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# Dear American Landowner:

An increasing number of macro economic forces continue to gird – if not stoke – land values from coast to coast. I hope you agree with me that the following items are not limited to a single land use or a single section of the country.

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, the housing market continues its long climb back from the depths of the Great Recession. The S&P/Case-Shiller Home Price Index, which covers 20 of the largest cities in the U.S., recorded a 5.5% gain from November 2011 to November 2012. Keep that in mind as you consider a timberland investment.

America's energy revolution continues. Technological advances have returned the U.S. to superpower status as the site of the world's largest natural gas reserves. The Energy Information Agency (EIA) has forecast the possibility of domestic oil production dethroning Saudi Arabia as the world's leader by 2020. As countless landowners and brokers already know, these factors have completely changed the value of properties in many areas of the country, especially in and around shale plays.

One final note of optimism: the welcome announcement by the Japanese government of the lifting of major restrictions on the importation of U.S. beef. Turn to page 2 for more details on this important piece of news for the American cattle industry.

All the Best,

Eric O'Keefe, Editor & Broker

P.S. I invite you to subscribe to **The Land Report HERE**.

## LAND REPORT TOP TEN

America's Leading Investment **QUALITY RURAL LAND LISTINGS** 

- 1. Walton Ranch: \$100 million
- 2. Big Homer's Pond: \$92 million
- 3. Broken O Ranch (Texas): \$81 million
- 4. Rancho Dos Pueblos: \$79 million
- 5. Four Peaks Ranch: \$75 million - NEW
- 6. Dillingham Ranch: \$65 million
- 6. Sagg Pond Estate: \$65 million
- 8. Big Creek Ranch: \$59.9 million
- 9. Rosenthal The Malibu Estate: \$59.5 million
- 10. Rockpile Ranch: \$54.5 million



# LAND REPORT 100er ACQUIRES DANA RANCH.

David Killamhas acquired Montana's Dana Ranch. The transaction was announced by listing broker David Johnson of Hall and Hall. The Killam family, which ranked No. 45 on the 2012 Land Report 100, will add to ranch holdings in Texas, Kansas, and Nebraska. The Dana Ranch runs on nearly 60,000 acres (45,058 deeded) and boasts extraordinary wildlife and fishery resources. "Hall and Hall has represented many of the finest ranches that have changed hands over the last 60 years and we've never seen a better combination cattle and recreational ranch in the Rocky Mountain West. David Killam has won numerous awards for habitat and conservation management. He is the perfect owner to continue its legacy," said Johnson.





### UNITEDSTATES

#### EXPORTS

# Cattle Industry

## JAPAN EASES IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

**ON U.S. BEEF.** American cattlemen are cheering a decision by the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to ease a decade-long restriction on imports of U.S. beef. The decision, which took effect

February 1, was announced by U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "This is great news for American ranchers and beef companies who can now – as a result of this agreement – increase their exports of U.S. beef to their largest market for beef in Asia," said Ambassador Kirk. The restriction stemmed from the 2003 discovery of a single cow in Washington State that had bovine spongiform encephalopathy (more commonly known as mad cow disease). In response to this lone case of BSE, Japan banned all imports of U.S. beef. Three years later, that ban was eased to allow meat from cattle 20 months or younger. Last month's decision permits the importation of meat from U.S. cattle 30 months old or younger. The news is a welcome boost for the beleaguered U.S. cattle industry, which has been grappling with rising feed costs and brutal drought conditions. Read more HERE.



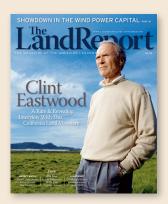
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SOUTHWEST

#### AUCTION

#### Texas farmland

**4,447±-ACRE TEXAS RANCH TO BE AUCTIONED.** On February 26, Tranzon
International will auction the 4,447±-acre Lazy
H&B Ranch. Bidding will open at \$1.9 million.
High fenced for game management, the Lazy
H&B is situated in the northeastern portion

of Val Verde County approximately 32 miles north of Del Rio along Highway 277. The terrain features pastureland punctuated by rocky hills, rugged bluffs, and winding creeks. Approximately 1,000 to 1,200 acres are stocked with exotics, including oryx, axis, black buck, and aoudad. Improvements include a 3,200-square-foot metal hunting lodge, a 2,400-square-foot metal barn with a covered hangar, a small metal building, approximately 10 RV hookups, a 2,000-foot asphalt runway, a camp house, and 4 water wells. The auction will also include equipment from Caterpillar, John Deere, and Kawasaki. Read more **HERE**.





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