

On December 13, 1883 the Pitchfork Land and Cattle Company was incorporated with 52,500 acres of land in central West Texas and a foundation herd of 9,750 cattle. Unlike most ranches established during the great cattle boom of the 1880s, the Pitchfork survived episodes of drought



and cattle depression for more than 100 years. No other ranch in central West Texas can boast being larger today than during its initial years. Since 1883 the ranch has been owned primarily by one family from St. Louis.

The Pitchfork home ranch covers 165,000 acres in Dickens and King counties near the town of Guthrie, Texas, with a satellite operation in Kansas. The Pitchfork is larger today than at any time in its history. Recently, the Pitchfork sold its Flag Ranch operation in Wyoming and purchased more lands in Texas.

Although the Pitchfork's operations have expanded and modernized, its core business remains the same: cattle.

The Pitchfork cattle herd is Hereford-based, as it has been since the beginning. "Then we have what I call a South Texas cross cow," adds Bob Moorhouse, ranch manager, referring to a herd that stems from crossbred Brahman heifers. The cattle adapted to the tough country and have thrived there.

With around 5,000 mother cows grazing the home ranch, the cowboys have ample opportunity to work the range in a manner

very similar to the cowboys who first rode for the brand. Pitchfork cowboys have always ridden good horses. The signature "Pitchfork Gray" -- a gray horse with a black mane and tail -- has now become as synonymous with the ranch as the brand itself. The Pitchfork's horses are widely known because they're worked in so many conditions. The Pitchfork has recently won the prestigious **Best Remuda Award** sponsored by the American Quarter Horse Association, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and the Bayer Agriculture Division – Animal Health. For nearly 100 years the Pitchfork's profits and losses were affected only by the weather and the price of cattle. In addition, oil exploration has been a part of the Pitchfork's operations, with significant finds in the Tannehill sands area. In 1998 the Pitchfork established a commercial hunting business on the ranch, with guided hunts for deer, game birds, boar and other game. Visit the Pitchfork's web site at <http://www.thepitchforkranch.com> for more information.



**2002**

# Mesquite Country Outfitters

**2003**

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Mesquite Country Outfitters offers fully guided hunts for Bobwhite quail, whitetail deer, mule deer, turkey, dove, wild hogs, and varmints on the legendary 165,000-acre Pitchfork Ranch in Dickens and King counties of the Rolling Plains of **Texas**. The Pitchfork Ranch is a working cattle ranch with terrain including mesquite pastures, scrub oak thickets, rugged canyon and cedar country, and a few crop fields and food plots. Lodging and meals are provided on location for all hunts. While this area is best known for its outstanding wild quail hunting, we are rapidly gaining a reputation for producing tremendous mature whitetail and mule deer bucks. The turkey and dove populations in this area are impressive. Wild boar and varmints are abundant on the 257 square miles of hunting territory.

The Pitchfork Ranch and Mesquite Country Outfitters have implemented a game management program on the property. The 1998-99 season was the first season that hunting had been formally offered over the entire ranch. The wildlife has had virtually no hunting pressure since the ranch was founded in 1883. All hunts are fair chase and absolutely no high fencing is used. Hunting is reduced during drought years. Hunters should expect a great western outdoors experience. We are now booking hunts for all game animals for the 2002-2003 season and beyond. If your passion is real wild quail hunting or stalking trophy bucks and gobblers then call today to book your adventure.

**Fees:** All fees are subject to change without notice. Please visit our web site [www.mcohunts.com](http://www.mcohunts.com) for current pricing and hunt availability. Season dates are set each August by Texas Parks & Wildlife.

