



# Verified Beef

## Age and Source Verification Producer Requirements

### Producer Forms and Requirements:

1. Completed Enrollment Form (**ANNUALLY**)
2. Completed Supplier Training Quiz (**EVERY THREE YEARS**)
3. All cattle enrolled under the Verified Beef PVP must be tagged with RFID tags purchased from Verified Beef prior to shipment from original ranch
  - a) Provide a list of Unused RFID Tags to Verified Beef
4. Two forms of identification if cattle are commingled
  - a) Brand (hot or freeze)
  - b) Ear Notch
  - c) Ear Tags
5. Keep original calving records for a minimum of **3 yrs** i.e. calving book
6. Age/Source audits will be performed desk-side via a phone interview. On-site audits are only required for a *random 3%* of all Age/Source verification participants.

### Every Producer is Required to Maintain and Provide to Verified Beef:

1. Copy of Calving Records

*Appropriate records include, but are not limited to:*

  - Calving Book
  - Calendar / Journal / Notebook
  - Electronic Copy
  - Spreadsheet
  - Cow Management Software Report
  - VB Database
2. Record of the **first calf born** is the minimum requirement

### Recommendations to Producers:

1. Complete Chute Side Worksheets
  - a. Send a Copy to Verified Beef
2. Utilize the Verified Beef Database
3. Participate in Beef Quality Assurance Training
4. Provide Feedback to Verified Beef Through
  - a. Customer Surveys
  - b. Questions
  - c. Comments and Concerns



# Enrollment Form

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

**Ranch Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**Producer Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip)

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

BQA Number (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ USDA Premise ID (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

**Authorized Alternative Contacts (if different from above):**

1: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

2: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please tell us more about your ranching operation:**

*Check all that apply*

**This ranching operation consists of:**

Cow-calf:  Yearling:  Stocker:  Registered:

**Have Any of the Following Been Purchased:**

Cow/Calf Pairs:  Graft Calves:  Yearling/Feeders:

**Approximate Calving Season(s):** Start : \_\_\_\_\_ End: \_\_\_\_\_  
MM/DD/YY MM/DD/YY

**Calving information recorded:**

First Calf Born:  Individual DOB:  Bull Turnout Date:  AI Date:

**Records are Maintained Using:** Calving Book:  Calendar:  Spreadsheet:

Cow-Herd Management Software:  Other Record :

**The ranch has more than one individual operation:** Yes  No

*Please Contact Verified Beef Concerning Additional Operations*

**Are your cattle commingled with other herds:** Yes  No



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**Cattle Identification Methods:** (Use attachment to explain if necessary)

- Brand - Please draw brand(s) and location(s) (Ex. 42 in Quarter Circle on Left Rib)
  
- Visual Tags - Please provide color(s) used and description of numbering / lettering  
(Ex. Yellow Panel Tags with three digit number)
  
- Other – Please Describe (Ex. crop right ear)

## Verification Services Requested:

- 1) Age and Source:
- All services offered require Age and Source verification enrollment. Individual fees apply to each additional verification service provided:*
- 2 ) NHTC (No Hormone):       3) NE3 (Natural):       4) Grassfed:

## EID Tag Order Information:

*EID tags must be ordered in quantities of 25*

Number of Tags: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Needed: \_\_\_\_\_

Tag Applicator:       Number of Tag Applicators: \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Services:** 1) Carcass Data Collection:     2) Data Entry:

## Verified Beef Producer Agreement

I have read and understand all Verified Beef’s participation requirements. 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).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Producer Name (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Verified Beef Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# Pricing Schedule

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## Age and Source Verification (Includes EID Tag)

<100 head	\$5.00 per head
100 head	\$4.00 per head
125 head	\$3.75 per head
150 head	\$3.50 per head
175 head	\$3.25 per head
200 – 1000 head	\$3.00 per head
1000 – 2000 head	\$2.75 per head
2000+ head	\$2.50 per head

