



January 2026 | [Contact us!](#) | +1 (970) 283-9420



Ranch News Recap:

- 15% OFF All Steaks!
- The Importance of the High-Country Snowpack
- Maintenance Prep for the Upcoming Season
- Wings Over The High Lonesome Ranch: 2025 Audubon Bird Survey Results!
- Our Audubon Certified Bird Friendly Seal: Why Our Beef Is "Beyond Organic"

There is a certain magic in a home-cooked meal, especially when the wind is howling outside and the fire is crackling in the hearth. This Valentine's Day, skip the frantic reservations and the noisy dining rooms. Instead, imagine an evening designed entirely by you: the soft glow of candlelight reflecting off wine glasses, a curated playlist humming in the background, and the irresistible aroma of a world-class steak searing in the kitchen.

Our 100% grass-finished steaks are the centerpiece of a meal that says more than words ever could. Because our cattle are raised on over 300 square miles of untouched mountain beauty, the flavor is deep, nuanced, and honest—the true taste of the American West. Whether you prefer the elegant tenderness of a Filet Mignon or the rich, marbled complexity of a Ribeye, you're serving a meal that is as healthy for the land as it is delicious for your Valentine.

To help you create this perfect evening, **we are offering 15% off all steaks through our Valentine's Day promotion!** Whether you are just down the road or across the country, we'll get our sustainable, high-quality beef to your kitchen:

- Local Delivery: Every Tuesday, we deliver straight to your door in Mesa and Garfield counties.
- Nationwide Shipping: Not in the neighborhood? No problem! We ship our beef nationwide so you can enjoy a taste of the ranch anywhere in the U.S..



Redeem Your Offer: Use code LOVE26 at checkout to claim 15% off ALL steaks!



While the clear blue skies of January have been beautiful, they tell a sobering story for the year ahead. As of this week, Colorado's statewide snowpack is sitting at roughly 58% of the seasonal average—the lowest on record for this time of year. For a ranch like ours, which covers over 300 square miles of mountain terrain, the winter snow is far more than a backdrop; it is our lifeblood. It acts as a "frozen reservoir," providing the slow, steady melt that hydrates our high-mountain pastures and keeps our creeks running through the heat of July. Without a significant accumulation, the "salad bar" of nutrient-rich grasses our cattle rely on becomes much more limited, and the risk of early-season wildfires increases across the Rockies.

Resilience is at the heart of regenerative ranching, and we are already adapting our management plans to protect the soil and our herds during this "snow drought." We remain hopeful for miracle storms in February and March to help bridge the gap, but the current conditions serve as a stark reminder of our deep interdependence with the land.

Your support of our 100% grass-finished beef allows us to continue these sustainable practices even in challenging years, ensuring that we can steward this landscape for generations to come!



While the Rockies are still tucked under a thin blanket of snow, our Landscape & Maintenance crew are hitting high gear. Preparing for the upcoming season on a ranch this size is a massive logistical puzzle, and our team is currently hard at work ensuring every gear and acre is ready for the thaw.

The Seasonal Checklist:

- Fleet Readiness: Our vehicles are undergoing full-service maintenance. From tractors to ATVs, everything is being tuned up to handle the rugged Colorado terrain once the mud season breaks.
- Water Management: We are currently focusing on our ponds—clearing debris and ensuring our water systems are optimized for the livestock and local wildlife as spring run-off approaches.
- Road Restoration: Winter is tough on mountain roads. The crew is out grading surfaces and repairing drainage to ensure safe, reliable access across the ranch.
- Equipment Overhauls: Every piece of equipment used for sustainable land management is being inspected, sharpened, and greased to ensure we hit the ground running.

Did You Know? Sustainable ranching isn't just about the cattle; it's about the infrastructure that supports them. Maintaining our roads and water sources is vital for minimizing our environmental footprint and protecting the natural beauty of The High Lonesome Ranch.



We are thrilled to share the results of our recent 2025 Audubon bird monitoring survey, conducted in partnership with the [Bird Conservancy of the Rockies](#). This annual survey is a vital part of our commitment to [sustainable stewardship](#), helping us track how our land management practices support local biodiversity.

This year, surveyors detected a [remarkable variety of birds](#) on or near the ranch, proving that our [100% grass-finished mission](#) is about more than just [beef](#)—it's about building a thriving home for wildlife.

2025 Survey Highlights:

- **The Big Numbers:** Across the broader regional program, over 280,000 birds from nearly 400 species were detected, showcasing the massive scale of conservation in the Rockies.
- **Western Icons:** We had strong detections of the Western Meadowlark (17 detections) and the Violet-green Swallow (14 detections), both of which are quintessential sights on a healthy Colorado range.
- **Raptors on the Hunt:** Sightings of the American Kestrel, Turkey Vulture, and Swainson's Hawk confirm that our open pastures are providing the rich hunting grounds these powerful birds of prey require.
- **Songbird Success:** From the vibrant Western Tanager and Lazuli Bunting to the elusive MacGillivray's Warbler, our diverse elevations and habitats are supporting a colorful array of nesting songbirds.

Why It Matters:

Many of these species, like the Brewer's Sparrow and Lark Sparrow, are [grassland-dependent birds](#) that rely on the specific types of habitat [we maintain through regenerative ranching](#). Seeing them thrive here is the ultimate "stamp of approval" for our stewardship efforts!





We often get asked, "Is your beef organic?"

The short answer is that while we aren't "Certified Organic," we hold ourselves to a standard that we believe is even more comprehensive and meaningful for the land: the Audubon Conservation Ranching certification. For us, the "Organic" label—while a great baseline—carries high administrative costs that don't always translate directly to better land stewardship. Instead, we've chosen to invest our resources into being "beyond organic."

Now in our 3rd year of certification, we follow strict, bird-friendly protocols that ensure the 300 square miles we manage remain a thriving, biodiverse sanctuary. Our certification goes a step further than standard labels by focusing on the health of the entire ecosystem, and by requiring us to follow 4 strict protocols to maintain our rigorous certification:

- Environmental Sustainability: We are prohibited from the use of chemical insecticide, herbicide, or fungicide. Poisons must not be used to control pests or predators.
- Animal Health And Welfare: We must adhere to livestock production methods that reflect best practices for animal health and welfare. Mistreatment of animals is not tolerated in this program.
- Forage And Feeding: Livestock must be able to freely graze open grasslands. We are prohibited from the use of antibiotics, steroids, hormones, and animal byproducts. No feedlots are allowed.
- Habitat Management: We are required to graze our cattle in a way that creates a "mosaic" of grass heights, ensuring grassland birds have the right cover to nest and breed. Each rancher adopts a Habitat Management Plan that is uniquely developed to address site-specific habitat goals and bird conservation opportunities.

When you choose beef from The High Lonesome Ranch, you aren't just buying dinner—you are voting for a better food system. Because of your support, we can continue to restore degraded soils, fight climate change through regenerative grazing, and keep our local Colorado economy thriving.

Thank you for being a partner in this mission. Your purchase is a direct investment in the health of our animals, our birds, and our planet!

You're helping us prove that ranching can be a force for good. We feel incredibly lucky to do this work and provide for our community—we couldn't do it without you.

Thank you for being a champion for a better food system. We'll see you in the next update!

With gratitude,

Ace Hartsock

Ranch Services Director



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