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E-EDITION LAST UPDATED: Friday, August 19, 2011 4:20:35 AM

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Mobile Harvest Unit available to ranchers

Posted: Monday, Aug 15th, 2011
Contributed/CCAN

Facilitated by the Central Coast Ag Network (CCAN), under the guidance of Kim Pasciuto, San Luis Obispo County's new mobile harvest unit (MHU) is bringing local ranchers back to your dinner table and all of us who enjoy a good steak at a reasonable price are the winners.

The MHU, a 28-foot long trailer powered by a generator, is the first of its kind in California and harkens back to a time when all meat was raised, butchered, and sold by ranchers directly to the local consumer.



MOBILE MEAT HARVESTER - A \$150,000 Mobile Meat Harvesting Unit equipped for the on-farm harvest of beef, sheep, goats, buffalo and hogs is now available to local ranchers.

How it works

The Central Coast Ag Cooperative is comprised of a group of ranchers from San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Monterey counties. They own the MHU which was funded with the assistance of grants from Rep Sam Farr's office and USDA Rural Development. The co-op leases the MHU to J&R Meats, a USDA-certified cut and wrap facility in Paso Robles. The co-op schedules their animal harvesting dates with J&R meats, which brings MHU to a USDA approved on-ranch site and harvests the livestock under USDA inspection.

J&R?Meats

The meat is then transferred to J&R Meats in Paso Robles to be cut and packaged. The meat can be sold locally at J&R Meats' store in Templeton and/or directly by the

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rancher. The operating model also allows non-cooperative members to reserve dates but without guaranteed availability or reduced rates for harvesting.

Harvesting meat

For the animals, this results in a more humane harvesting practice. Gone is the stress of transporting animals to distant factory slaughterhouses.

Less stress to the animal at harvest also benefits the consumer because it improves the quality of the meat. Better yet, the consumer knows the origins of the meat and how the animal was raised.

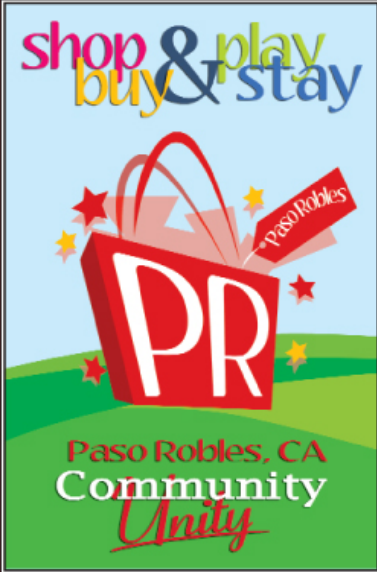
For ranchers, excluding transportation from the harvesting process saves time and money. Keeping the process local means the money stays in the local economy. It is a landmark win-win for ranchers and consumers.

For more information call 489-1255 or 478-6781.

For the complete article see the 08-16-2011 issue.

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The Paso Robles Press, in collaboration with local businesses, announces the launch of the citywide **Community Unity** campaign in an effort to encourage residents to shop local and support our Paso Robles area businesses.