## NHTC (Non Hormone Treated Cattle)

Annual Enrollment Fee	\$1000 per ranch
Travel Expense for Audit	Varies with Location

## NE3 (Never Ever 3)

Annual Enrollment Fee	\$1000 per ranch
Travel Expense for Audit	Varies with Location

## Grassfed

Annual Enrollment Fee	\$1000 per ranch
Travel Expense for Audit	Varies with Location

## Stocker

Annual Enrollment Fee	\$1000 per stocker
Travel Expense for Audit	Varies with Location

Tag Applicator \$20.00

Tag Readers Please contact VB Office for current pricing

Shipping and Handling \$20.00 for most shipments



# Supplier Training Materials: Age and Source

209 S. 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Suite 3  
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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 to qualify for USDA compliance. 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 kept separate 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 (20 months for Japan).

***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 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 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:*** The identification of each ranching entity enrolled under the Verified Beef PVP by physical address. The premise is for internal use only by Verified Beef It is **not** the same as a USDA Premise ID. A USDA Premise ID is not required for enrollment in Verified Beef.

***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.*



# Supplier Training

## Materials: Age and Source

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### Verified Beef Policies and Procedures:

#### RFID Tags

- All cattle enrolled under the Verified Beef PVP must be tagged with RFID tags purchased from Verified Beef.
  - 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 Verified Beef administrator.
  - The producer should report unused or destroyed RFID tags to the Verified Beef Administrator.

#### 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
  - Birthing Book
  - Spreadsheet
  - Cow Herd Management Software
  - VB Database
- The producer is required to keep records for a minimum of *3 years*.
- A copy of the calving records must be submitted to Verified Beef.

#### 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 Verified Beef PVP compliance. Calving records will be inspected; RFID tag compliance will be evaluated; and the separation of individual birth groups reviewed. Producers who commingle with different birthing groups, will be required to provide proof of the individual identification between groups.

Age/source audits will be performed desk-side via a phone interview. On-site audits are only required for a *random 3%* of all age and source verification participants.

#### 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 21 months of age.
- Database for tracking Age and Source Verified cattle.
  - The database may also be used to maintain production records by the producers. The producer is responsible for the input of production records.
- Carcass data.



# 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. The Verified Beef PVP program consists of which of these?
  - a. Policies
  - b. Procedures
  - c. Management structures
  - d. Database
  - e. Customer-focused management approaches
  - f. Process improvement activities
  - g. All of the above
  
3. Which of the following are required for export verification?
  - a. Registered with an approved QSA/PVP program
  - b. Animals must be traceable back to original premise
  - c. Age at harvest must be less than 21 months for Japanese market
  - d. Must maintain birth records for 3 years as a cow-calf operator
  - e. All the above
  
4. To gain initial approval for age and source verification as a cow/calf supplier, you must be audited **on-site** by Verified Beef? Yes / No
  
5. You must have a USDA Premise number to participate in the Verified Beef age and source verification program? Yes / No
  
6. As an approved cow/calf supplier, you must allow random on-site audits by Verified Beef and/or USDA? Yes / No
  
7. Verified Beef requires the use of Verified Beef issued RFID tags to be used in its program? Yes / No
  
8. RFID tags can be inserted after the calf leaves the original premise to be considered export qualified? Yes / No
  
9. RFID tags are issued by Verified Beef by calving group and ranch identification? Yes / No
  
10. You can use Verified Beef RFID 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 be moved by the Verified Beef administrator.



# Age and Source Supplier Training Quiz

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11. The birth date used to identify calving group should be the latest birth date? Yes / No
12. If you have a diverse operation, you must be able to uniquely identify each group? Yes / No
13. Acceptable method to record birth records are?  
(circle all that apply)
- a. Calendar
  - b. Calving book
  - c. Electronic records (Spreadhseet, etc.)
  - d. Verified Beef database

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

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