[Insert ranch name here]

Ranch Plan

[insert address here]

[insert phone number here]

[insert email/website here]

Created: [*insert date ranch plan created here*]

Updated: [*insert date ranch plan updated created here*]

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# Instructions for Using This Ranch Plan

This template is designed to help you get started with creating your operation’s Ranch Plan, but is not intended to be exhaustive or restrictive in anyway – please feel free to use it as is, modify to meet your needs, add to it, or pull out pieces/sections to supplement an existing Ranch Plan. The template includes all of the areas listed as requirements in Standard 1.1.1, 1.2.1, and 1.4.1, so completing this document will ensure that you meet the Ranch Plan requirements. However, it does not necessarily ensure that you will meet other areas of the standards if the information you provide is not in compliance with our requirements.

## Tips for Completing the Template

Here are a few tips for filling this in:

* Any highlighted portions need to be replaced with your ranch-specific information and/or protocols.
* Items that are **red and bolded** are your cue that these will also need to be adjusted to reflect what your ranch does.
* If a section is not applicable to your operation, it can simply be deleted. For example, if you are a finishing operation, the Breeding and Calving section would not apply and can be deleted.

# Ranch Overview

## Ranch Summary

[Insert description of the ranch (e.g., history, where it’s located, stage of production raised, breed raised, typical climate conditions etc.)]

## Ranch Contacts

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ranch manger | Name | Phone | Email |
| [insert info] | [insert info] | [insert info] |
| Employees | Name | Phone | Position | Date of initial training | Date of most recent training |
| [insert info] | [insert info] | [insert info] | [insert date] | [insert date] |
| [insert info] | [insert info] | [insert info] | [insert date] | [insert date] |
| [insert info] | [insert info] | [insert info] | [insert date] | [insert date] |

## Locations

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sites | Address | Size*in acres/hectares* | Location used for:*e.g., breeding, summer pasture* |
| Home Ranch | [insert info here] | [insert info here] | [insert info here] |
| [insert site name] | [insert info here] | [insert info here] | [insert info here] |
| [insert site name] | [insert info here] | [insert info here] | [insert info here] |
| [insert site name] | [insert info here] | [insert info here] | [insert info here] |
| [insert site name] | [insert info here] | [insert info here] | [insert info here] |

**Attach a map of your sites, if available.**

# Animal Inventory

## Breeding Stock Inventory

**Delete this section if your ranch does not have breeding animals.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Category  | Number of cattle | Inventory as of: |
| Cows | [insert cattle numbers] | [insert date] |
| Bulls | [insert cattle numbers] | [insert date] |
| Replacement heifers  | [insert cattle numbers] | [insert date] |
| Replacement bulls | [insert cattle numbers] | [insert date] |

## Market Cattle Inventory

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Spring calves | Fall calves |  Inventory as of: |
| Target calving % | [insert target calving %] | [insert target calving %] |  |
| Number of market cattle*(actual # of cattle, if available)* | [insert calf numbers] | [insert calf numbers] | [insert date] |

# Ranch Programs, Identification, and Segregation Protocols

## Ranch Programs

Our ranch participates in [insert any programs the ranch participates in (e.g. organic certified, G.A.P., ABF, grass-fed, seedstock program, 4-H)].

## Animal Identification

Cows and replacement heifers are identified by [insert identification method (e.g. red ear tag, pen number)].

Bulls and replacement bulls are identified by [insert identification method (e.g. red ear tag, pen number)].

Market cattle are identified by [insert identification method (e.g. red ear tag, pen number)].

## Segregation Protocol

**Copy and paste the statement below if segregation protocols differ across ranch programs (see Ranch Programs statement above).**

If market cattle do not meet the [insert ranch program] program requirements, we [insert identification method (e.g. cut the red ear tag)] to ensure they are identified as non-program animals.

