



Panorama Beef receives wetlands award

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Darrell Wood of Pete's Creek Partnership, one of the founding ranches of Panorama Meats, Inc., the Angus grass-fed beef company based in Vina, CA, last week received one of three 2006 National Wetlands Conservation Awards from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Department of the Interior.

Wood received the award at a ceremony in Oklahoma City, OK, for his management of the Pete's Creek Wetland and Riparian Restoration Project on 1,262 acres of the partnership's ranch located in Lassen County just north of Susanville, CA. This land was also certified as organic grazing land for Panorama Grass-Fed Beef cattle in July 2006.

Wood is a fifth-generation California cattle rancher whose family has been grazing cattle on this land almost continually since the 1930s.

He is president of Panorama Meats, Inc. and is one of 43 family ranchers who raise Panorama Grass-Fed Beef, which is sold at Whole Foods Markets in northern California, Oregon and Washington, at many HEB stores in Texas, and at 188 Trader Joe's stores in the western U.S. More information about Panorama Meats can be found at www.panoramameats.com.

The annual award recognizes the contributions by private-sector individuals and organizations to the development, restoration and enhancement of wetlands. Wetlands are biologically diverse and dynamic ecosystems that support diverse populations of fish, wildlife and plants. According to USFWS, "wetlands provide habitat for more than 40 percent of the nation's endangered and threatened species. They also help protect water quality by filtering out pollutants, provide natural flood control by absorbing excess water, buffer coastal areas from erosion, and offer scenic and recreational opportunities."

A special panel of national and regional Fish and Wildlife Service officials and nongovernmental personnel recognizes one individual every year for having made worthy contributions to wetlands conservation. Two additional awards go to a "group-assisted individual" and a "group."

In addition to his work to preserve wetlands, Wood is a leader in the preservation of California's rangelands. He is board chairman for the California Rangeland Trust and past president of the Lassen County Cattleman's Association. Both groups work closely with rangeland owners to protect and enhance the environmental and economic quality of the land. He has also been honored for grassland stewardship by the Society for Range Management. — **WLJ**

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