



# Backgrounder/Stocker Training Material NHTC and VB-NE3

209 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Suite 3  
Bozeman, MT 59718  
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*The Verified Beef NHTC and VB-NE3 Backgrounder/Stocker Training Materials are designed to inform the stocker, and backgrounder facilities who care for NHTC and/or VB-NE3 cattle about the policies and procedures of the Verified Beef program. Following the review of this material the producer is required to pass the NHTC/VB-NE3 Backgrounder/Stocker Training Quiz.*

## **Definitions:**

**Age and Source Verification:** Qualifies cattle for certain US export markets. Animals must be traceable to the ranch of origin and meet age restrictions (under 30 months for specific export programs).

**Third Party Verification:** The verification of NHTC and/or VB-NE3 cattle by an entity other than the cow-calf producer, stocker, backgrounder or feedyard that is qualifying cattle for export. Third Party verification must be completed by USDA approved Process Verification Program (PVP) or Quality Systems Assessment (QSA).

**Process Verification Program (PVP):** USDA approved process for Age and Source verification by a third party. The PVP outlines the policies and procedures that must be followed for Age and Source verification.

**Quality Systems Assessment (QSA):** Similar to PVP but is specific to a particular operation, such as a feedlot.

**Program compliant Tag:** A PCT is a 1-time use, tamper-evident tag, which contains a non-repeatable, unique number. The tag is unique and specific to the Program. It may be an EID, RFID, or a visual tag.

**Receiving Cattle:** Receiving procedure must be documented and maintained. Receiving procedures ensure that PVP certified cattle are received by the stocker operation. Cattle must be visually inspected and program compliant tags scanned, documented, and verified.

**Radio Frequency Identification Tag (RFID Tag):** Ear tag with built in radio frequency chip. Each RFID Tag has a unique 15 digit identification number. No information other than the unique number is actually stored on the tag. The tag number is used track cattle in the Verified Beef Database.

**Premise ID:** A USDA Premise ID is NOT required for enrollment in Verified Beef programs. A USDA Premise ID IS required for the use of Program Compliant Tags with a 840 prefix.

*However, without 840 tags, Verified Beef is not liable for compliance with the Import/Export rules established by individual states when shipping cattle less than 18 months of age across state lines.*

**No antibiotics:** No antibiotics can be administered (through feed, water, or by injection) from birth to slaughter. This includes low-level (sub-therapeutic) or therapeutic level doses of antibiotics, sulfonamides, ionophores, or any other synthetic antimicrobial. The use of Deccox (decoquinat) and Corid (amprolium) for the treatment and prevention of coccidia, as approved by FDA, is permitted as part of a documented parasite control program and shall not be used in combination with an ionophore (*pertains to the VB-NE3 program only*).



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**No hormonal growth promotants (HGP):** The administration of hormonal growth promotants (HGPs) including natural hormones, synthetic hormones, estrus suppressants, beta agonists, or other synthetic growth promotants, is prohibited from birth to slaughter. No feed additives, compounds, or implants that would cause faster than normal weight gains and growth are allowed (*pertains to the NHTC and VB-NE3 programs only*).

**No animal by-products:** Mammalian and avian by-products are not allowed in feed, except milk or non-medicated milk replacer prior to weaning. These by-products include animal waste (e.g. poultry litter) and by-products as defined by 9 CFR 301.2 (e.g. products derived from the slaughter/harvest process including meat and fat). Fish by-products and vitamins and mineral supplementation are permissible. However, if fish by-products are used in feed, it must be documented and declared (*pertains to the VB-NE3 program only*).

**Non-hormone Treated Cattle (NHTC):** Cattle must meet all requirements of source and age verification. Animals must not be administered hormonal growth promotants (HGPs) at any time during their life. A complete list of all feeds and feed supplements used on the operation must be kept. Detailed inventory records of all HGPs used on the operation must also be kept. Any animal that receives a HGP must be identified as nonconforming (NC) and removed from the program.

**VB-NE3:** Cattle must meet all requirements of source and age verification. Animals must be raised without growth promotants, antibiotics, or mammalian or avian by-products throughout the animal's life. A complete list of all feeds and feed supplements used on the operation must be kept. Detailed inventory records of all antibiotics, HGPs, and animal byproducts used on the operation must also be kept. Any animal that receives any VB-NE3 prohibited substances (such as antibiotic treatment for illness) must be identified as nonconforming (NC) and removed from the program.

**Program Compliant Cattle:** Cattle that have previously been approved by a USDA PVP company. All purchased cattle must be PVP approved for specific claims (Age and Source, NHTC, VB-NE3, CCH, CM) prior to receiving at the Backgrounder/Stocker operation.

