



Supplier Training Materials

Age and Source

209 S. 19th Avenue Suite 3
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 867-Beef (2333)
Fax: 888-500-0903

The *Verified Beef Supplier Training Materials* are designed to inform the producer (supplier) of Age and Source verified cattle about the policies and procedures of the Verified Beef program. Following the review of this material, each producer is required to pass the *Supplier Training Quiz*.

Definitions:

Purchased Pairs and Graft Calves: are **not** eligible for Verified Beef PVP program enrollment unless they were enrolled by the original ranch. Purchased calves must be uniquely identified and may not be enrolled in the same group as home raised calves.

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 Japan and Europe).

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 RFID or a visual tag.

Third Party Verification: The verification of Age and Source of cattle by an entity other than the cow-calf producer, feedlot, stocker, or backgrounder that is qualifying cattle for export. Third Party verification must be completed by a USDA approved Process Verified Program (PVP) or Quality Systems Assessment (QSA).

Process Verified 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.

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 to 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.

Calving Group: The calving group is used for the *Age Verification* of the cattle. The age of the calving group is the age of the earliest calf born in a given calving season.

Calving Season: The calving season is specific to the time the calves are born. In most cases calving season will be spring or fall.

A supplier with multiple calving seasons must be able to uniquely identify the individual groups.



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Verified Beef Policies and Procedures:

Tags

- All cattle enrolled under the VB PVP must be tagged with a program compliant tag purchased from VB or through another PVP. Program compliant RFID tags are required for Age and Source verification alone. Age and Source verification in combination with CM may be either RFID or Panel.
 - The program compliant tag must be applied **before** the animal leaves the ranch of origin.
 - Cattle may be tagged at birth, branding or weaning/pre-conditioning.
 - Tags are assigned to a specific calving group
 - Unused tags may be transferred from one calving group to another by the VB administrator.
 - The producer should report unused or destroyed tags to the VB Administrator so that they can be transferred to a different calving group.

Required Records

- Calving Records

The minimum requirement for the producer is to keep a record of the first calf born. This record must be written down or saved electronically. Qualifying records include but are not limited to:

 - Calendar / Journal
 - Spreadsheet
 - Calving Book
 - Cow Herd Management Software
- Each producer is required to keep calving records for a minimum of *3 years*.
- A copy of an acceptable calving record must be submitted to VB.

Audits

An audit consists of reviewing the records and production practices of each producer. The audit will verify the producer understands the policy and procedure requirements needed for VB PVP compliance. Calving records will be inspected, program compliant tag conformity will be evaluated, and the separation of individual calving groups reviewed. Producers who commingle different calving groups will be required to provide proof of the individual identification between groups.

Age and Source verification audits will be performed via a phone interview. On-site audits are only required for: 1) a **random 3%** of all Age and Source verification participants, and 2) any operations deemed to be high risk for non-compliance. Audits may be performed by Verified Beef and/or the USDA.

Services Provided by Verified Beef:

- USDA compliant Age and Source Verification. Enrolled cattle are eligible for Japanese export market if cattle are harvested prior to reaching 30 months of age.



Age and Source Supplier Training Quiz

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1. Third party verification of Age and Source information is required to participate in the USDA export program? Yes / No

2. Which of the following are eligible for Age & Source Verification under the Verified Beef program?
 - a. Home Raised Calves
 - b. Purchased Pairs
 - c. Graft Calves (from another herd)
 - d. All of the above

3. Which of the following are required for USDA export verification?
 - a. Registered with an approved QSA/PVP program
 - b. Animals must be traceable to original premise
 - c. Age at harvest must be less than 30 months for Japanese market
 - d. Must maintain calving records for 3 years as a cow-calf producer
 - e. All the above

4. You must have a USDA Premise number to participate in the Verified Beef Age and Source verification program? Yes / No

5. Verified Beef requires the use of program compliant tags? Yes / No

6. In order to meet Verified Beef Age & Source verification requirements, program compliant tags can be applied after the calves leave the ranch of origin? Yes / No

7. Program compliant tags are issued by Verified Beef by calving group and ranch? Yes / No

8. In order to use Verified Beef tags with a different calving group than issued, which is the correct procedure?
 - a. You paid for the tags, so yes use it where you want.
 - b. You move the tag to a different calving group in the database.
 - c. Request the tag is moved by the Verified Beef administrator.

9. The birth date used to identify calving group should be the date of first born calf? Yes / No

10. If you have a spring and fall calving herd, you must be able to uniquely identify each group? Yes / No

Producer Signature: _____

Date: _____



Verified Beef Enrollment Form



| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Date | _____ |
| Ranch Name | _____ |
| Mailing Address | _____ |
| Contact Person | _____ |
| City, State, ZIP | _____ |
| Office Phone | _____ |
| Shipping Address | _____ |
| Cell Phone | _____ |
| City, State, ZIP | _____ |
| Fax | _____ |
| Alternate Contact | _____ |
| Email | _____ |
| Relationship | _____ |
| Premise ID # ** | _____ |
| County | _____ |
| Referred by | _____ |
| Phone | _____ |

***Tags will be 840 series unless special ordered. Contact VB office with questions*

Services Requested:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Age & Source | <input type="checkbox"/> RFC - Reputation Feeder Cattle | <input type="checkbox"/> VB-NE3 – VB Never Ever 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> NHTC – Non-Hormone Treated Cattle | <input type="checkbox"/> CCH – Cattle Care & Handling |