# Animal Health and Husbandry Calendar

Below is an overview of our ranch’s animal health plan and routine husbandry practice calendar.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Month | Preventive Health Plan*e.g., vaccinations, parasite control, or other prevention programs* | Given to:*e.g., calves, cows, bulls, replacement stock, etc.* | Husbandry Practices*e.g., breeding dates, calving dates, castration, weaning, disbudding, branding, spaying etc.* | Other Routine Practices*e.g., weighing, body condition scoring* |
| January | [insert info here] | [insert info here] | [insert info here] | [insert info here] |
| February  |  |  |  |  |
| March |  |  |  |  |
| April  |  |  |  |  |
| May |  |  |  |  |
| June |  |  |  |  |
| July |  |  |  |  |
| August  |  |  |  |  |
| September |  |  |  |  |
| October |  |  |  |  |
| November |  |  |  |  |
| December |  |  |  |  |

# Herd Locations and Observations

Throughout the year, cattle may move to different sites. While cattle spend time at each site, they are observed as follows.

**The sites listed here should match those in the Ranch Overview: Locations section.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Month | Home Ranch | [insert site name] | [insert site name] | [insert site name] | [insert site name] |
| January | [e.g. once a day, once a week, etc.] | [e.g. once a day, once a week, etc.] | [e.g. once a day, once a week, etc.] | [e.g. once a day, once a week, etc.] | [e.g. once a day, once a week, etc.] |
| February  |  |  |  |  |  |
| March |  |  |  |  |  |
| April  |  |  |  |  |  |
| May |  |  |  |  |  |
| June |  |  |  |  |  |
| July |  |  |  |  |  |
| August  |  |  |  |  |  |
| September |  |  |  |  |  |
| October |  |  |  |  |  |
| November |  |  |  |  |  |
| December |  |  |  |  |  |

# Feeding Plan Calendar

Cattle are managed with the following feeding plan.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Month | Category |
| Cows | Bulls | Replacement heifers | Replacement bulls | Calves | Backgrounders | Finishers |
| **January** | [insert type of feed: pasture, stored feed (hay, silage, haylage, baylage etc.), grain, supplements etc.] | [insert type of feed: pasture, stored feed (hay, silage, haylage, baylage etc.), grain, supplements etc.] | [insert type of feed: pasture, stored feed (hay, silage, haylage, baylage etc.), grain, supplements etc.] | [insert type of feed: pasture, stored feed (hay, silage, haylage, baylage etc.), grain, supplements etc.] | [insert type of feed: pasture, stored feed (hay, silage, haylage, baylage etc.), grain, supplements etc.] | [insert type of feed: pasture, stored feed (hay, silage, haylage, baylage etc.), grain, supplements etc.] | [insert type of feed: pasture, stored feed (hay, silage, haylage, baylage etc.), grain, supplements etc.] |
| Notes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **February**  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Notes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **March** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Notes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **April**  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Notes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **May** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Notes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **June** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Notes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Feeding Plan Calendar *continued*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Month | Category |
| Cows | Bulls | Replacement heifers | Replacement bulls | Calves | Backgrounders | Finishers |
| **July** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Notes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **August**  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Notes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **September** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Notes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **October** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Notes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **November** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Notes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **December** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Notes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

# Water, Vitamins, and Minerals

## Water Availability

**The sites listed here should match those in the Ranch Overview: Locations section.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sites | Cattle have access to water through:*e.g., troughs, hydrants, streams, ponds* |
| Home Ranch | [insert info here] |
| [insert site name] | [insert info here] |
| [insert site name] | [insert info here] |
| [insert site name] | [insert info here] |
| [insert site name] | [insert info here] |

In case our ranch needs an alternative water supply, we [insert plan (e.g., we would move all cattle to the home ranch, or we would truck in water, or we have a reserve water tank, etc.)].

## Vitamins and Minerals

**Delete any statement that is not applicable to your ranch.**

Our pastures are deficient in [insert vitamin/minerals].

