



**AMERICAN**  **G** **GRASSFED**  **A** **SSOCIATION**

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## Grassfed Ruminant Standards

January 2009



## 1 Introduction

These standards apply to all farms and ranches approved by the American Grassfed Association (AGA) for the production of AGA Grassfed Ruminant market animals and products destined for certification by AGA. Only farms and ranches certified as following these standards may use AGA's American Grassfed Association ® logo, Association trademark, service mark and/or design mark hereafter referred to as AGA Design Mark.

## 2 Certification

### 2.1 Statement of Purpose; Applicability

The American Grassfed Association (AGA) family of logos and design marks were developed by the American Grassfed Association and trademarked to identify food and agriculture products, which meet the standards as set forth in the AGA Grassfed Ruminant Standards and certified through a program approved by the AGA. The logos and design marks have been trademarked by the U.S. Trademark and Patent office and may only be used by those who have an approved signed license agreement with the American Grassfed Association. The American Grassfed Association logos and design marks were established to provide a marketing program that adds value to food and agricultural products that meet the requirements set by the AGA membership and the Board of Directors. The requirements of the AGA Grassfed Ruminant Standards are set by the American Grassfed Associations members and it's Board of Directors and may be amended from time to time.

### 2.2 Statement of Use

The American Grassfed Association the trademark, service mark and /or design mark may be used on product packaging and promotional materials, including brochures, sales literature, advertising, banners, Web sites, point of purchase material, etc. When used, the logos must comply with these guidelines. If a company wishes to use the logos in a manner other than described in these guidelines, it must request and receive permission in writing from American Grassfed Association.

- i. A licensee may display the AGA Design Mark , which is a registered certification mark, on the products licensed.
- ii. Licensee must have an approved signed license agreement with the American Grassfed Association to use the trademark, service mark and /or design mark on any products.
- iii. Licensee may use the trademark, service mark and /or design mark on company stationery, promotional literature and wed sites only if AGA certifies licensee's entire product range.

## 2.3 Product Requirements

Raw, processed and non-processed ruminant products produced using the production requirements set forth in the AGA Grassfed Ruminant Standards and certified by such agency as set by the AGA board of directors.

## 2.4 Use of the American Grassfed Association Design Mark

### 2.4.1

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Applicants must certify on the application that all applicable AGA Grassfed Ruminant Standards are met.

### 2.4.2

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Applicants must be current members of the American Grassfed Association with all dues and fees paid while using the AGA design mark.

### 2.4.3

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The AGA or its approved certifying agency(s) may make unannounced site visits to applicant's farms or ranches to verify that all AGA Grassfed Ruminant Standards are met.

### 2.4.4

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Except as otherwise provided in this section, all requirements for membership in the American Grassfed Association shall apply to entities and individuals certified under this section

## 2.5 American Grassfed Design Mark

### 2.5.1

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You must reproduce the AGA Design Mark from original artwork. Please contact AGA for a copy of the Design Mark.

## 2.5.2

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- complete and upright
- in one color
- clearly visible
- at least 1/2 inch in diameter, and
- clear and legible over the whole of a background.
- on the main face of the label or packaging

## 2.5.3

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Any use of these logo's which is deemed a misrepresentation of the intended use by the American Grassfed Association may result in the suspension and/or prosecution of the license agreement.

## 2.5 Fees

Applicants shall submit an annual fee as set by the American Grassfed Association board of directors. A per head fee will also be assessed by the board for every animal marketed using the AGA design mark.

## 3 Grassfed Ruminant Standard

### 3.1 Forage Protocol

#### 3.1.1

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All livestock production must be pasture/grass/forage based.

#### 3.1.2

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Grass and forage shall be the feed source consumed for the lifetime of the ruminant animal, with the exception of milk consumed prior to weaning. The diet shall be derived solely from forage consisting of grass (annual and perennial), forbs (e.g. Legumes, Brassica), browse, or

cereal grain crops in the vegetative (pre-grain) state. Animals cannot be fed grain or grain byproducts (starch and protein sources) and must have continuous access to pasture.

### 3.1.3

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Forage is defined as any herbaceous plant material that can be grazed or harvested for feeding, with the exception of grain.

## **3.2 Grazing, Confinement and Supplementation**

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### 3.2.1

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All livestock produced under this standard must be on range, pasture, or in paddocks for their entire lives. This means that all animals must be maintained at all times on land with at least 75% forage cover or unbroken ground. The provisions of this section do not preclude commonly used grazing practices such as high-density/low-frequency or strip grazing, when large numbers of animals may graze growing forages in small paddocks for short periods of time.

### 3.2.2

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AGA grassfed ruminant animals must not be confined to a pen, feedlot or other area where forages or crops are not grown during the growing season.

### 3.2.3

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Livestock produced under this standard may be fed hay, haylage, baleage, silage, crop residue without grain, and other roughage sources while on pasture during periods of low forage quality or inclement weather.

### 3.2.4

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Consumption of seeds naturally attached to herbage, forage and browse is considered incidental and is acceptable.

### 3.2.5

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Exceptions to sections 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 are limited to emergencies that may threaten the safety and well being of the animals.

### 3.2.6

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AGA grassfed ruminant animals cannot be fed stock-piled forages in confinement for more than 30 days per calendar year.

### 3.2.7

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Approved mineral and vitamin supplements may be provided free choice to adjust the animal's nutrient intake and to correct deficiencies in its total diet.

### 3.2.8

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Incidental supplementation (i.e., less than one percent of the total energy consumed during the animal's lifetime) due to inadvertent exposure to non-forage feedstuffs or to ensure the animal's well being at all times during adverse environmental/physical conditions is permissible.

### 3.2.9

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Supplements must be approved in advance by AGA's nutritional supplements committee or be listed in the Approved Supplements List, see Appendix B. Supplements that have an adverse effect on the nutritional quality or have negative health benefits on the animals fed will not be allowed.

### 3.2.10

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A record of how much was given, when it was given and what was given must be kept for mineral blocks, salt licks or any other supplements provided.

### 3.2.11

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Receipts, ingredient lists and/or tear tags must be retained from any supplements provided.

### 3.2.12

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Feeding any of the banned feedstuffs listed in Appendix C to AGA Grassfed Ruminants is prohibited and will result in the loss of their AGA Grassfed status.

## **3.3 Animal Health and Welfare**

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### 3.3.1

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All livestock production methods used with AGA Grassfed Ruminant animals must support humane animal welfare, handling, transport and slaughter.

### 3.3.2

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The producer must develop and maintain a written record of all vaccines, medications or other substances used in their animal health care program

### 3.3.3

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AGA Grassfed Ruminant animals must not be fed or injected antibiotics

### 3.3.4

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Sick or injured animals must be treated to relieve their symptoms

### 3.3.5

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If prohibited medications are required for treatment the animal must be identified, tracked and records kept to demonstrate that it does not enter the AGA Grassfed Ruminant system. Provided the identification and tracking are adequate the animal may still be kept with other animals that do qualify for the AGA Grassfed Ruminant system.

