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Five Questions to Ask Before Buying Ranches for Sale in Texas by [Rodger Ciliberto](#)

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But before you invest in one, it wouldn't hurt to ask yourself a few questions before you invest in one.

What's the purpose of the ranch? Texas offers among the best areas in the United States for raising livestock, as well as hunting wild game. For raising livestock, choose a ranch with big and fertile land. On the other hand, ranches for hunting purposes can be smaller. If you need to use high fences in the ranch, make sure it has at least 300 acres as it may be impractical to install high fences for ranches 200 acres or smaller.

Where is the ranch located? Ideally, a hunting ranch should be close to an area where wild game such as deer and quails are often spotted. If the ranch is mainly for raising livestock, buy a ranch close to the city or slaughterhouse. The location can also affect the ranch's value.

Where will I buy livestock? This is applicable if you're buying the ranch to raise cattle, chickens, and the like. It should be easy for you to transport the animals to and from your ranch. Consider where you'll need to buy animal feeds and other stuff your livestock needs as well.

How much will it cost to maintain the ranch? Take note that ranches for sale in Texas take a lot of effort to manage. You need personnel to look after the animals, to keep the ranch clean, to protect the ranch from unwanted animals, among others. You also need equipment for production. If you can, rent or borrow equipment instead to save a considerable amount of money.

How much will I earn from the ranch? Have a conservative estimate of what you'll earn from the ranches for sale in Texas. The value of your livestock varies according to local and national demand and supply; use the minimum amount you can earn when you estimate your gross income. Likewise, estimate the maximum cost of managing the ranch—which takes into account events such as livestock mortality—when you arrive at your net income, i.e. your gross income minus all the costs.

Choose carefully before buying any piece of Texas Hill Country real estate. If you've ever dreamed of joining the ranks of your childhood cowboy heroes, then it's good to know that it's possible by exercising good judgment in ranch selection. For more information on the things you need to know before buying your very own ranch, read noble.org/ag/economics/ranch.

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