Cattle are supplemented with [describe your vitamin/mineral supplement program].

# Health Challenges

## Health Risks

On our ranch, cattle are at risk of [insert diseases, parasites, and other health problems that are common challenges for your ranch].

## Veterinarian Information

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Veterinarian name | [insert info here] | Clinic name | [insert info here] |
| Phone number | [insert info here] | Clinic address | [insert info here] |

## Medication Storage

Medications and treatments are kept [describe where these substances are stored].

I check our medication inventory every [insert frequency] to make sure we have the necessary medications on hand and that expired medications are disposed of.

# Care of Sick and Injured Cattle

If a sick or injured animal is found, we use the following protocols.

**Example:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Lameness*** |  |  If ***an animal* *has a limp, a head bob, and shortened strides, but is still able to keep up with the herd*** | 🡪 | I will treat | 🡪 | Cattle will be treated with ***hoof trimming and topical spray*** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| If ***an animal* *walks with an obvious limp and is no longer able to keep up with the herd*** | 🡪 | I will segregate cattle from the herd | 🡪 | Cattle will return to the herd when ***the animal is able to walk normally, bearing weight equally on all 4 legs*** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| If ***an animal* *is unable to walk or bear weight on 1 or more legs*** | 🡪 | I will euthanize | 🡪 | Cattle are euthanized by ***shotgun with a slug*** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| If ***lameness is affecting more than 2% of the herd*** | 🡪 | I will call my veterinarian |  |  |

**Copy and paste the table below and completed it for each type of health risk on your operation.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [insert types of diseases/ illnesses/ injuries here] |  |  If [insert what conditions that will lead to a treatment] | 🡪 | I will treat | 🡪 | Cattle will be treated with [insert treatment] |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| If [insert what conditions that will lead to segregation] | 🡪 | I will segregate cattle from the herd | 🡪 | Cattle will return to the herd when [describe when segregation is no longer needed] |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| If [insert what conditions that will lead to euthanasia] | 🡪 | I will euthanize | 🡪 | Cattle are euthanized by [insert euthanasia method] |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| If [insert what conditions that will lead to calling your vet] | 🡪 | I will call my veterinarian |  |  |

# Handling

## Handling tools

Our ranch moves cattle using [insert handling tools used on your operation].

## Squeeze chute/turn table

Our ranch has [insert type of handling facilities (e.g., squeeze chute, turn table, etc.)] at [insert sites]. They are used for [insert what type of procedures your squeeze chutes/turn tables are used for].

It is our ranch’s policy to only restrain cattle in chutes for [insert how long cattle are restrained for].

The chute/turn table is serviced and maintained [insert frequency] by [insert employee name].

## Holding pens

During processing, cattle kept in holding pens are provided with [insert provisions for cattle in holding pens (e.g., feed, water, bedding, shade, etc.)].

## Working dogs/horses

**Delete this section if working dogs/horses are not applicable to your ranch.**

Our ranch uses [dogs or horses] to move cattle [insert when they are used]. They are trained and controlled by [insert who handles dogs/horses].

# Breeding and Calving

**Delete this section if it is not applicable to your ranch.**

## Breeding Program

Our ranch using [natural breeding/artificial insemination, both]. Our breeding protocol includes [insert protocol here. **For natural breeding,** include how you decide which cows/bulls to use, when bulls are exposed to cows, target calving dates, and if/when bulls are used for clean-up. **For artificial insemination,** include insemination protocols, include how you decide which cows/semen to use, target calving dates, and if/when bulls are used for clean-up.]

## Calf Processing

Our ranch raises a [spring, fall, or spring and fall] calf crop. The calving dates can be found on our health and husbandry calendar.

### Castration

Calves are castrated at an average age of [insert age] weeks, using [insert castration method (e.g., rubber rings, high tension bands, scalpel, bloodless clamp/burdizzo)].