### 3.3.6

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The producer must keep records of the purchase of any antibiotics purchased. Antibiotic receipts and injection records must be available on demand to the certifying agency

### 3.3.7

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No hormones of any type may be administered to AGA Grassfed Ruminant animals

### 3.3.8

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Livestock produced under these standards must not be fed any animal by-products at any time.

## **3.4 Animal Identification and Trace-Back**

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### 3.4.1

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AGA Certified Grassfed Ruminant animals must be traceable by written record throughout their entire life from birth to harvest to the farm or ranch from which they originated.

### 3.4.2

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Each producer must develop and maintain an Animal Identification system to uniquely identify each animal and allow 48-hour trace-back.

### 3.4.3

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Complete and up to date records must be maintained and specifically identify all animals raised and purchased that are sold or harvested as part of the AGA Grassfed Ruminant Program.

#### 3.4.4

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Complete and up to date records must be maintained to show the source of all purchased market animals brought onto farm or ranch. Records must document that the supplier of the purchased market animals raised them in accordance to AGA Grassfed Ruminant Standards. Only market animals one year of age or younger may be brought into the AGA Certified Grassfed program by affidavit.

Note: AGA Grassfed Supplier Affidavit, Appendix A, must be used for purchased animals after January 1, 2010. All market animals brought onto a farm or ranch for the AGA Certified Grassfed Program must come from audited suppliers beginning Jan. 1 2011.

#### 3.4.5

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Complete and up to date records must be maintained for all AGA market animals delivered for harvest. AGA Transfer of Livestock for Harvest documents are provided as a template.

#### 3.4.6

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All records are to be maintained for a minimum of 24 months after the animal is sold or harvested.

#### 3.4.7

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All required records must be in sufficient detail as to demonstrate compliance with AGA standards to the certifying agency.

### **3.5 Program Requirements**

#### 3.5.1

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The annual cost for AGA Certified Producer Member will be set by the Board of Directors at regularly scheduled Board meetings and will be set to cover the administrative cost to the Association. On Farm inspection cost will be borne by the individual member.

## **4 Standards Amendment Procedure**

### **4.1 Amendment Procedure**

#### 4.1.1

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The AGA recognizes that as new research becomes available on grassfed meat and milk products changes may be required to the AGA Grassfed Ruminant Program Standards and

Definitions. The following procedure will be followed for reviewing and amending AGA Grassfed Ruminant Program Standards and Definitions.

#### 4.1.2

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The review and amendment procedure shall be accomplished by a Standards Committee appointed by the President. Amendments will require a 2/3 majority vote of the entire Standards Committee.

#### 4.1.3.

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The Standards Committee will meet at least once per year to review and discuss new grassfed information and research. At this meeting the Committee will vote to send any recommended amendments to the full Board for approval. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the AGA annual conference.

#### 4.1.4

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The vote for amendment of the AGA Grassfed Ruminant Program Standards and Definitions shall require a majority vote of the entire Board of Directors.

#### 4.1.5

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The Board of Directors will set the amount of time members have to implement any adopted changes to the AGA Grassfed Ruminant Program Standards and Definitions.

## 5 Reference Documents

### 5.1 AGA Grassfed Supplier Affidavit

See Appendix A.

### 5.2 AGA Approved Supplements List

See Appendix B.

### 5.3 AGA Banned Feed Stuffs List

See Appendix C.

### 5.4 AGA Transfer of Livestock for Harvest

Currently under development.

## 6 AGA Grassfed Ruminant Standards Definitions

**Baleage or Round Bale Silage:** A practice that involves cutting the forage crop with conventional hay harvesting equipment, allowing the forage to wilt to between 30 and 60 percent dry matter, then baling it into tight bales and wrapping them immediately. Bales are wrapped mechanically using bale-wrapping equipment that tightly stretches several layers of plastic around the hay to exclude oxygen and allow proper ensiling. (5)

**Boot Stage:** The flag leaf is fully expanded, but the awns and grain head are not visible. The grain head can be felt in the flag leaf sheath. (4)

**Brassicac:** A Family of very productive annual forage vegetables used as transition crops between pasture renovations or as a supplemental feed source for extending the grazing season when other forages are less productive i.e., turnips, rape, and kale.

**Browse:** 1) Leaf and twig growth of shrubs, woody vines, trees, cacti, and other non-herbaceous vegetation available for animal consumption. 2) To browse; the consumption of browse in situ by animals. (6)

**Caryopsis:** A small, one-seeded, dry fruit with a thin pericarp surrounding and adhering to the seed; the seed (grain) or fruit of grasses. (6)

**Concentrate:** All feed, low in fiber and high in total digestible nutrients, that supplies primary nutrients (protein, carbohydrate, and fat); for example, grains, cottonseed meal, wheat bran. (6)

**Crop Residue:** Portion of plants remaining after fruit and/or seed harvest, said mainly of grain crops such as corn stover or of small grain straw and stubble. (6)

**Diet:** The feed regularly offered to/or consumed by an animal. (6)

**Dough Stage:** The kernel is filled with starch and is well formed. There is no milky fluid, only a rubbery, dough-like substance. (4)

**Dormancy:** In a state of being dormant when no active growth is occurring. (7)

**Ensilage:** The same as silage. (2)

**Ensiled:** Having been subjected to anaerobic fermentation to form silage. (2)

**Feedstuff:** 1) n. any of the constituent nutrients of an animal ration. (7)

**Fermentation:** Chemical changes brought about by enzymes produced by various microorganisms. (2)

**Forb:** Any herbaceous broadleaf plant that is not a grass and is not grass-like. (6)

**Fruit:** 1) n. The usually edible reproductive body of a seed plant in particular, one having a sweet pulp associated with the seed. 2) n. A product of fertilization in a plant with its modified envelopes or appendages, in specific the ripened ovary of a seed plant and its contents. (7)

**Grain:** 1) n. A single small hard seed: a seed or fruit of a cereal grass: caryopsis. (2) n. the seeds or fruits of various food plants including the cereal grasses and in commercial and statutory usage other plants (as the soybean): plants producing grain. (7)

**Grain by-products:** Feedstuff products derived from grains. I.e.- corn gluten pellets, dried distillers grains, wheat shorts, etc. (1)

**Grass:** Member of the plant Family *Poaceae*. (6)

**Green chop:** Forage harvested and fed in the green, chopped form, generally without seed. (2)

**Growing Forage:** Forage plants that aren't in the dormant (non-growing) state and thus are actively developing stem, leaf, and/or reproductive tissues for growth. (1)

