

LASATER BEEFMASTERS

FOUNDATION HERD OF THE BEEFMASTER BREED

"The Pedigree
is in the Name"

The 6 Essentials

DISPOSITION
FERTILITY
WEIGHT
CONFORMATION
HARDINESS
MILK PRODUCTION

Fall 2009
NEWSLETTER

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We select cattle to work for us, so we know they will work for you.



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After 49 Years: A Change in Calving Season

In September of this year, we made the decision to move the foundation herd's calving season to put it in sync with the annual forage cycle. That means that we will move the breeding season back some 75 days so that the calves will drop in May and early June rather than late July and August. This will be accomplished over a five year period, moving the starting date back approximately 2 weeks each year.

This means that the cows will give birth, nurse their young calves and be exposed for rebreeding during the relatively short growing season of the shortgrass prairie. The herd will have green and growing forage during the periods of greatest nutritional requirement, and during the most critical period, the breeding season.

In 1960, A Viable Alternative or Else

After making the first purchase of Colorado land in 1948, Tom Lasater began moving the foundation herd north the following year. He put the herd on the traditional

eastern Colorado calving schedule, February and March. After ten years of experiencing the unpredictable and treacherous spring blizzards, he concluded that either he would find an alternative to late winter/spring calving, or he would move his cattle operation elsewhere.

In 1960, he held out the herd bulls until November 15, and put his entire herd on a fall (late summer) calving cycle. Later he moved the start of the breeding season back to October 25. It remained there for many years, until Dale moved it back to October 10 in the 1990's in order to have a running start on breeding before the blizzards which frequently hit in late October.

By avoiding the sometimes substantial calf losses incurred with late winter/spring calving, and by calving at a more opportune time in eastern

Colorado's forage cycle (nothing could be more ill-timed than February calving) the fall calving improved the viability of a cow-calf operation in Colorado. There were other positive factors as well in the non-traditional schedule: the calves were weaned in May and could be turned out on the best pasture of the year, enabling them to make good post-weaning gains without supplementation. The cow herd rested from mid-May to mid-July, permitting the cows to make a dramatic recovery.

Out of Sync with Nature

The downside of that schedule was that the breeding season took place at a less than ideal time, even in good forage years. While October is often a month with mild weather, the breeding season was subject to being interrupted with one or more severe storms (one of the four "killer" blizzards we have had during our 60 years on the Colorado prairie took place on October



25, 1997, occasioning substantial death loss). Further, the cows had to carry their calves through the Colorado winter, so they had a heavy nutritional demand during the dormant season when the standing forage was continually losing feed value.

Now, as we move toward a May calving date, we will be lined up with the annual cycle of forage production, the reason why the pronghorn antelope and the mule deer on our ranges have their young in May/June. We have cool season grasses that, depending on the year, may get a pretty good start in late March and April, but we can't count on a substantial growth of new forage until May. This will mean our cows will in most years have top quality green feed both before and after calving, and should have the best chance to be in good shape to re-breed ninety days later.

EPD Trait Leaders and Multiple-Trait Selection

In the latest sire summary (Fall 2009), the Lasater Ranch shows up prominently in three traits: Milk, Scrotal Circumference, and IMF. In a multiple-trait selection program like ours, we don't expect to raise many "Trait Leaders."

A Trait Leader is an active sire who has an EPD in the top fifteen for an individual trait. Profitable cattle need to excel in every economically relevant trait, not just one. The first thing you will notice when you look at the Trait Leaders for growth are the low Milk numbers. In fact, 60% of the Weaning and Yearling Trait Leaders are below average for Milk. Single-trait selection is always the wrong approach.

Interestingly, four out of our five Milk Trait Leaders have above average EPDs for Weaning and Yearling.

Cow Contracts

Cow Contracts go out November 15th. Each November we send out a contract, offering Bred Heifers and Cows from the Foundation Herd. They are guaranteed safe with calf and available for selection by the buyers during our annual sale in September. These sale females are put with our top herd sires for 45 days, starting May 15. Be sure to let us know if you would like us to send you a contract.

**35 Young Bred Females Due to Calve in March
Now Available Private Treaty. Priced to Sell!**

60 Bulls Also Available

Contact Dale or Andy for more details.

2009 Annual Sale Report

We are grateful for all of our friends and customers who made our 60th Annual Field Day and Sale, which was held on September 15th and 16th, such a success. Fifty-two buyers from seventeen states and Mexico purchased bulls and females. Forty-eight females were sold private treaty. The high selling bull was Lot 3, Lasater 4290, a five-year-old son of Lasater 9516 with an outstanding proven record for high growth and fertility. He went to Simon Creek Beefmasters, OK. The second high selling bull was Lot 19, Lasater 7245, who was one of the top gaining bulls in the sale. He is a son of Lasater 4242. He went to Southern Cattle

Company, AL.

Volume bull buyers included: Freddie Browne with 8, OK; and Schadler Ranch with 5, OR. Other volume bull buyers included: Dennis Corzine, CA; Steve Freeman, MO; John McGrew, ID; Ian & Jess Miller, NM; Fred Wallace, TX; 7R Ranch, CO; Armstrong Ranch, TX. Volume buyers of Beefmaster females included: Southern Cattle Company, AL; Violeta Ranch, TX; and Simon Creek Beefmasters, OK.

86 Bulls Averaged \$2,468

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Lasater Beefmaster 4290



Lasater 4290 is proving to be one of the best herd sires that we've raised in quite a while. As a two-year-old, he was the most prolific among his multiple-sire group, leaving 13 sons. Those 13 sons had an average weaning weight ratio of 107 and yearling weight ratio of 103. And then he did it again as a three-year-old, leaving 12 sons with an average weaning weight ratio of 109 and yearling weight ratio of 106. He sold as a Retired Herd Sire in our September sale to Simon Creek Beefmasters. **Semen Available.**

WN	Wn-Yr	YR	2 YR	3YR	SC	Sire	Dam
<u>WT</u>	<u>Gain</u>	<u>WT</u>	<u>WT</u>	<u>WT</u>			
771	138	909	1353	1605	45	9516	6230