

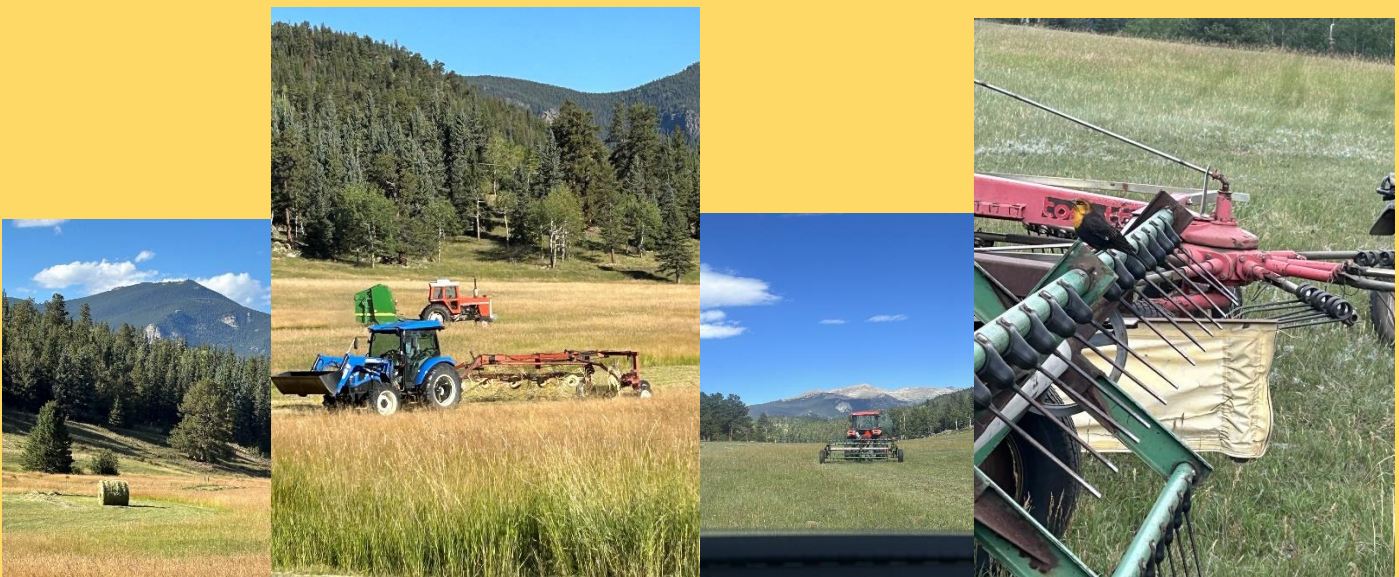
# The Bear Creek Cattle Bulletin

## Fall 2024

### What's happening at the ranch...

Fall...the leaves on the trees are a gorgeous blend of rich yellows, oranges, reds and greens. It is a busy time of year as we had to vaccinate the calves and wean them as well. The mama cows are ready to be left alone by their very big calves and they are pregnant again to calve in the Spring. The calves don't feel the same way in many cases! The calves are separated across a fence so the cows can see their calves and touch noses, and the calves can learn to eat on their own! This process can take a few days before the bawling stops, and there are a few sleepless nights!! This process is necessary to give the cow a chance to rest, and grow her new calf without having to produce a lot of milk for her last baby. The calves need to be separated as they need to start eating a more diverse diet than just milk and grass. They are growing and need to get started on their own nutritional plan. A lot of folks ask what we do with the calves. The females, or HEIFERS are evaluated for quality to come back into the herd and become cows in 2 years, while the males, or STEERS (castrated bull) are kept to be harvested into delicious and nutritious beef!

This is also hay season! Hay is our feed for the winter, and here, winter is long!!! We generally start feeding hay in November and finish in May!! That is because we have snow on the ground for that length of time! We hear the term "grass-fed", that includes hay - which is dried grass! There are not a lot of places in North America that have green grass 365 days a year! Hay season means long days in a tractor and a lot of lifting! It is fascinating to watch...as we have multiple tractors in the fields at a time and the way they work together and don't get in each others way would make an air traffic controller jealous!!