**Glucose:** A hexose monosaccharide obtained upon the hydrolysis of starch and certain other carbohydrates. Also called dextrose. (2)

**Hay:** The aerial parts of forage crops stored in the dry form for animal feeding. (2)

**Haylage:** Haylage is the feed produced by storing in an airtight silo a forage crop which has been dried to a moisture level of about 45-55%. (2)

**Herbage:** 1.) The biomass of herbaceous plants, other than separated grain, generally above ground but including edible roots and tubers. (6) 2.) n. Green plants especially when used or fit for grazing. (7)

**Hydrolysis:** The splitting of a substance into the smaller units by its chemical reaction with water. (2)

**Inflorescence:** 1) n. A floral axis with its appendages. 2) n. a flower cluster of which there are at least 9 recognized types. (7)

**Kernel:** A mature ovule of a grass plant that has the ovary wall fused to it. Same as caryopsis.(6)

**Legumes:** members or the *Fabaceae* plant family (formerly known as the *Leguminosae* family). Legumes are dicots (produce two seed leaves), produce seed in a pod, have netted leaf venation, and usually have a taproot type of root system. Most legumes have the ability to interact with bacteria of the genus *Rhizobium* to fix nitrogen in nodules on their roots. Legumes may have one of four different types of seedheads. These seedhead types are the raceme, the spike, the head or umbel. (5)

**Meadow:** Area covered with grasses and/or legumes, often native to the area, grown primarily for hay but with secondary grazing potential. (6)

**Milk Stage:** In grain (seed), the stage of development following pollination in which the endosperm appears as whitish liquid that is somewhat like milk. (6)

**Mineral:** 1) n. a solid homogeneous crystalline chemical element or compound that results from the inorganic processes of nature. 2) n. Any of the various naturally occurring homogeneous substances obtained usually from the ground. 3) n. a synthetic substance having the chemical composition and crystalline form and properties of a naturally occurring mineral. (7)

**Native Pasture:** Native vegetation (predominantly herbaceous) used for grazing in untilled areas. The term tame or introduced is used instead of native for pastures that include mainly nonnative species. (6)

**Paddock:** A grazing area that is a subdivision of a grazing management unit and is enclosed and separated from other areas by a fence or barrier. (6)

**Pasture:** 1) n. Forages which are harvested by grazing animals. 2) n. An area of land with 75% forage cover or unbroken land on which livestock may graze at will.

**Pastureland:** Land devoted to the production of indigenous or introduced forage for harvest primarily by grazing. Pastureland generally must be managed to arrest succession processes. (6)

**Pericarp:** The ripened and variously modified walls of a plant ovary, especially those contributing the outer layer in a cereal caryopsis. (6)

**Prairie:** Nearly level or rolling grassland that was originally treeless; usually characterized by fertile soil. (6)

**Range:** Land supporting indigenous vegetation that is grazed or that has the potential to be grazed and is managed as a natural ecosystem. Includes grazeable forestland and rangeland. (6)

**Rangeland:** land on which the indigenous vegetation (climax or natural potential) is predominantly grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs suitable for grazing or browsing use and is managed as a natural ecosystem. If plants are introduced, they are managed as indigenous species. Rangelands include natural grasslands, savannas, shrublands, most deserts, tundra, alpine communities, coastal marshland, and wetland meadows. (6)

**Ration:** the total amount of feed (diet) allotted to one animal for a 24-hour period. (6)

**Residue:** that which remains of any particular substance. (2)

**Roughage:** Any feed high (over about 20%) in crude fiber and low (under about 60%) in total digestible nutrients, on an air-dry basis. Opposite of concentrate. (2)

**Seed:** 1) n. Ripened mature ovule consisting of an embryo, a seedcoat, and a supply of food that, in some species is stored in the endosperm. 2) v. To sow, as to broadcast or drill small-seeded grasses, legumes, or other crops. (6)

**Seedhead:** See inflorescence.

**Separated Grain:** Grain that is detached from cereal crop plants.

**Silage:** “The feed resulting from the storage and fermentation of green or wet crops under anaerobic conditions.’ ‘Normally contains only about 25-35% dry matter (DM). Practically any crop may be made into silage, provided it contains an appropriate level of moisture, adequate amounts of readily fermentable carbohydrates, and adequate levels of other nutrients, and provided it can be sufficiently packed.’ ‘The most commonly used silage crops are: corn, forage and grain sorghum, small grains and hay crop.’ ‘Most crops to be used for silage are permitted to mature or field dry to a moisture level of 65-75% (25-35% DM). For corn this is about the early dent stage of maturity and for grain sorghum the late dough stage at the earliest. This is when the moisture level is about right for good silage formation.” (2)

**Starch:** A polysaccharide having the formula  $(C_6H_{10}O_5)_n$ . Many plants store energy in the form of starch. Starch is a major component of most livestock rations (especially fattening rations) and is highly digestible. Yields glucose upon complete hydrolysis. (2)

**Stockpiled Forage:** Forage that has been allowed to accumulate on a pasture or paddock for grazing at a later period. Forage is often stockpiled for autumn and winter grazing after or during dormancy or semi-dormancy, but stockpiling may occur at any time during the year as a part of a forage management plan. Stockpiling can be described in terms of deferment and forage accumulation. (6)

**Stover:** The matured cured stalks of such crops as corn or sorghum from which the grain has been removed. A type of roughage. (6)

**Stubble:** The basal portion of the stems of herbaceous plants left standing after harvest. (6)

**Supplement:** A nutritional additive (salt, protein, phosphorus, etc.) intended to improve the nutritional balance and remedy deficiencies of the diet. (6)

**Supplemental Feeding:** The practice of supplying feedstuffs to correct nutritional deficiencies in an animal’s “natural” diet.

**Vegetative:** Non-reproductive plant parts, (leaf and stem) in contrast to reproductive plant parts (flower and seed) in developmental stages of plant growth. The non-reproductive stage in plant development. (6)

**Vegetative State:** Stage prior to the appearance of fruiting structures. (6)

**Vitamin:** 1) n. Any of various organic substances that are essential in minute quantities to the nutrition of most animals and some plants that act especially as coenzymes and precursors of coenzymes in the regulation of metabolic processes

## 6.1 REFERENCES

- (1). AGA Certified Ruminant Standards Livestock Program, 2006
- (2). Feeds and Feeding; Arthur E. Cullison, 1979
- (3). Cow-Calf Management Guide, Cattle Producer's Library; Ag Communications Center, University of Idaho,  
  
The Fermentation Process and Silage Troubleshooting, Small Grain Silage for Beef Cattle, Haylage, Corn Silage
- (4). A Guide to Cereal Forage for Profitable Dairy Management; RSI, Resource Seeds, Inc. 1998
- (5). Ball, D.M., C.S. Hoveland, and G.D. Lacefield. 2002. P. 1-321. Southern Forages, Modern Concepts for Forage Crop Management 3rd. ed. Potash & Phosphate Institute (PPI) Norcross, GA
- (6). Barnes, R.F., D.A. Miller, and C.J. Nelson. 1995. Glossary. P.487-501. In R. F. Barnes, D.A. Miller, and C. J. Nelson (ed.) Forages, Vol. I, An Introduction to Grassland Agriculture, 5th. ed. Iowa State University Press, Ames, IA.
- (7). Meriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary. Tenth Edition is an excellent source for important words, including but not limited to: Browse, cereal, crop, dicot, forage, forb, grain, grass, graze, grassland, herb, herbage, herbaceous, monocot, pasture, range, rangeland, seed, silage, etc.

