

Using Computers on the Ranch

L. Allen Torell
Dept. of Agricultural Economics
And Agricultural Business



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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

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Computer Purchase

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



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Protect Yourself

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

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Protect Yourself

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

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Communicate

- Getting Connected
- E-mail
- Web Searches
- Web Resources

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Web Searches

- Find the Information you want
- How?



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Beef Industry Information

- Beef Price Information
 - USDA Agricultural Marketing Service
 - <http://www.ams.USDA.gov>
 - <http://www.NASS.USDA.gov>
 - Livestock Marketing Information Center
 - <http://www.lmic.info/>
 - Cattle-Fax
 - <http://www.cattle-fax.com/>

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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

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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

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Livestock Record Keeping

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

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Spreadsheet Applications

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

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