



February 2019

# To Change or Not to Change ... That is the Question

Samantha Meyers

Follow this and additional works at: [https://dc.swosu.edu/sayre\\_student\\_anthology](https://dc.swosu.edu/sayre_student_anthology)

## Recommended Citation

Meyers, Samantha (2019) "To Change or Not to Change ... That is the Question," *SWOSU Sayre Student Anthology*: Vol. 1 : Iss. 1 , Article 58.

Available at: [https://dc.swosu.edu/sayre\\_student\\_anthology/vol1/iss1/58](https://dc.swosu.edu/sayre_student_anthology/vol1/iss1/58)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Monographs at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in SWOSU Sayre Student Anthology by an authorized editor of SWOSU Digital Commons. An ADA compliant document is available upon request. For more information, please contact [phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu](mailto:phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu).

# To Change or Not to Change... That is the Question

## Samantha Meyers

Ranchers all over the country are faced with a difficult decision. They want what's best for their cattle, but they also want to make decisions that ranchers are not sure whether or not to join the "all natural" programs or stick with good old-fashioned vaccination and implanting. If a rancher decides to take the plunge into "all natural" programs, there are some very specific guidelines he must follow.

According to the Beef Marketing Group, cattle must be natural if they meet these specific standards that have been laid down: all cattle must be 51% Black Angus, and the organization prefers 45 days weaned and properly conditioned. Cattle are allowed two rounds of the following vaccinations: two Viral, one Clostridial, and two Clostridial. Cattle must also be wormed, castrated with a knife, and water broke, and have proper nutrition. All natural cattle are not allowed antibiotics, hormones, animal by-products, and treated animals must be properly identified. The owners must have the following documentation: a Natural Animal Supplier Approval Form, and all of the rancher's suppliers must be on the approved list.

The requirements for all natural cattle are strict and require excellent ranch management. They must follow these rules and give their cattle antibiotics when sick to maintain their cattle's body mass. Cattle are "worked" when they arrive at the market. They receive the appropriate vaccinations, are often wormed, and are given a growth hormone. While getting used to the new environment and the new schedule, they may become sick. Imagine a rancher checking on his cattle in the morning. Most of the cattle looks healthy and happy. One of the cattle is sick. He's all alone and he hasn't come to the market yet. He's all alone and he's more than a mile away from the market. He needs medicine, and he relies on you to provide him with the "doctor" that he needs and give them antibiotics to fight the infection. He's all alone on the body. However, all of this is a direct violation of the "all natural" rules.

While making all of these decisions, ranchers must also consider their budget, time, their cattle, and do what the market wants.