**Appendix A**

**American Grassfed Association**

AGA Grassfed Supplier Affidavit

To be filled out by each supplier of animals to farms/ranches that are applying for AGA Certified Grassfed

Supplier Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm / Ranch name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_; State: \_\_\_\_\_; Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_; Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_; Website: \_\_\_\_\_

AGA Producer Name: \_\_\_\_\_; AGA Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Farm / Ranch name: \_\_\_\_\_

As a supplier of animals to an AGA producer, this letter serves as documentation that all animals provided to the above AGA producer have been raised in accordance to the AGA Grassfed Ruminant Program Standards. I acknowledge that I have read and understand the AGA Grassfed Ruminant Standards and that these animals listed below comply with said standards.

Animal Delivery or Transfer Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal Ear Tag # Or Brand	Livestock species	Sex	Breed	Color Description

Number of Animals Delivered or Transferred: \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that all statements made herein are true to the best of my knowledge.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_; Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Appendix B

### American Grassfed Association

#### AGA Approved Supplements List

The following list of approved supplements is not an exclusive list but lists supplements that have been approved by the AGA to date. The AGA Certification Committee may review and amend this list periodically. **Supplements not listed below must be approved in advance by AGA's nutritional supplements. Supplements that have an adverse effect on the nutritional quality or have negative health benefits on the animals fed will not be allowed.**

Any roughage product defined as:

**Roughage:** Any feed high (over 20%) in crude fiber and low (under 60%) in total digestible nutrients, on an air-dry basis.

Cottonseed Hulls or Cottonseed Hull Pellets

Peanut Hulls or Peanut Hull Pellets

Rice Hulls Rice Hull Pellets

Alfalfa Cubes or Pellets (17% Protein)

Corn Cobs

Oat Hulls or Oat Hull Pellets

Oat Silage (dough stage)

Corn silage (no grain)

## Appendix C

### American Grassfed Association

#### AGA Banned Feedstuffs List

The following list of banned feedstuffs is not an exclusive list. The AGA Certification Committee may review and amend this list periodically.

Corn

Cereal Grains

Grain By-Products (starch and protein sources)

Urea and other non-protein nitrogen sources

Milk replacer containing antibiotics, growth promoters and/or any animal by-products aside from milk protein

Animal by-products

Antibiotics

Hormones



## **Animal Welfare Approved Standards for Beef Cattle and Calves**

Farmers in this program will be distinguished by a humane and conscientious attitude toward the animals in their care as well as by housing and husbandry that meet the *Animal Welfare Approved* standards.

Farmers in the program agree to a minimum of one visit a year from *Animal Welfare Approved* staff or agents, with the possibility of additional visits if deemed necessary, to confirm compliance with the standards during various seasons and to allow observation of animals in different phases of life. Participation in the program is on an annual basis and must be renewed each year.

The premise of the *Animal Welfare Approved* standards is that animals must be allowed to behave naturally. The following standards allow cattle and calves the opportunity to perform natural and instinctive behaviors essential to their health and well-being. Provisions are made to ensure social interaction, comfort, and physical and psychological well-being.

The *Animal Welfare Approved* program is voluntary. The standards do not supersede national government or state legislation.

*Animal Welfare Approved* recommends that farmers have the *Guide to Understanding Our Standards* and *Standards and Program Definitions* documents at hand while reading these standards.

### **1.0 OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION**

1.0.1 Each farm must be a working independent family farm, that is, one on which a family or individual:

1.0.1.1 Owns the animals.

1.0.1.2 Is engaged in the day to day management of the farm and its animals.

1.0.1.3 Derives a share of his/her/their livelihood.

1.0.1.4 Produces a livestock product for sale or trade.

1.0.2 The family or individual may participate in networks, co-operatives or marketing groups as long as each member is audited as meeting all other requirements listed in these standards.

1.0.3 Exceptions to the family farm requirement may be permitted for farms that serve an educational purpose or demonstrate exceptionally high animal welfare.

1.0.4 The family or individual must employ the *Animal Welfare Approved Standards* for all the animals of the species for which they are seeking approval. Farmers must not use "split" or "dual" systems, in which some animals of one species are simultaneously kept in systems that do as well as systems that do not meet *Animal Welfare Approved Standards*.

*Note: A farm is not required to seek approval for all species on the farm simultaneously.*

## **2.0 BREEDS AND ORIGIN OF ANIMALS**

2.0.1 Animals who have undergone genetic selection to the point that their welfare is negatively affected are prohibited.

2.0.2 Animals must be chosen with consideration of their ability to thrive in the prevailing climatic conditions of the farm, in pasture-based, free range, outdoor systems.

2.0.3 Cloned or genetically engineered animals, breeding stock or semen are prohibited.

2.0.4 The farmer must ensure that any breeding animal brought onto the farm is suitable for the *Animal Welfare Approved* program.

2.0.5 A record of the source, date of purchase and number of breeding animals must be kept.

2.0.6 Farmers should develop a breeding plan to produce their own replacement stock.

2.0.7 Any farm or ranch which rescues or rehabilitates animals must contact the *Animal Welfare Approved* office as soon as practically possible and preferably before rescue animals arrive on farm.

### **2.1 The beef breeding herd**

2.1.1 Artificial insemination is permitted.

2.1.2 Not allocated.

2.1.3 The ability to successfully give birth independently must be taken into account in modifications over time to herd genetics.

*Note: In order to score this standard the auditor will assess the number of assisted births.*

2.1.4 Embryo transfer and knowingly using the progeny of animals produced by embryo transfer is prohibited.

2.1.5 In breeding programs, attention must be paid to breed characteristics that will improve welfare such as susceptibility to lameness, and longevity.

2.1.6 Selection for double-muscled animals that require routine caesarean sections or assistance at calving is prohibited.

## **2.2 Not allocated**

## **2.3 Animals raised for meat**

2.3.1 Feeder or store animals must only be obtained from *Animal Welfare Approved* farms.

## **3.0 HEALTH MANAGEMENT**

Health and management planning increases both positive welfare and productivity.

