to market. Therefore all our beef is free of antibiotics.

Cattle Processing

By owning our own cattle processing facility, we complete the loop in our functionally integrated production system. Harris Ranch Beef Company, the processing arm of the company, has USDA inspectors on site each day and employs a large staff of Quality Assurance and Food Safety personnel.

* Harris Ranch is committed to maintaining the quality of the environment, including the groundwater used at our processing facility. Just like many rural residences and agribusinesses, Harris Ranch Beef Company relies on the underground aquifer to supply us with a clean and reliable supply of water which, in turn, allows us the opportunity to supply beef products to our consumers that are of unsurpassed safety and quality. Over the past few years we have invested heavily in conservation efforts and facility upgrades that in combination have enabled us to reduce our water usage by nearly fifty percent.
* Although we have little control over the quality of the underground water that travels miles before reaching our facility, we are committed to ensuring that our beef processing operation has no negative effect on groundwater quality as wastewater leaves our facility. To help ensure that the water that is ultimately discharged from our processing facility meets all required standards we are taking the following steps:

1. Constructing additional groundwater monitoring wells
2. Pre-treatment of wastewater using dissolved air flotation (DAF) to remove suspended solids
3. Primary, secondary and tertiary water treatment systems
4. Construction of a new, covered anaerobic wastewater lagoon that will produce biogas which will be collected and used as an alternative fuel and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
5. Development of a new, science-based agronomic nutrient management plan to help ensure the nutrients contained in the wastewater applied to our farm fields can be more fully utilized by the crops we plant

* These new technologies, along with improvements to our farming operation, will help us to upgrade our water infrastructure, reduce costs and maintain the environment for generations to come. Research conducted by third party experts confirm that the nitrogen management plan we endorsed will enable Harris Ranch over time to meet all required wastewater standards. We are confident that our newly installed upgradient and downgradient monitoring wells will confirm that our water quality is continually improving as we implement the waste water treatment facility improvements.
* Everything we harvest at Harris Ranch Beef Company comes from our Harris Ranch Feeding company which is just 45 miles down the road. This allows us to decrease the carbon footprint that would typically be produced.
* Harris Ranch Beef Company has ongoing programs to recycle cardboard and other packaging materials and has reduced the use of plastic packing during the past five years. These efforts have both economic and environmental advantages.
* Harris Ranch has 28 trucks in our fleet that liquefied natural gas (LNG) making them near-zero emission vehicles. Also, we have incorporated electric vehicles at our processing plant to help shuttle trailers around our facility and further reduce our carbon footprint.

**SUMMARY**

Harris Ranch is proud of our long-standing history of being a producer of premium quality beef products. We are dedicated to continuing this tradition as we move into the future. We eagerly embrace new technologies and production practices that will allow us to remain an industry leader in terms of quality, safety and new product innovation. The Coelho family, our ranching partners and our entire team of associates take pride in being part of a genuine western tradition and for placing quality, consistency and great taste in every package of our beef.