### Disbudding

Calves are disbudded at an average age of [insert age] weeks, using [insert disbudding method (e.g., caustic paste, hot iron)].

### Weaning

Calves are weaned at an average age of [insert age] weeks, by [insert weaning method (e.g., fence line weaning, two-step weaning, truck weaning, etc.].

### Branding

Calves are branded at an average age of [insert age] weeks, by [hot iron/freeze branding] on the [insert location (e.g., hip, rib, shoulder, etc.)] with a [insert ranch brand description] brand.

## Orphaned Calves

We manage orphaned calves by [describe how you manage orphaned calves (e.g., grafting them onto another cow, raising orphaned calves in groups with self-feeders, etc.)].

# Outdoor Lots

**Delete this section if cattle are never confined to outdoor lots on your ranch.**

Cattle are put in outdoor lots [insert when cattle are put in outdoor lots (e.g., at finishing, at calving, etc.)].

## Stocking Density

When cattle are in outdoor lots, the total amount of combined indoor and outdoor space provided for each animal is [insert the amount of space provided for each animal (e.g., 250 ft2/animal)].

## Provisions for Backgrounders and/or Finishers

**Delete any part of the sentence(s) below if it does not apply to your ranch.**

Cattle in [backgrounding and/or finishing] lots are given [insert type of heat management system provided for cattle (e.g., shade, fans, sprinklers, or misting systems, windbreaks, etc.)] to help keep them cool in the summer and [insert type of cold management system provided for cattle (e.g., windbreaks)] to help keep them warm in the winter.

Cattle in [backgrounding and/or finishing] lots are also given [insert type of grooming provisions provided for cattle (e.g., scratching posts, brushes, etc.) which they can use to scratch or groom.

# Housing

**Delete this section if cattle do not have access to housing on your ranch.**

Cattle have access to housing during [insert when cattle have access to housing (e.g., at finishing, at calving, etc.)].

## Access to Outdoors

When cattle are housed, they have daily access to the outdoors at all times.

## Flooring and Bedding

Flooring inside housing is made up of [insert flooring material (e.g., dirt, concrete, slatted floors, etc.)].

Inside housing, cattle are bedded with [insert bedding material (e.g., straw, wood shavings, etc.)]. Bedding is maintained by [describe how bedding is maintained, including how frequently it is cleaned out/replenished] so that all cattle have a dry place to lie.

## Air Quality

**Delete this section if cattle do not have access to housing on your ranch.**

When cattle have access to housing, we assess air quality daily using [insert method used for air quality assessments (e.g., sensory evaluation, ammonia meter, dusk meter, etc.)].

**Delete the following if you do not use sensory evaluation to assess air quality.**

We use the following table when assessing air quality using sensory evaluation.

Scores 2-5 (Moderate, Strong, Very Strong, and Overpowering) indicate that ammonia and dust are excessive and need to be addressed immediately for both human safety and animal health.

Technique:

1. Score air quality twice during each visit - when you first enter the barn (first impression), and then just prior to leaving the barn.
2. Record your air quality score.
3. Make any necessary adjustments to ventilation, management, etc. to improve air quality in your barn(s).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Scoring Air Quality** | **Action Required?** |
| **0** | **ZERO** | odor and dust not noticeable (easy to breathe) | **No - acceptable air quality** |
| **1** | **WEAK** | odor and dust hardly noticeable |
|  |  |  |  |
| **2** | **MODERATE** | odor and dust distinct, annoying (watery eyes and/or coughing) | **Yes – needs work to improve air quality** |
| **3** | **STRONG** | odor and dust irritating (stinging eyes and mouth, and/or excessive coughing) |
| **4** | **VERY STRONG** | odor and dust bearable (stinging eyes and mouth, excessive coughing, and/or pain when swallowing) |
| **5** | **OVERPOWERING** | odor and dust unbearable, you need to leave the barn (hurts to breathe in) |

# Rodent and Predator Control

## Rodent Control

**Delete this section if rodents are not a problem on your ranch.**

Our ranch excludes rodents by [insert exclusion practices (e.g., checking storage areas for holes and sealing, mowing around outside of barns)].

