



Supplier Training Materials

Age and Source

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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, China 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 and Chinese 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: _____