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HIGH
LONESOME
RANCH®

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



Ranch News Recap:

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 - A Test of Grit and Endurance: Wild Horse Gravel Recap
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Ensuring Herd Health: Annual Bull Testing and Inspection

As we gear up for the upcoming [breeding season](#), our focus turns to ensuring the peak health and performance of our [herd genetics](#). This month, our 10 bulls underwent their mandatory [annual testing](#) and comprehensive veterinary inspections before being turned out with the ladies on the range.

This critical pre-breeding evaluation involves two primary components: trick (trichomoniasis) testing and Breeding Soundness Exams (BSE). Trichomoniasis is a highly contagious venereal disease that can severely impact herd fertility rates, making routine screening an absolute necessity for responsible land and livestock management.

Alongside disease testing, our veterinarian evaluates each bull's physical soundness and reproductive semen quality. Ensuring that all 10 bulls are fully fertile, structurally sound, and in top physical condition guarantees a tight, successful [calving](#) window next spring and maintains the high-quality, resilient genetics that define our [grass-finished beef](#) operation.



A Test of Grit and Endurance: Wild Horse Gravel Recap



This month, [The High Lonesome Ranch](#) was thrilled to host the annual [Wild Horse Gravel Race](#), welcoming a little over 300 riders from across the country to take on the rugged, untamed terrain of our

backyard. The definitive focal point of the race was Horse Mountain, which stands as a scenic landmark for the area at an elevation of approximately 5,974 feet—towering well above the town of De Beque's base elevation of 4,951 feet. It provided the ultimate backdrop for an unforgettable weekend of community, sportsmanship, and backcountry adventure.

The ultimate weekend test was the [Wild Horse Challenge](#), a two-day feat of pure grit. Participants took on one of Saturday's premier gravel bike courses before turning around and lacing up their running shoes for the Fruita Trail Half Marathon on Sunday. Riders chose their own adventure on Saturday from three distinct, challenging distances:

- The Hoedown (30 miles): A fast and scenic loop perfect for riders testing their gravel engine.
- The Gunslinger (46 miles): A mid-distance grind that brought plenty of rolling climbs and beautiful high-desert vistas.
- The Mustang (65 miles): Our grueling long course, which is truly not for the faint of heart.

The [Mustang Long Course](#) packed in a relentless 5,500 feet of climbing across some of the most remote territory in Western Colorado. Competitors faced steep ascents, rugged backcountry roads, and technical descents that demanded absolute skill and mental toughness. But for those willing to embrace the grind, the reward was immense: vast, panoramic high-desert views, hard-earned solitude, and the unbeatable satisfaction of conquering a true Colorado classic.

Thank you to all the [riders](#), volunteers, and support crews who made this year's event such a massive success. We are already looking forward to welcoming you all back to the starting line next year!

Next Processing Date: JUNE 15TH!- ONLY 1.5 SPOTS LEFT!



Our next processing date is officially scheduled for **JUNE 15TH**, and there are only 1.5 spots left.

Now is the time to secure your stock of premium, [grass-finished beef](#)! We are offering both [half](#) and [whole](#) shares to help you lock in incredible pricing and [food security](#) for the years to come.

A [half share](#) guarantees at least 200 lbs of beef, while a [whole share](#) guarantees at least 400 lbs - all of which is [regeneratively raised](#) right here on our [Audubon Certified bird-friendly land](#).

Your beef comes vacuum-sealed, ensuring it stays fresh and delicious for years in your freezer. By purchasing a share, you aren't just filling your freezer with [nutrient-dense](#) protein; you are directly supporting the

[conservation](#) of Colorado's wildlife corridors, native grasslands, and the health of our local ecosystem.

Supplies for the June processing are limited and fill up fast, so be sure to [reserve yours today](#) to ensure your family has the very best beef all year long!

Join Us at the Markets This Summer!

The winter dust is settling, the summer sun is on the horizon, and that means one of our favorite times of the year is finally here—[farmers market](#) season!

Starting this June, [The High Lonesome Ranch](#) team will be out in the community every single weekend, and we would absolutely love for you to swing by, say hello, and swap stories with us.

When you choose to fill your [market](#) basket with local goods, you are doing so much more than just buying incredible food; you are triggering a powerful [economic multiplier](#) right here at home.

Every dollar spent at a local farm or ranch stays in our community, circulating between neighboring businesses, supporting local families, and keeping the Western Slope's [agricultural heritage](#) thriving.

Beyond strengthening our local economy, shopping at the [market](#) has a massive positive ripple effect on both your health and our planet.

- **Unmatched Nutrition & Flavor:** Because local produce and [grass-finished](#) meats don't travel thousands of miles to get to your plate, they are harvested at peak ripeness and packed with the vital [nutrients, minerals, and healthy fats](#) your body thrives on.
- **A Win for the Environment:** Buying directly from regional producers drastically slashes "[food miles](#)," significantly reducing the [carbon footprint](#) associated with long-distance shipping, heavy



GLENWOOD SPRINGS FARMERS MARKET ON 7TH

LOCATED ON 7TH STREET
BETWEEN COLORADO AND COOPER

TUESDAYS 4 - 8PM
JUNE 23 - SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

PALISADE
FARMERS MARKET
LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN PALISADE
SUNDAYS 9AM - 1PM
JUNE 7 - OCTOBER 4, 2026



FRUITA FARMERS & MAKERS MARKET

FRUITA CIVIC CENTER PARK
325 ASPEN AVE

SATURDAYS 8:30AM - NOON
JUNE 13 - OCTOBER 31, 2026



3419 FRONT STREET
CLIFTON, COLORADO



10986 CO-65
MESA, COLORADO

packaging, and industrial refrigeration.