3.0.1 Animal management must be focused on promoting health rather than treating disease.

3.0.2 Each farmer in the *Animal Welfare Approved* program must establish contact with a qualified expert such as a veterinarian. The qualified expert must be familiar with:

3.0.2.1 The animals on the farm.

3.0.2.2 The health requirements of the state.

3.0.2.3 Methods to maximize animal health and welfare.

3.0.3 Each farmer should schedule regular preventative care visits by a qualified expert.

*Note: The Animal Welfare Approved program will provide support and assistance in achieving this standard.*

3.0.4 A health plan emphasizing prevention of illness or injury must be prepared in consultation with the farm's qualified expert advisor to promote positive health and limit the need for treatment. It must address:

3.0.4.1 Avoidance of physical, nutritional or environmental stress.

3.0.4.2 Lameness.

3.0.4.3 Climatic considerations.

3.0.4.4 Vaccinations and other methods to cope with prevailing disease challenges.

3.0.4.5 Biosecurity measures.

- 3.0.4.6 Nutrition.
- 3.0.4.7 Environmental impacts, including manure management and run-off.
- 3.0.4.8 Pasture management.
- 3.0.4.9 Exclusion of predators and control of rats and mice.
- 3.0.4.10 Euthanasia.
- 3.0.4.11 Mastitis.
- 3.0.4.12 Johne's disease.

3.0.5 Any surgical procedure not covered by these standards must be carried out by a veterinarian.

3.0.6 All animals must be thoroughly inspected at least once per 24 hours.

*Note: During this inspection, the welfare of each animal must be observed. If any animal is not in a state of well-being, it must be cared for immediately and corrective measures must be taken. During a time of increased risk to health and welfare, inspections must be increased as necessary to protect the animal's well-being.*

*Derogation may be granted for operations that can show, in extensive systems, welfare would not be compromised by fewer inspections.*

3.0.7 Not allocated.

3.0.8 If there is disease or known risk of disease on farm vaccines must be used.

*Note: In order to help eliminate or reduce vulnerability to disease and the need for antibiotics at therapeutic levels, Animal Welfare Approved encourages the appropriate use of vaccines on an individual or group basis for prevention of disease.*

3.0.9 Any sick or injured animals on the farm must be treated immediately to minimize pain and distress. This must include veterinary treatment if required.

3.0.9.1 Homeopathic, herbal or other non-antibiotic alternative treatments are preferred.

3.0.9.2 If alternative treatments are not suitable or not effective or if a veterinarian has recommended antibiotic treatment, this must be administered.

3.0.9.3 Withholding treatment in order to preserve an animal's eligibility for market is prohibited.

*Note: Finding untreated injured or ill animals may be grounds for removal from the program.*

3.0.10 Animals treated with an antibiotic must not be slaughtered for the *Animal Welfare Approved* program for a period of time that is at least twice the licensed withdrawal period of the antibiotic used.

3.0.11 Action must be taken to treat lameness and to remove any causes of lameness.

3.0.12 There must be provision of a safe place for sick or injured animals to recover, free of competition.

3.0.13 If injured animals are separated from the herd they must only be kept apart until such time they can rejoin other cattle without adversely affecting either the health or welfare of the individual or the herd.

3.0.14 The sub-therapeutic and/or non-therapeutic use of antibiotics, or any other medicines, to control or prevent disease or promote growth, is prohibited.

3.0.15 Growth hormones or the use of any other substances promoting weight gain are prohibited.

3.0.16 Records must be kept of the administration of veterinary medical products.

3.0.16.1 Date of purchase.

3.0.16.2 Name of product.

3.0.16.3 Quantity purchased.

3.0.16.4 Identity of the animals treated.

3.0.16.5 Reason why animals were treated.

3.0.16.6 Number of animals treated.

3.0.16.7 Date when treatment started and finished.

3.0.17 The primary methods of preventing parasite infestations must be pasture management or rotation and bedding management and removal.

3.0.18 If prevention has not been effective, medicine regimens must be implemented to effectively control worms, lice, mange and any other parasites.

3.0.19 The use of organophosphates is prohibited.

*Note: An exception to the standard above may be considered if other treatments have been shown to be ineffective. Please refer to the Animal Welfare Approved paper on organophosphate and non-organophosphate products.*

### **3.1 Health management for beef cattle**

3.1.1 Routine use of substances to induce estrus (heat) is prohibited.

3.1.2 Not allocated.

3.1.3 Regular hoof care must be carried out by a competent person.

### **3.2 Temporary separation**

3.2.1 Animals must not be kept in isolation unless briefly required for veterinary procedures or to recover from an illness or injury.

3.2.2 The primary enclosure for temporarily single-housed animals must be of such a size to allow the animals to comfortably turn around, stand up and lie down fully without touching the enclosure.

*Note: See the specified space allowances in section 8.1.*

3.2.3 Temporarily single-housed animals should have visual and auditory contact with others.

3.2.4 At minimum, pens used for the treatment of sick animals must be cleaned between each use.

### **3.3 Euthanasia**

3.3.1 Animals experiencing pain or suffering from which they are unlikely to recover must be immediately and humanely euthanized on the farm.

3.3.2 Euthanasia must be carried out in a manner that renders the animal immediately insensible to pain.

*Note: Please contact Animal Welfare Approved if further information on appropriate methods of euthanasia is required.*

3.3.3 Euthanizing animals in a way that causes unnecessary pain or suffering is prohibited. Prohibited methods include:

3.3.3.1 Electrocutation.

3.3.3.2 Suffocation.

3.3.3.3 Exsanguination without prior unconsciousness.

3.3.3.4 Blow to the head by blunt instrument.

3.3.4 Not allocated.

3.3.5 When local or national authorities order the killing of a herd or flock or if any large-scale euthanasia is about to take place to eradicate disease, the *Animal*

*Welfare Approved* program must be notified immediately. Such an event must be supervised by a veterinarian, government authority, livestock expert and/or official representative of the *Animal Welfare Approved* program, to ensure that the proper euthanasia protocol and humane handling procedures are being followed.

#### **4.0 EMERGENCIES**

4.0.1 A plan to care for or house animals in emergency situations must be prepared and be understood by all of those working on the farm.

4.0.1.1 The plan must consider the welfare of the animals during a fire. In shelters or housing with restricted access (a single door or doorways), a fire plan must be established with escape routes to the outdoors, available from the interior of the shelter, to allow all animals to be evacuated quickly. In shelters or housing with restricted access, a method to extinguish the fire (fire extinguisher, water source) must be readily accessed. Animals must be kept from direct access to electrical wiring and heat sources as a fire prevention measure.

4.0.1.2 The plan must ensure welfare of the animals is maintained in any potential climatic extreme such as floods, snow storms, or drought.