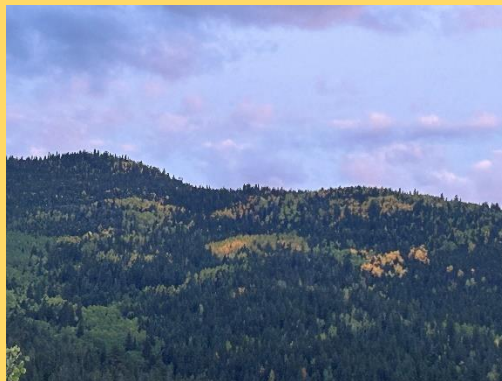
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The yearlings are fat and ready for processing, they will be going to harvest in the middle of November. Sadly we lost one in June due to a broken leg. We did all we could to make him comfortable and fed well, but it was not healing. In this case the most humane thing we could do was put him down. While it was a hard loss, we will be able to have this animal in our freezer for the next year. This did shorten our supply to our amazing customers, but everyone was understanding and we will have more beef available in the Spring.

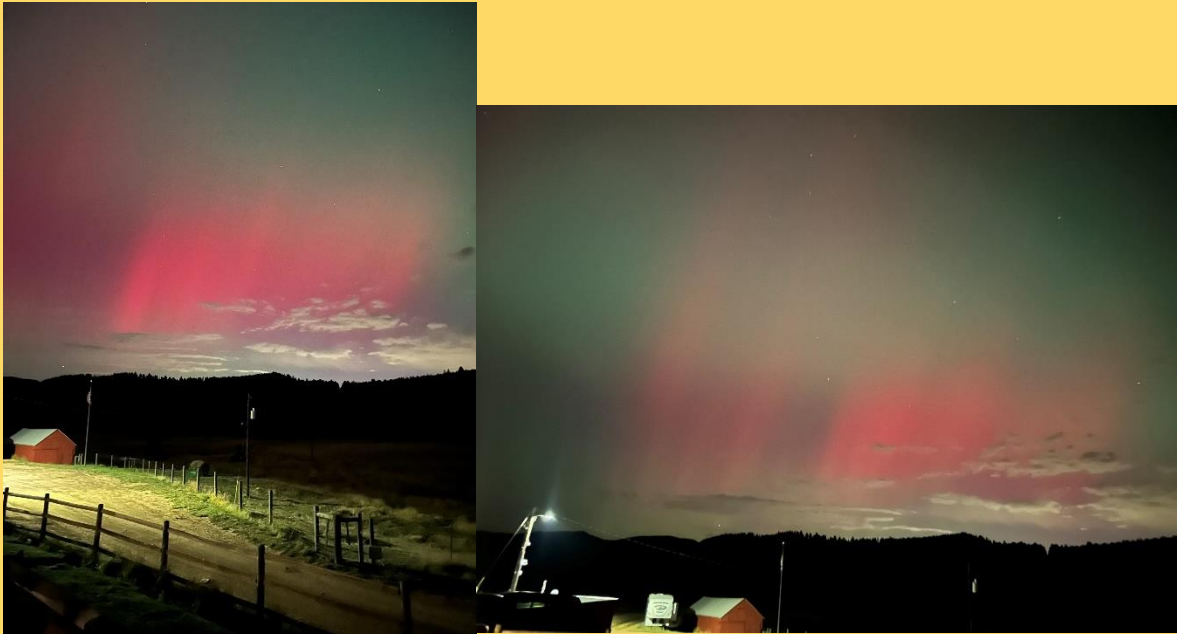
## The beauty of the mountains....



Here in the mountains we have Aspen trees! In the Fall, the leaves on these trees turn beautiful colors. This color change happens due to several factors; shorter days means reduced chlorophyll production resulting in less green color and the yellow and orange pigments in the leaves are no longer hidden by green, the cooler Fall temperatures trap the sugar produced in the leaves and then triggers anthocyanin production. These anthocyanin pigments are the producers of the amazing yellow, gold, orange and red colors! This year in particular has resulted in absolutely beautiful colors.



Other favorites at this time of year: We were blessed to see the Aurora Borealis this year.....quite a sight this far south!



**Thank you for your business and for checking out what we are up to! Happy trails...and blessings to you all!**

