



# Supplier Training NHTC and VB-NE3

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## Verified Beef Policies and Procedures:

### RFID Tags

- All cattle enrolled under the VB PVP for NHTC or VB-NE3 must be tagged with program compliant RFID tags purchased from VB (or through another PVP).
  - The RFID Tag must be applied before the animal leaves the ranch of origin.
  - Cattle may be tagged at birth, branding or weaning/pre-conditioning.
  - RFID 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 **shall** return the completed Tag Worksheet(s) to VB as a means to report unused or destroyed RFID tags to the VB Administrator so that they can be either transferred to a different calving group or delisted.
- Premise ID
  - A USDA Premise ID is not required for participation in either the NHTC or VB-NE3 program.
  - A USDA Premise ID **IS** required prior to ordering tags which begin with a 840 prefix.

### Required Records

- Calving Records

The minimum requirement is for 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
  - Calving Book
  - Spreadsheet
  - Cow Management Software
- An approved Shipping Approval/Certificate shall be provided to the first recipient of cattle upon sale or other transfer of possession away from the place of birth
- The producer is required to keep records for a minimum of *3 years*.
- A copy of an acceptable calving record must be submitted to VB.
- NHTC/VB-NE3: Additional requirements are described below:
  - A program manual must be constructed and kept up to date at each supplier location.
  - All suppliers must maintain a complete list of all feeds and feed supplements used on the operation. This list must include sources of those feeds.
    - NHTC Suppliers must obtain and keep on file a letter or affidavit from feed suppliers concerning the feed supplier's use of HGPs.
    - VB-NE3 suppliers must obtain and keep on file a letter or affidavit from feed suppliers concerning the feed supplier's use of HGPs, Antibiotics, and Animal Byproducts.
  - NHTC suppliers must maintain a complete inventory record of all HGPs kept and used on the operation. This includes acquisition and use of these products.



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- VB-NE3 suppliers must keep a complete
  - inventory record of all HGPs purchased and used on the operation
  - invoices for the purchase of HGPs
  - Antibiotics purchased and used on the operation
  - Invoices for the purchase of antibiotics, and
  - Animal Byproducts kept and used on the operation.
- All suppliers 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 hang tag, etc. The procedure must be approved by VB before a supplier will be approved.
  - Fall-out cattle from one program may be eligible for compliance in another program. *For example:* A VB-NE3 calf that is treated with antibiotics is still eligible for NHTC or Age and Source.
- A VB Shipping Approval/Certificate must accompany each shipment of NHTC or VB-NE3 animals that occurs due to sale or transfer of custody. Suppliers should keep a copy for their own records.

## **Audits**

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

**\*\*\*This on-site audit must be completed prior to shipment of any NHTC or VB-NE3 animals from the operation.**

## **Promotional Material**

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



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*The Verified Beef Supplier Training Materials are designed to inform the producer (supplier) of Age and Source, NHTC and, 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 *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).

***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 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.

***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 prior to ordering 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.



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

**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*).

**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.



# NHTC and VB-NE3 Supplier Training Quiz

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## General process questions:

1. Third party verification of Age and Source information is required to participate in the NHTC and VB-NE3 export programs? Yes  / No
  
2. The “fall-out” procedures consist of which of these?  
 a. Documented procedures  
 b. Visual identification  
 c. Verified Beef approval  
 d. All of the above
  
3. To gain initial approval as a NHTC or VB-NE3 cow/calf supplier, you must submit to an on-site audit by Verified Beef? Yes  / No
  
4. You must have a current manufacturer’s affidavit from your feed supplier(s) on file? Yes  / No
  
5. USDA requires the use of a RFID tag to be used in the NHTC or VB-NE3 program? Yes  / No
  
6. NHTC or VB-NE3 requirements must be maintained from birth to slaughter of the animal? Yes  / No
  
7. Which of the following are required for NHTC export verification?  
 a. Registered with an approved PVP program  
 b. Animals must be traceable to original premise  
 c. Age at harvest must be less than 30 months for the Japanese and European Union market  
 d. Must maintain records of all HGPs and feeds acquired and used  
 e. Must maintain calving records for 3 years as a cow-calf operator  
 f. All the above
  
8. If I have a “fall-out” calf, I can keep the calf in my herd, as long as it is identified and recorded according to my VB approved “fall-out” procedures. Otherwise, the entire herd would be considered non-conforming. Yes  / No

## NE3 questions (answer only if enrolling in VB-NE3)

9. If a calf gets ill and must be treated with antibiotics, can it remain a VB-NE3 qualified calf? Yes  / No
  
10. If I feed my cattle fish by-products, am I in non-conformance with VB-NE3? Yes  / No

Producer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_