

## Verified Beef Supplier Training Materials; Age and Source

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 location of origin and meet age restrictions.

***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):*** Is a 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):*** Is similar to PVP but is specific to a particular operation, such as a feedlot.

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

***Premise:*** Is 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 the USDA Premise ID. A USDA Premise ID is not required for enrollment in Verified Beef

***Birthing Group:*** The birthing group is used for the *Age Verification* of the cattle. The age of the birthing 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.*

## 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 birthing group
    - Unused tags may be transferred from one birthing group to another by the Verified Beef administrator.
  - The producer should report unused or destroyed RFID tags to the Verified Beef Administrator.

### Required Records

- Birthing 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
  - Birthing Book
  - Spreadsheet
  - Cow 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 inspected. 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 conversation or onsite. Onsite audits are only required for a *random 10%* of all age/source producers.

### Services Provided by Verified Beef:

- USDA compliant Age and Source Verification
- 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 & Source Supplier Training Quiz

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. Must be traceable back to original premise
  - c. Age must be less than 30 months (20 months for Japan)
  - d. Must maintain birth records for 3 years as a cow-calf operator?
  - e. All the above
  
4. To get initially approved as a cow/calf supplier; you must submit to an on-site audit by Verified Beef? Yes / No
  
5. You must have a USDA Premise number to participate in age and source programs? 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 birthing group and ranch identification? Yes / No



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10. You can use Verified Beef RFID tags with a different birthing 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 birth group in the database.
  - c. Request the tag be moved by the Verified Beef administrator.
11. The birth date used to identify birthing 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. Birthing books
  - c. Electronic records
  - d. Verified Beef database

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

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