Using Computers on the Ranch

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Topics
- Computer Purchase
- Protect Yourself
  - What should you be using a computer for?
    - Web communication and information
    - Financial Record Keeping
    - Livestock Record Keeping
    - Planning
      - Spreadsheet Applications

Computer Purchase
- Reputable dealer
- Buy as much as you can afford
- Laptop vs Desktop

Protect Yourself
- Virus Software
- Popup Blockers
- Run Windows Update
- Avoid Scams
  - What is your social security #?

Protect Yourself
- Backup often
  - MTBF (Mean Time Between Failures)
  - MTBF (May be Trash by Friday)
- Surge Protection
- Get organized (Clutter)

Communicate
- Getting Connected
- E-mail
- Web Searches
- Web Resources
Web Searches
- Find the information you want
- How?

Beef Industry Information
- Beef Price Information
  - USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
  - http://www.NASS.USD.gov
  - Livestock Marketing Information Center
    - http://www.mlci.info
  - Cake-Fax
    - http://www.cake-fax.com

Financial Record Keeping
- QuickBooks
  - Pay bills, print checks, track expenses, budget, create customized estimates, invoices, purchase orders and reports
  - Organize everything in one place, including sales, expenses, business loans, and more

QuickBooks
- Based on a standard double-entry accounting system.
- Instead of entering transactions into accounts directly, you perform activities like creating invoices, receiving payments, etc. which automatically update the proper accounts.
- Demos

Livestock Record Keeping
- Selecting Record Keeping Software
- Limitation – most of this software is for registered herds.

Spreadsheet Applications
- The Basics
  - Relative and Absolute Cell References
- Some advanced Topics
  - Vertical and Horizontal Lookup Functions
  - Database Functions in Excel
  - PivotTables