If exclusion is ineffective, our ranch controls rodents by [insert control practices (e.g., by placing bait stations in the feed storage areas)].

### Pest Control Storage

Pest control and other toxic substances are kept [describe where these substances are stored].

## Predator Control

**Delete this section if predators are not a problem on your ranch.**

On our ranch, we experience problems with the following predators: [insert the type of predators that you need to control for on your ranch].

Our ranch excludes predators by [insert exclusion practices (e.g., using fencing, flagging, guardian animals, etc.)].

If exclusion is ineffective, our ranch controls predators by [insert control practices (e.g., by firearm with a skilled shooter)].

# Sourcing and Transport

## Sourcing

**Delete this section or any of the following statements if they do not apply to your ranch.**

### Market Cattle

We source weaned calves from [direct farm sales, video auctions, dedicated cattle sales, sale/auction barns].

We source backgrounders/stockers/yearlings from [direct farm sales, video auctions, dedicated cattle sales, sale/auction barns].

We source finisher cattle from [direct farm sales, video auctions, dedicated cattle sales, sale/auction barns].

### Breeding Stock

We source breeding heifers from [direct farm sales, video auctions, dedicated cattle sales, sale/auction barns].

We source breeding cows from [direct farm sales, video auctions, dedicated cattle sales, sale/auction barns].

We source breeding bulls from [direct farm sales, video auctions, dedicated cattle sales, sale/auction barns].

## Transport

Market cattle are shipped off of my ranch to [another operation, dedicated cattle sale, collection point, sale/auction barn, slaughter].

When cattle leave my ranch, they are transported by [insert transport company name (e.g., my ranch, name of transport company, name of producer group, name of slaughter plant, etc.)].

# Environmental Management

## Pasture Management

[Describe how pastures are managed throughout the year (e.g., pastures are rotated and rested every 6 months)].

## Management During Adverse Weather

Based on our location, there are occasions when adverse weather impacts the ranch. In those instances, this is our plan:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Adverse weather condition*e.g., large fluctuations in temperature,* *excessive humidity, freezing rain, large snow fall accumulation*  | We manage cattle during that time by: |
| [insert info here] | [insert info here] |
| [insert info here] | [insert info here] |
| [insert info here] | [insert info here] |

# Emergency Procedures and Contacts

## Emergency Procedures

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Scenario**  | **Phone number** | **Contact name** | **Procedure to follow** |
| Fire | [insert phone number] | [insert contact name] | [insert procedure] |
| Flood | [insert phone number] | [insert contact name] | [insert procedure] |
| Power failure  | [insert phone number] | [insert contact name] | [insert procedure] |
| Water shut off / water lines freeze  | [insert phone number] | [insert contact name] | [insert procedure] |
| Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | [insert phone number] | [insert contact name] | [insert procedure] |

## Important Contact Information

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization** | **Phone number** | **Contact name/notes** |
| Police Department | [insert phone number] | [insert info here] |
| Fire Department  | [insert phone number] | [insert info here] |
| Rescue/Ambulance | [insert phone number] | [insert info here] |
| Hospital/Clinic | [insert phone number] | [insert info here] |
| Transport Company | [insert phone number] | [insert info here] |
| Poison Control Center | [insert phone number] | [insert info here] |
| Extension Personnel | [insert phone number] | [insert info here] |
| Herd Veterinarian | [insert phone number] | [insert info here] |
| State Veterinarian | [insert phone number] | [insert info here] |
| Electric Company | [insert phone number] | [insert info here] |
| Water Company | [insert phone number] | [insert info here] |
| Natural Gas/Propane Supplier | [insert phone number] | [insert info here] |
| Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | [insert phone number] | [insert info here] |