4.0.1.3 The plan must ensure welfare of the animals is maintained during any potential disruption of services or mechanical breakdown, such as water supply cutoff and breakdown of feeding or ventilation machinery.

4.0.1.4 The plan must ensure the welfare of animals is maintained during transport to include actions to be taken in the event of an accident or vehicle breakdown.

#### **5.0 ANIMAL MANAGEMENT**

5.0.1 Records must be kept of the purchase, sale or transfer of *Animal Welfare Approved* animals and products (e.g. hides, meat etc).

*Note: For animals to be sold with the Animal Welfare Approved label or logo records must show that they have been slaughtered at Animal Welfare Approved slaughter plants. Animal Welfare Approved recommends that even if animals or animal products are not sold under the label or logo they are sold to other Animal Welfare Approved farms and slaughtered at Animal Welfare Approved slaughter plants.*

5.0.2 Records must be kept of mortalities and morbidity including cause where known.

5.0.3 Records must be kept of the number and reasons for animals being culled.

5.0.4 All classes of animals must be kept in stable groups; mixing animals from different groups should be avoided.

5.0.5 Special care must be taken when mixing breeding males to socialize them to one another as safely as possible and to minimize harm to individuals.

5.0.6 All groups of animals must be age, size, and behaviorally sorted to ensure the welfare of less dominant animals.

5.0.7 All facilities, equipment, fittings and pasture used by the animals must be free of debris.

5.0.8 All facilities, equipment, fittings, fencing and pasture areas must be designed and maintained in such a way that they do not pose a risk, or inflict injury or damage to the animals.

## **5.1 Management of beef cattle**

5.1.1 Animals must be maintained at body score 4 or above on a 1-9 scale or body score 2 or above on a 1-5 scale.

5.1.2 Breeding animals must not exceed body score 7 on a 1-9 scale or body score 4 on a 1-5 scale.

5.1.3 A competent person must be available at birthing time to assist if problems are anticipated at delivery.

5.1.4 Heifers must not calve before the age of two years.

*Note: Heifers may reach puberty before the optimal age of first service. Bulls must be managed carefully within the cow-calf operation to ensure heifers are not accidentally served too young.*

5.1.5 to 5.1.7 Not allocated.

5.1.8 Calving should take place outside on pasture when weather conditions permit.

5.1.9 A clean environment with sufficient space must be provided for calving. Bedding must be provided if calving does not take place on non-denuded pasture.

*Note: See the specified space allowances in section 8.1.*

## **5.2 Provisions for calves**

5.2.1 Calves must be provided with colostrum within the first six hours of birth.

5.2.2 Farmers should test for Johne's disease.

5.2.3 Colostrum and milk for calves must not knowingly come from cows that are Johne's positive.

5.2.4 to 5.2.5 Not allocated.

5.2.6 Calves should be reared by their mothers.

5.2.7 Orphan calves should be fostered onto other cows.

5.2.8 If foster cows are used the number of calves must be adjusted to the amount of milk the cow can produce and the number of foster calves she will accept.

5.2.9 Foster mothers must not become debilitated by nursing.

5.2.10 Sick or injured cows must not be used as foster mothers.

5.2.11 to 5.2.12 Not allocated.

5.2.13 Calves may be reared as part of a group. Calves living in groups must be fed milk or milk replacer no less than twice a day.

5.2.14 Milk replacer containing antibiotics, growth promoters and/or any animal by-products aside from milk protein is prohibited.

*Note: If the welfare of a calf could be compromised and evidence can be submitted that suitable products are not available, a derogation is in operation to allow milk replacers which do not meet the standard above.*

5.2.15 All nipples and other feeding equipment must be cleaned regularly.

5.2.16 If feeders are used there must never be more calves in the pen than nipples on the feeder unless *ad lib* self feeding is provided.

5.2.17 Raising individual calves in isolation is prohibited.

5.2.18 Provision must be made for calves to go outside and graze in season.

5.2.19 All calves must have continuous access to high quality fresh forage from seven days of age onwards.

*Note: Access is recommended from day one.*

5.2.20 Not allocated.

5.2.21 Tethering of individual calves is prohibited.

### **5.3 Weaning and separation**

5.3.1 Husbandry systems that allow young stock to remain in the herd with their mothers until weaning occurs naturally are recommended.

5.3.2 Not allocated.

5.3.3 Newly weaned or separated calves should be kept in groups of familiar animals.

5.3.4 Not allocated.

5.3.5 Separation of the calf from the cow must involve methods designed to cause as little stress as possible.

5.3.5.1 Use of a two-stage separation process is recommended.

5.3.6 After separation cows and calves must either be kept in adjacent pens where they can see, hear and sniff/lick each other or be completely out of sight and hearing of each other.

5.3.7 Feed for calves should be replaced daily to ensure that it is clean and appealing.

5.3.8 to 5.3.10 Not allocated.

5.3.11 Weaning calves at less than six months of age is prohibited (see 5.3.12).

5.3.12 The average weaning age of calves in the herd must be eight months.

5.3.13 to 5.3.15 Not allocated.

5.3.16 In exceptional circumstances when the health and welfare of the calf or the cow would otherwise be compromised, calves may be weaned before six months of age. A record must be kept of how many calves and the reasons for this early weaning.

#### **5.4, 5.5, 5.6 & 5.7 Not allocated**

#### **5.8 Castration**

5.8.1 Not allocated.

5.8.2 Calves may be castrated. The procedure must be carried out by a competent person.

5.8.3 Not allocated.

5.8.4 Physical castration using rubber rings, scalpel or emasculators (burdizzo) are the only acceptable methods (see also 5.8.5 and 5.8.6).

*Note: Immunocastration and other forms of chemical (synthetic or natural) castration or testosterone production limiting methods are prohibited.*

5.8.5 Castration using rubber bands or rings is prohibited for calves over one week of age.

5.8.6 Castration using scalpel or burdizzo is prohibited for calves over two months of age.

*Note: We understand that extensive beef operations may have difficulty with this standard. Such operations should contact the Animal Welfare Approved office for guidance.*

## **5.9 Physical alteration of beef cattle**

5.9.1 to 5.9.2 Not allocated.

5.9.3 Tail docking is prohibited.

5.9.4 Dehorning is prohibited. Horns may be tipped as long as the living tissue inside the horn is not being cut.

5.9.5 Not allocated.

5.9.6 Spaying of heifers is prohibited.

5.9.7 Disbudding of calves after two months of age is prohibited.

5.9.8 Calves, two months or younger, may be disbudded using hot iron cauterization by a person who is proficient in the process. Hot iron cauterization must be preceded by administration of appropriate anesthetic and sedation.