Currently enrolled in PVP? Yes No If Yes, Company Name: _____

Number of tags requested _____ Enrolled program(s): ASV NHTC NE3

Date Needed by _____ Need Allflex applicator? Yes No

This operation consist of:

Have any of the following been purchased:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cow-calf | <input type="checkbox"/> Stocker | <input type="checkbox"/> Background/Grower |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seedstock | <input type="checkbox"/> Yearling | |

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cow-calf Pairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Yearlings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graft Calves | <input type="checkbox"/> None |

Calving information recorded:

Records are maintained using:

| | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> First calf born | <input type="checkbox"/> Bull turnout date |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual DOB | <input type="checkbox"/> AI date |

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calving book | <input type="checkbox"/> Calendar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Software Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Spreadsheet |

Calendar Year of Birth: _____ First Calf DOB _____ Last Calf DOB _____

Number of Breeding Females _____

Does the ranch have more than one individually managed operation? Yes No

Are you cattle commingled with other herds? Yes No

Calf Identification Method Brand Ranch Tag Crop Tattoo

Continued on next page

Version: 11/10/2016



Verified Beef Enrollment Form



Typical marketing date _____ Typical shipping date _____

Marketing Method :

Private Treaty

Retained Ownership

Auction Market

Video Auction

| | Name | Representative | Phone Number |
|--------------------------|------|----------------|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |

Approximate number of calves marketed?

| | S | H |
|--|---|---|
| | | |
| | | |

Typical sale weight of calves?

Verified Beef Producer Agreement

I have read and understand all Verified Beef’s participation requirements. I affirm that I am subject to all relevant trademark and patent laws. I agree to comply with all requirements, and understand that I am responsible for the accuracy of all information provided to Verified Beef. I agree to make available to representatives of Verified Beef all records pertaining to cattle enrollment. I agree to indemnify Verified Beef from any liability for errors, mistakes, or omissions in the information that I provide.

As a participant in the Verified Beef program I understand that I am subject to a random onsite audit by Verified Beef and/or the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In the event you default on your account, you agree to pay all costs of collection including but not limited to collection fees up to 50 percent of any unpaid balance which is turned over to a third party collection company in addition to attorney fees and court costs.

 Producer Name (printed)
(entering name electronically serves as signature)

 Producer Signature

 Date

CONFIDENTIALITY: Animal disease trace back data may be accessed by State and/or Federal Animal Health Officials to support animal disease traceability systems. This data is limited to animal ID, date, place of movement from and place of movement to and is confidentially maintained in a relational database. Animal traceability/movement data is only made available to State and/or Federal Animal Health Officials for individual animals in response to specific requests in the event of animal health issues that require such information to facilitate resolution of such issues critical to the protection of the national herd

Verified Beef

Age and Source Verification Training Document

Producer Requirements

1. Maintain a calving record
 - a. Record of the **first calf born** is the minimum requirement
2. Minimum of one form of identification
 - a. Brand (hot or freeze)
 - b. Ear notch
 - c. Ear tag
3. Tag cattle with RFID (electronic) tags purchased from Verified Beef prior to shipment from ranch of origin.
4. Provide a list of **unused** RFID tags to Verified Beef
5. Participate in a comprehensive (**ANNUAL**) audit (via phone interview or on-site)

Producer Forms

1. Enrollment Form (**ANNUALLY**)
2. Supplier Training Quiz (**ANNUALLY**)
3. Copy of acceptable calving record (*see supplier training for acceptable records*)

**The Enrollment Form, Supplier Training Quiz and calving records can be faxed or emailed.*

Recommendations to Producers

1. Complete tag worksheets (sent with the box of RFID tags or electronically)
 - Ranch tag and RFID tag cross reference is necessary to replace a lost RFID tag
 - Send a copy to Verified Beef
2. Participate in Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) training
 - www.bqa.org
3. Provide feedback to Verified Beef through
 - Customer surveys
 - Questions, comments, and concerns



Pricing Schedule

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Age and Source Verification (includes EID Tag)

Enrollment, Verification, Audit and EID Tag \$3.00 per head

***** If tags are obtained from a source other than VB, there will be a \$1.50 per head processing fee charged.**

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Tag Applicator | \$20.00 |
| Tag Readers | Please contact VB Office for current pricing |
| Shipping and Handling | \$20.00 for most shipments |

Non Hormone Treated Cattle (NHTC) Program

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| RFID Tags | \$3.00 per head |
| Initial Enrollment Fee & Audit | \$1,000 per ranch |
| Annual Re-enrollment Fee & Audit | \$750 per ranch |
| Travel Expense for Annual Audit | Varies with Location** |

VB-NE3, Stocker, Backgrounder, and Facility program fees are the same price as the NHTC program fees.

***May include plane ticket, hotel, meals, mileage, etc.*

Cattle Care & Handling

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Initial Enrollment Fee & Audit | \$1,000 per ranch |
| Annual Re-enrollment Fee & Audit | \$750 per ranch |
| Travel Expense for Annual Audit | Varies with Location |

If combined with NHTC, VB-NE3 or Stocker program(s) the fee is \$250.

On January 9, 2013, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) published a final rule establishing general regulations for improving the traceability of U.S. livestock moving interstate. The rule became effective on March 11, 2013.

Under the final rule, unless specifically exempted, livestock moved interstate would have to be officially identified and accompanied by an interstate certificate of veterinary inspection or other documentation, such as owner-shipper statements or brand certificates.

Verified Beef will issue 840 tags as a **standard practice**.

Non-840 tags are available upon request.

NOTE: A Premise ID, obtained from your State Animal Health Official, is required prior to the shipment of 840 tags.