## Wild Quail

Type	Included Features	Cost
Three day outfitted hunt package	Guide, dogs, hunting vehicle, lodging, meals, game cleaning and refrigeration	\$1650 per hunter @ 3 hunters per guide \$2025 per hunter @ 2 hunters per guide
Two day outfitted hunt package	Guide, dogs, hunting vehicle, lodging, meals, game cleaning and refrigeration	\$1100 per hunter @ 3 hunters per guide \$1350 per hunter @ 2 hunters per guide
Day hunt package – Limited Availability	Guide, lodging, meals, game cleaning and refrigeration	\$450 per hunter per day, minimum of 2 hunters for 2 days
Season lease	Limited lease hunting for quail, dove, hogs, and varmints	\$2 per acre – January & February Only
		\$4 per acre – Full Season Lease

Two or three hunters per guide. Single hunters can visit our web site [www.mcohunts.com/singles.htm](http://www.mcohunts.com/singles.htm) to help locate hunting partners. Hunt large coveys of wild quail in brushy pastures with our best guides and dogs or you may prefer to hunt behind your dogs. Our custom hunting vehicles are typically late models Ford 4x4 crew cab diesels or Kawasaki Mules fully rigged with dog boxes and external seating. Our quail numbers are excellent due to the outstanding habitat available in our area. Intensive management and three consecutive years of abundant spring rainfall have consistently produced huntable populations of Bobwhites. The Pitchfork

Ranch has the right mixture of weed growth, insects, cover, and quality range management necessary to consistently produce wild quail. We provide our quail with year round supplemental milo and wheat feeding. We are studying methods to further improve our habitat. These are 100% wild birds! We do limit hunting and restrict bag limits during drought years. We will never over hunt our quail population. Quail are found over the entire ranch. Each group of hunters and their guide will have exclusive access to pastures that are typically 5000+ acres in size. You will not hunt "old" ground and will probably never see another hunter on the hunting property (except back at the lodge). We rotate hunting locations regularly to preserve the unpressured quality of our habitat. Most of our clients are repeat customers.

**Season: November through February**

### **Whitetail Deer -- \$3500 per hunter per 4 day hunt (1 buck limit)**

**One hunter per guide. There are no additional guide or trophy fees.**

Pursue the elusive trophy whitetail buck in terrain including dense scrub oak thickets, river bottoms, rugged canyons, crop fields, and food plots. You and your guide will have exclusive access to several thousand acres of trophy buck territory. We do require that all bucks taken gross at least 130 B&C points. This means we are after bucks at least 4.5 years old with true 20" inside spreads and at least 8 high quality points. The Pitchfork Ranch has a near 1-to-1 buck-to-doe ratio. The rut normally runs from mid November through mid December. Mature bucks can weigh well over 200 pounds. Our 3-day management buck hunts are priced at \$1500. Most of our hunts will involve glassing drainages and oak thickets while stalking your trophy. Lodging and meals are included.

**Archery season: October**

**General season: November through early January**

### **Mule Deer --- \$3500 per hunter per 4 day hunt (1 buck limit)**

**One hunter per guide. There are no additional guide or trophy fees. Hunt may be extended beyond 4 days at the rate of \$275 per hunter per day.**

Pursue the trophy mule deer buck in rugged canyon and cedar country. Several of the state's top mule deer are taken in this region. We will spot and stalk these monster mulies on foot or via horseback. You and your guide will have exclusive access to several thousand acres of rugged mule deer country. We strongly encourage our hunters to be physically fit for these hunts. Lodging and meals are included. We will also provide containers for you to carry your quartered venison home.

**Archery season: October**

**General season: Mid-November through early December**

### **Turkey --- \$875 per hunter per 2 day hunt (2 turkey limit per hunt/4 turkeys per year)**

**Two hunters per guide. Additional guides are available at the rate of \$150 per guide per day.**

Hunt large flocks of Rio Grande turkeys in food plots, pastures, and around river bottoms. Our birds have experienced little or no hunting pressure. Each group and guide will have exclusive access to large sections of terrain. Normally, your guide will handle the calling, decoys, and ground blinds. If you choose to do the calling then your guide will make sure that you and your partner are in productive areas. Either sex may be harvested during the fall and winter season but only gobblers may be harvested during the spring season. Lodging and meals are included. Nonresidents may purchase a special spring turkey only license type 118.

**Fall archery season: October Fall general season: November through early January Spring season: April through mid-May**

### **Wild Boar/Varmint --- \$500 per hunter per 2 day hunt (No bag limit)**

**Two hunters per guide. There is an additional guide fee of \$150 per group per day. Additional guides are available at the rate of \$150 per guide per day.**

Hunt the elusive feral hog in rugged pastures, food plots, and river bottoms. Some of the hogs have strong genetic ties to the Russian boar. Our hogs are big, mean, and difficult to hunt. We have several groups of hogs spread over the entire ranch. Coyotes are also abundant and generally respond quickly to a variety of distress calls. Lodging and meals are provided.