- **Stewardship in Action:** Your support directly funds the complex, daily conservation work we do on the ground—like [managing rotational grazing](#) to heal the soil, protecting native [wildlife habitats](#), and preserving the open landscapes we all love.

[Markets](#) are the true heartbeat of our community, and there is nothing quite like the energy of a warm summer morning spent connecting with the people who grow your food. We can't wait to see your friendly faces in the crowd, catch up on ranch happenings, and help you [stock up](#) on your favorite premium, regeneratively raised cuts. Grab your reusable bags and come join the fun—let's make this season unforgettable together!



Drought, Fire, and Adaptive Stewardship on the Western Slope

As we head into the heart of the summer season, the reality of our current [historic drought](#) is top of mind for everyone at [The High Lonesome Ranch](#) and across the Western Slope. [Drought](#) carries immense ramifications for regional agriculture, straining water resources, impacting forage growth, and fundamentally altering how we manage livestock. In our arid high-desert environment, where there is drought, [wildfire](#) unfortunately tends to follow.

We urgently ask our community, neighbors, and visitors to practice strict [water conservation](#) and exercise extreme caution with potential [fire](#) sparks. It only takes a single moment to ignite a crisis. Please be ever so mindful of campfire restrictions, ensure charcoal or gas grills are monitored and completely extinguished, and remain aware of hidden risks—such as parking vehicles over dry brush, where hot car exhaust systems can easily ignite a devastating blaze.

To actively fight back against these heightened wildfire risks, our team relies on innovative, nature-based [land management](#) strategies. Again, this year, we are utilizing a targeted [leader-follower grazing](#) method specifically designed to reduce fuel loads on the ranch:

- **The Leaders (Cattle):** Our cattle move through a pasture first, grazing down the tall, flash-fuel grasses and trampling dead organic material into the earth to build up soil moisture retention.
- **The Followers (Goats):** Directly behind the cattle, we introduce a herd of goats. Goats are natural browsers, meaning they target the dense woody brush, oak flats, and overgrown shrubbery that cattle leave behind.

By utilizing this [dual-species](#) approach, the livestock effectively clear heavy brush and break down coarse, brittle wood that would otherwise become prime kindling for wildfires. This [regenerative practice](#) not only creates strategic fuel breaks across our landscape but also cycles nutrients back into the soil, building long-term [ecosystem resilience](#) against the very droughts we face.



Congratulations to the Class of 2026: A Special Shout-Out to Jeremiah!

As we celebrate the arrival of late spring, [The High Lonesome Ranch](#) family has some very special milestone news to share. Last week, our hardworking Ranch Hand, Jeremiah, walked across the stage to graduate from Uintah High School!

Jeremiah has been an invaluable part of our crew for about a year now. Balancing schoolwork with the demanding, physical labor of ranch life is no small feat, but Jeremiah has handled it with absolute grace. He is incredibly [hard-working](#), unfailingly polite, and brings the absolute best, friendliest nature to the team every single day. Whether he is fixing a broken line or helping manage a [pasture move](#), his positive attitude is contagious. Jeremiah, we are so incredibly proud of your accomplishments and grateful for your dedication—congratulations on this well-deserved achievement!

[The High Lonesome Ranch](#) would also like to extend a warm congratulations to all of our local [De Beque High School seniors](#) graduating this season. It takes a village to raise the next generation of leaders, stewards, and innovators, and we are honored to cheer you on as you take your next steps. Go Dragons!



From evaluating our [bulls](#) for the upcoming breeding season to cheering on over 300 riders at the [Wild Horse Gravel Race](#), May has been a whirlwind of momentum here at the ranch. As we transition into the heat of the summer, the challenges of this historic drought remind us that we don't manage this landscape in a vacuum; we are all interconnected parts of this Western Slope ecosystem. True [stewardship](#) extends far beyond our property lines, and it takes an entire community to build resilience. We invite you to join us in this effort: conserve water where you can, stay vigilant with fire safety, and choose to [support the local agricultural systems](#) that defend our open spaces.

Investing in our community also means celebrating the incredible young people who represent its future. We want to send a huge congratulations to our wonderful part-time Ranch Hand, Jeremiah, who graduated this week! We also want to extend our heartfelt congratulations to all of our local De Beque seniors graduating this week.

Whether we are swapping ideas at the upcoming summer markets starting this June, celebrating our graduates, preparing for our upcoming June 15th processing date ([with only 1.5 spots left!](#)), or working the ground here at the ranch, your partnership is our greatest asset. Thank you for standing with us, sharing our vision, and keeping the heart of Western Colorado agriculture thriving.

Happy Trails,

Ace Hartsock
Ranch Services Director





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