## Verified Beef Policies and Procedures:

### Program Compliant Tags (PCT)

- All cattle enrolled under the VB PVP for NHTC and/or VB-NE3 must be tagged with PCT RFID tags purchased from VB or through another PVP.
  - The PCT RFID tag must be applied before the animal leaves the ranch of origin.
- If an animal loses its PCT RFID tag, but has a unique individual secondary identifier, that animal can remain in the program if it can be identified with the ranch of origin records.
  - To remain in the program an animal that has been successfully identified must be retagged with a PCT RFID tag at the facilities expense.



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## Required Records

- Additional requirements are described below:
  - An appropriate program manual must be constructed and kept up to date at each customer location.
  - Each Backgrounder/Stocker operation must maintain a complete list of all feeds and feed supplements used on the operation. This list must include:
    - NHTC and VB-NE3 – operator shall document the sources of all feeds and feed supplements used.
    - NHTC – operator shall obtain and keep on file a letter or affidavit from feed manufacturers concerning the feed manufacturer’s use of HGP’s.
    - NHTC and VB-NE3 – operator shall maintain a complete inventory record of all HGP’s kept and used on the operation. This includes acquisition and use of these products.
    - VB-NE3 – operator shall maintain a complete inventory record of all antibiotics kept and used on the operation. This includes acquisition and use of these products.
    - VB-NE3 – operator shall obtain and keep on file a letter or affidavit from feed manufacturers concerning the feed manufacturer’s use of mammalian or avian by-products.
  - Each Backgrounder/Stocker operation must document fall-out procedures used to establish unique identification and control any non-conforming cattle in a specified group. The fall-out procedure may include notching hang tags, attaching a new unique colored hang tag, etc. The procedure must be approved by VB before a supplier will be approved.
  - A VB shipping document must accompany each shipment of NHTC and/or VB-NE3 animals that occurs.
  - Each Backgrounder/Stocker operation must document and maintain a cattle receiving procedure. Receiving procedures ensure that PVP certified cattle are received by the operation. Cattle must be visually inspected and program compliant tags scanned, documented, and verified.
  - Cattle must have been previously been approved by a USDA PVP company and have maintained program conformance.
  - A tag approved for use by VB in accordance with a specific claim must be with each animal.
  - Detailed records will be kept on all purchases of any drug, feed, additive, implants, vitamins, and minerals used on the Backgrounder/Stocker operation, and in the case of VB-NE3, all antibiotics, mammalian or avian by-products. This includes a list of ingredients or labels, lot numbers, a record of quantity administered or used, date, and cattle affected (group or individual program compliant tag). The Backgrounder/Stocker operation will maintain records on acquisition, inventory, use, and disposal.
- If the same feed truck is used for other than NHTC and/or VB-NE3 qualified cattle, the Backgrounder/Stocker operation must develop and follow written



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procedures to eliminate cross contamination with feeds which may contain HGPs. Bunks must be kernel-clean before placing NHTC and/or VB-NE3 cattle into a new pen, or a pen previously fed feed containing HGPs.

- All employees of the Backgrounder/Stocker operation must receive training on NHTC and/or VB-NE3 program requirements and procedures annually. This training must be documented and maintained by the quality manager at that operation.

## **Audits**

An audit consists of reviewing the records and operation practices. The audit will verify that all employees of the Backgrounder/Stocker operation understand and meet the policy and procedure requirements needed for VB PVP compliance. Cattle records will be inspected, shipping and receiving records of cattle reviewed, feeding schedules and records reviewed, and the separation of cattle group/lots reviewed.

All NHTC and/or VB-NE3 Backgrounder/Stocker operation will require an annual on-site audit. This on-site audit must be completed prior to receipt or shipment of any NHTC and/or VB-NE3 animals from the operation.

## **Promotional Material**

Any advertisement of cattle as NHTC and/or VB-NE3 must be submitted to VB for USDA approval before that promotional material is made public.



# Backgrounder/Stocker Training Quiz NHTC and/or VB-NE3

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## *General process questions:*

1. If a change of feed is required from a hormone-based feed to a hormone-free Feed for NHTC pens, you must flush the feed equipment before feeding NHTC lots? Yes  / No

## *Shipping and Receiving questions*

2. Approved cattle received from a PVP program that are missing a PCT but which can be cross referenced to a unique secondary identifier with the records from the ranch of origin are program compliant with VB policies and procedures?  
TRUE  FALSE
3. Visual identification (program compliant) must be verified by the Backgrounder/Stocker when cattle are received?  
TRUE  FALSE
4. PVP verified cattle from a company other than VB are eligible for Backgrounder/Stocker approval by Verified Beef?  
TRUE  FALSE
5. Cattle can be verified as NHTC at the operation level if they were not verified previously at the ranch level?  
TRUE  FALSE

Operation Manager Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_