**No closed season.** You may book your hunt for any time during the year.

### **Dove --- \$250 per hunter per 1 day hunt (15 birds per day)**

**Four hunters per guide. Additional guides are available at the rate of \$150 per guide per day.**

The mourning dove breeds in this area and migrates from northern states as well. The action can be fast and furious at times. Each group of hunters will have exclusive access to pastures ranging from 2000-5000 acres in size. Our birds concentrate near wild sunflower and weed plots near water holes. Lodging and meals are included on multi-day hunts. We do have a minimum party size of 4 hunters. **Season: September through October**

### *What else is included in these hunts?*

We provide transportation while on the hunting property. We do not provide transportation to and from the airport. Southwest, Delta, and Continental offer flights into Lubbock, TX. Rental car facilities are near the airport with free shuttle service. The drive from Lubbock to the Pitchfork Ranch headquarters takes about 1½ hours.

### *What is required to book a hunt with Mesquite Country Outfitters?*

We require a deposit equivalent to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the total amount due for the hunt. This deposit may be made by check and is due when the hunt is booked. This deposit is non-refundable within 90 days of the hunt. The remainder of the total amount due must be paid on or before the date indicated by the hunting contract. We will do our best to work with you if something unexpected happens causing you not to be able to make a scheduled hunt. We want you to be happy with your decision to choose Mesquite Country Outfitters.

All hunters are required to sign a written contract/waiver. A copy of this written contract is available upon request. Smoking is not permitted on any hunting property or in any vehicle owned by Mesquite Country Outfitters. Smoking and smokeless tobacco are permitted outside of the hunting lodge. Alcoholic beverages are permitted at the hunting lodge (at the end of each daily hunt) but not on hunting property or in any vehicle owned by Mesquite Country Outfitters.

All hunters are required to possess a valid Texas hunting license including any required stamps (archery, turkey, migratory waterfowl, etc.). All hunters born after **September 1, 1971** must have successfully completed a Hunter's Education Training Course. Exception: Hunters age 16 and under can legally hunt without HETC if they are accompanied by a licensed hunter age 17 or older. There are not many places to purchase licenses in our service area. For this reason we strongly suggest that you make arrangements for a license and HETC well in advance of your arrival. You may purchase the license using VISA or MasterCard by contacting Texas Parks and Wildlife at (800) 895-4248. Check out the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department web site at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>.

### *Why should you book your hunt with Mesquite Country Outfitters?*

First, our hunting property is among the best in Texas. The Pitchfork Ranch and surrounding area holds good numbers of mature animals that have had little or no hunting pressure. We have implemented an intensive game management program on the property.

Our guides spend hundreds of hours in the field each year. They are skilled in upland bird hunting, dog handling, bow hunting, and rifle hunting. They will make your hunt one to remember. You will be impressed with their professionalism. They will structure your hunt to fit your request. Be sure to bring your camera!

Finally, we are totally committed to providing you with an outstanding outdoors experience. Our well-equipped hunting lodge is located on the ranch and includes a satellite TV, central heating and air conditioning, comfortable furniture and beds, and a full size refrigerator. Ranch-style, all-you-can-eat family style meals are served in a separate cookhouse near the lodge. Lots of snacks, pies, and cookies will "fatten" you up during your stay.

We are a family oriented business and we will gladly do our best to accommodate your friends or family should they come along. Non-hunting guests may stay at the lodge and enjoy meals at the cookhouse for \$75 per person per day. We welcome handicapped hunters and, although we have no handicapped facilities yet, we will do our darndest to make their hunt enjoyable. Our hunters are happy with the warm and courteous atmosphere provided. We give all hunters an anonymous evaluation form to mail back to us after their hunt. We listen to what they say. We will gladly provide references if you desire.

Please contact us for more information on a specific hunt or leasing hunting acreage. Be sure to check out our Internet site for photos and hunt availability.