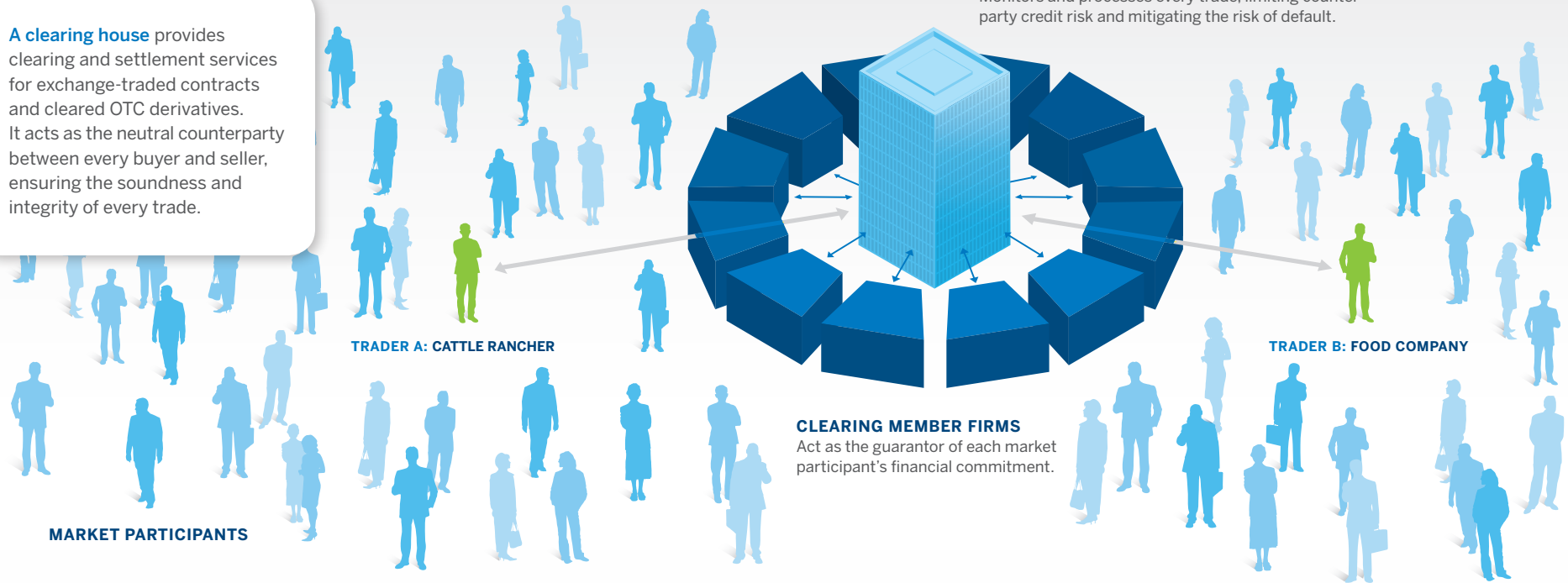


A COUNTERPARTY FOR EVERY TRADE

A clearing house provides clearing and settlement services for exchange-traded contracts and cleared OTC derivatives. It acts as the neutral counterparty between every buyer and seller, ensuring the soundness and integrity of every trade.

CLEARING HOUSE

Monitors and processes every trade, limiting counterparty credit risk and mitigating the risk of default.



MARKET PARTICIPANTS

Trader A wants to sell futures contracts to lock in a price for his cattle and protect himself against price risk.

Trader B wants to buy cattle futures to make costs more predictable and offer consistent prices to customers.



CLEARING MEMBER FIRMS

The traders submit their orders to their respective clearing member firms, which then conduct the trade on the traders' behalf.



CLEARING HOUSE

The clearing house stands in between the two clearing firms and assumes the legal counterparty risk for the trade. It executes all the activities involved in clearing, securing and settling the transaction.



TRADE CLEARED

The trade is transmitted back through the member firms and accepted by the buyer and the seller.



LESS THAN 1 MILLISECOND

The amount of time it typically takes for our order to complete this entire process.

To understand just how fast that is, consider that a camera flash takes 100 milliseconds.