

Double S Ranch is a cattle ranch designed, built, and operated by Organic Matters, a food waste recycling company. The goal of Double S Ranch is to convert food waste directly into beef without the expensive and energy consuming step of dehydration. If this project is successful it will divert thousands of tons of food waste from Florida landfills and transform them into valuable cattle feedstuff lowering the cost of beef production.

This has been a large project requiring well over a million dollars of capital. Preparing the site purchased in 2003 to accommodate up to 1000 cattle has been expensive and time consuming. Making sure feed troughs and water tanks are in place for the number of cattle on hand is essential. This required much fencing, laying of water lines and a new well.

At the beginning of 2005 Double S was feeding approximately 250 head of company owned cattle and also feeding 150 head for other cattle owners. By June we plan to be feeding 600 head of company owned cattle and 200 head for clients.

Main Source of Waste

Bagels from Bagel Bites

Dominos pizza dough

Lykes hotdog casings

Bakery waste from Publix Bakery

Deep stacked poultry litter from GoldKist

Equipment

1 72 Horsepower John Deere tractor with front end loader

1 Batwing mower

1 BobCat 442

1 International Harvester DT466 truck with Rotamix body to mix and deliver feed to cattle

120 Feed troughs

Each cow receives about 20 pounds of feed a day and has gained about 2.5 pounds of weight a day for a feed to weight conversion rate of eight pounds of feed for each pound of gain.

This project is in the first stage of reaching a commercial size. These numbers are very preliminary and will get much more meaningful as the operation matures.