*Note: Derogation to this standard will only be granted if the farmer can show that they cannot legally obtain sedatives and local anesthetics.*

5.9.9 Caustic paste may be used to disbud calves who are no older than seven days. The paste must be applied by a person who is proficient in the process.

*Note: Great care must be taken in applying the paste: hair around the horn bud must be clipped, paste must be applied only to the horn bud and rubbed in well, and petroleum jelly must be applied in a ring around the horn bud to prevent the paste running. It is not recommended to carry out this procedure in wet conditions.*

5.9.10 to 5.9.12 Not allocated.

5.9.13 Choosing polled breeds, which avoids the need to disbud animals, is recommended.

## **5.10 Identification**

5.10.1 Where identification is required it must not cause harm to the animal.

5.10.1.1 The preferred method for permanent identification is Sub-Cutaneous Radio Frequency Identification.

5.10.1.2 The preferred method of temporary identification is non-toxic paints or dyes.

5.10.1.3 Ear tagging and tattooing are permitted methods of identification.

5.10.2 Ear-marking by cutting/notching the ears with a knife or cutting of dewlaps is prohibited.

5.10.3 Hot branding and freeze branding are prohibited.

*Note: Flank or rump branding may be carried out when required by state law or by financial institutions or breed societies. If both hot iron and freeze branding are permitted, freeze branding must be used when practical. Please contact the Animal Welfare Approved office to discuss any requirement to brand.*

## **6.0 FOOD AND WATER**

6.0.1 Animals must have free access to clean, fresh water at all times.

6.0.2 Animals must have a feeding plan that will guarantee a varied, well-balanced and wholesome nutritional regime appropriate for their age.

6.0.3 A list of ingredients or sample tear tags from all feed, feed blocks and mineral blocks used on farm must be made available to the *Animal Welfare Approved* representative.

6.0.4 Food and water must be distributed in a way that eliminates competition.

6.0.5 Feeding meat or animal by-products is prohibited.

6.0.6 Wherever possible, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or derivatives of GMOs, including GMO feed and veterinary and health care products containing GMOs or their derivatives as well as the growing of genetically engineered crops must be avoided.

### **6.1 Food and water for beef cattle**

6.1.1 A significant and consistent roughage component must be provided in the diet through all stages of an animal's life to ensure proper rumen function. The minimum requirement is 70 percent long fiber roughage/forage on a daily dry matter basis from weaning onwards.

*Note: There are additional requirements for farmers seeking grass fed certification.*

6.1.2 Not allocated.

6.1.3 Any changes in diet must be carried out gradually to minimize rumen problems.

6.1.4 The pasture management plan and nutritional regime must take into account the added nutritional requirements of lactating cattle (see also 7.0.7 and 6.0.2).

6.1.5 Feedlots and other types of confinement feeding operations are prohibited.

## **7.0 PASTURE ACCESS**

The aim of good pasture management is to satisfy the herd's food-seeking behaviors. Animals must be able to explore the ground and their natural environment.

For management of cattle in extreme weather please see sections 7.5 and 8.0.

7.0.1 Continuous outdoor pasture access is required for all animals.

7.0.2 to 7.0.3 Not allocated.

7.0.4 Range areas should be used in rotation. Both extensive and rotational grazing systems are permitted.

7.0.5 The amount of outdoor area must be such that the health of the animals and pasture quality is maintained.

7.0.6 Animals must have access to pasture areas that are well drained and clean.

7.0.7 A pasture management plan must be in place that addresses the specific farm site. It must ensure that:

- 7.0.7.1 The nutritional requirements of the animals can be adequately met through grazing and appropriate supplementation.
- 7.0.7.2 Not allocated.
- 7.0.7.3 The composition of the pastures does not create health problems for the animals.
- 7.0.7.4 Ruminants are able to graze fresh, clean pasture that has not become polluted with manure.
- 7.0.7.5 Pasture areas are not subject to erosion by the activities of the animals.
- 7.0.7.6 Pastures are not degraded by overgrazing and other management techniques.
- 7.0.7.7 Appropriate paddock size and grazing frequency is assured.
- 7.0.7.8 The location of water, shelter, and feeding areas is addressed.
- 7.0.7.9 Non-point pollution and other local environmental standards are being met.

7.0.7.10 Pasture areas on which animals have been out-wintered or that are otherwise worn out or denuded are restored.

7.0.8 Periodic soil testing must be conducted as necessary.

7.0.9 Periodic testing of pasture or forage nutritional content is recommended (see also 6.0.2).

7.0.10 Herbicides and pesticides may only be used when weeds or pests cannot be practically controlled by other means.

7.0.11 Herbicides and pesticides must be mixed and disposed of according to manufacturer's instructions to avoid environmental contamination.

7.0.12 Animals must not be grazed or kept on land within 21 days of direct application of herbicides or pesticides.

## **7.1 Pasture for beef cattle and calves**

7.1.1 Pasture area must be provided such that the activity of the animals does not lead to more than 20% of the pasture being denuded.

7.1.2 Cattle and pastures must be managed to avoid the risk of bloat.

## **7.2, 7.3 & 7.4 Not allocated**

## **7.5 Exclusion from pasture**

Animals who have been properly selected for the specific climate conditions will voluntarily choose to go outdoors in all but the most extreme weather. However when exclusion is in the best interest of the animal the standards in the following section and those in section 8 must be met.

7.5.1 Animals may only be removed from pasture and housed in an emergency situation or extreme weather conditions, when their welfare would otherwise be affected.

7.5.2 Animals may only be housed with no management plan and no pasture access for up to 28 days in an emergency situation.

7.5.3 If local climatic conditions mean that animals are likely to be housed with no access to pasture for more than 28 days, the farmer must have a plan for their management that applies from day one of housing. It must include:

7.5.3.1 Triggers for housing such as temperature, precipitation or soil condition.

7.5.3.2 Space available to each housed animal.

7.5.3.3 Facilities available to house the animals. These must include laying areas, loafing areas, feeding areas and space to enable animals to fulfill their behavioral needs.

7.5.3.4 Triggers for animals to be returned to pasture.

*Note: It is not acceptable to use a particular date during the year as a trigger for either housing or return to pasture. Triggers should relate to the identified risk to the welfare of the animals under particular climatic or environmental scenarios.*

## **8.0 HOUSING AND SHELTER**

Shelter may be provided by natural features such as shade, trees, or by buildings. Housing may also be used as shelter.

8.0.1 In climatic regions where their welfare may be negatively impacted, animals must have continuous access as required to housing or shelter that protects them from weather extremes, including high winds, sleet and heavy snows, and sun.

8.0.2 Not allocated.

8.0.3 When housing or shelter is required there must be space such that all animals can enter, move around and lie down respecting the social hierarchy of the herd (see also 8.1.1).

