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MAY 2015

LITTLE VISITORS ON OUR RANCH

Those who have recently driven by our Valley Springs ranch may have noticed hundreds of orange and white boxes placed on our pasture. Housed within those little boxes are honeybees belonging to [Treasure State Honey](#) (TSH), based in Montana.

Nils and Elizabeth Barrett, who grew up in Calaveras County and whose families have been involved in the beekeeping business, manage TSH's colonies and travel across the country in sync with the changing seasons. These colonies stay in Montana during the summer months, but with the arrival of fall, travel thousands of miles to Southern California where they stay until placed in the almond orchards around Fresno in February. Honeybees are an integral part of California's almond industry as well as of other fruit industries in the State such as peaches, plums, apples, and cherries.

In March, upon completion of pollination, the colony heads to the Mother Lode area and then back to Montana in mid-May.

The best part of this business, according to Nils, is to be able to work with nature and to see tiny bee colonies grow. We are glad that we can provide these hard working honeybees a spring home and share our resources to help strengthen our local food production network.



ANNUAL BEEF SALE JUST AROUND THE CORNER

We are very busy getting ready for our 4th annual American Wagyu beef sale. Due to the unusually warm weather this past year, our animals are maturing much faster than anticipated. As of the release of this eNewsletter, we expect to begin our sale sometime in July.

Similar to last year, we will have four pick-up locations in San Andreas, Valley Springs, Acampo and San Francisco. Please stay tuned for streamlined order forms and new, exciting products in our next eNewsletter! Note that we will be accepting custom orders for products not listed on our forms, such as bone-in prime rib roasts and full briskets.