8.0.4 In extreme weather there must be a means to feed and water animals in a sheltered environment.

8.0.5 Shelters and housing must be well ventilated and allow fresh air to enter.

8.0.6 Shelters and housing must allow natural light to enter.

8.0.7 Animals must not be subjected to dim and/or continuous lighting or kept in permanent darkness.

8.0.8 In the daytime, the animals must always be able to see each other, their food and water sources, as well as their surroundings clearly.

8.0.9 Use of artificial light is permitted as long as it does not exceed a maximum day-length of 16 hours.

8.0.10 Artificial light must be distributed evenly.

8.0.11 Shelters and housing must have solid floors.

*Note: Floors may be natural - the surface of the ground or pasture - or artificial. An area of wire or slat under a drinker will be deemed drainage not a floor. Standard 8.0.11 does not apply to range, pasture or forage area, unless the area is covered by a house or designated as a shelter area.*

8.0.12 Animals at all times must have an area available that provides dry footing so they are not forced to stand in mud or manure.

8.0.13 Inspection of animals must be possible at any time day or night.

8.0.14 Manure must be removed from housing or shelters on a regular basis.

8.0.15 The house or shelter must be managed to eliminate ammonia, dampness and mold.

*Note: The human nose can detect ammonia at levels of 5ppm upwards. If the farmer can smell ammonia action must be taken to eliminate the source.*

8.0.16 Liquefaction of manure and liquefied manure handling systems are prohibited.

8.0.17 Close confinement in crates or tethering is prohibited (see 8.0.18).

8.0.18 Temporary close confinement or tying up (tethering), which may be required for vaccination, weighing, feeding, marking or veterinary procedures, is permitted. This must be noted in the farm plan or recorded at the time.

8.0.19 Accommodations must be constructed so that they can be easily and effectively cleaned.

8.0.20 Maintenance and housekeeping routines must be in place to minimize any potential problems from rats or mice.

## **8.1 Housing and shelter for beef cattle and calves**

8.1.1 In housing and shelter the following space requirements are recommended.

*Note: A period of consultation will take place until the end of 2010 with a view to making these standards required.*

Minimum indoor bedded lying area:

Calves up to 220lbs (100kg)	16 sq. feet	1.5 sq. meters
Cattle between 220-440lbs (100-200kg)	27 sq. feet	2.5 sq. meters
Cattle between 440-770lbs (200-350kg)	43 sq. feet	4.0 sq. meters
Cattle between 770-1100lbs (350-500kg)	54 sq. feet	5.0 sq. meters
Cattle over 1100lbs (500 kg)	11 sq. ft per 100kg live weight	1.0 sq. meters per 100kg live weight

Minimum additional loafing area when animals are excluded from pasture:

Calves up to 220lbs (100kg)	12 sq. feet	1.1 sq. meters
Cattle between 220-440lbs (100-200kg)	20 sq. feet	1.9 sq. meters
Cattle between 440-770lbs (200-350kg)	32 sq. feet	3.0 sq. meters
Cattle between 770-1100lbs (350-500kg)	40 sq. feet	3.7 sq. meters
Cattle over 1100lbs (500 kg)	8 sq. ft per 100kg live weight	0.75 sq meters per 100kg live weight

## **8.2 Housing for male breeding animals**

8.2.1 When a male breeding animal is kept separately from breeding females he should either be kept with at least one other compatible animal or share a common fence with other animals of the same species with which he can have at least nose-to-nose contact.

8.2.2 When temporarily not on pasture male breeding animals must be kept in housing or shelter of sufficient size to accommodate their resting and exercise needs.

*Note: See the specified space allowances in section 8.1.*

## **8.3 Bedding**

8.3.1 In housing, bedding must be available to animals at all times.

8.3.2 Not allocated.

8.3.3 Bedding must be clean, dry, mold-free and replenished as needed.

8.3.4 Bedding must not cause discomfort or harm to the animals. Particular attention must be paid if sand is chosen as bedding.

8.3.5 Bedding with straw or cornstover is preferred.

8.3.6 Bedding from timber-based products sourced from chemically treated wood is prohibited.

8.3.7 There must be enough bedding to ensure the comfort of all animals.

8.3.8 In cold temperatures heat must be provided as necessary to keep animals comfortable.

## **9.0 REMOVAL OF ANIMALS FROM THE APPROVED FARM**

9.0.1 These standards only apply to animals that the approved farmer retains ownership of when they are moved off the approved farm.

### **9.1 Routine use of land that is not controlled by the approved farm**

*Animal Welfare Approved* recognizes that the approved farm may routinely need to send animals off-farm to access grazing or for other management reasons. *Animal Welfare Approved* retains the right to audit these off-farm sites. Please see the standards below for guidance.

9.1.1 If the approved farm has any compliance issues other than record keeping and farm plans the off-farm animals must be audited before approval can be granted or renewed.

9.1.2 If animals are removed from the main approved farm for five months or more in any calendar year the off-farm animals must be audited before approval can be granted or renewed.

9.1.3 If 25% or less of the total animals owned are off the approved farm for less than five months in any calendar year and the main farm audit has no animal based compliance issues the off-farm animals may not need to be audited.

9.1.4 There must be a separate and specific plan for maintaining animal health and welfare, transport, biosecurity and continued compliance with the *Animal Welfare Approved* standards while animals are not directly controlled by the approved farm (see also 3.0.4).

### **9.2 Temporary removal of approved animals from the approved farm**

9.2.1 *Animal Welfare Approved* livestock will only retain their status when temporarily removed from the approved farm for the following reasons:

9.2.1.1 Male animals used for breeding.

9.2.1.2 Female animals taken to be naturally served.

9.2.1.3 Movement of animals in an emergency.

9.2.1.4 Movement of animals prepared for showing.

9.2.2 When *Animal Welfare Approved* livestock are removed from the approved farm they must be kept to *Animal Welfare Approved* standards until such time they leave the ownership of the approved farm or farmer (see also 9.2.3).

9.2.3 Animals taken to shows do not have to meet pasture access standards as long as they are only off the approved farm for a maximum of 72 hours.

9.2.4 If *Animal Welfare Approved* breeding animals are hired or taken to farmers that are not *Animal Welfare Approved* the approved farm must ensure that the farm they are transferring the animals to is aware of the relevant standards for management and can meet them.

9.2.5 There must be a separate and specific plan for maintaining biosecurity, animal health and welfare and transport when moving stock on and off the approved farm (see also 3.0.4).

9.2.6 Showing animals must be conditioned to handling, loading and human contact before movement to a show can be permitted.

## **10.0 PROTECTION FROM PREDATORS AND CONTROL OF RATS AND MICE**

10.0.1 All animals must be protected from predators.

10.0.2 If livestock guardian dogs are used their management must meet the *Animal Welfare Approved* guidelines for guardian or herding canine management.

10.0.3 In the event that exclusion is unsuccessful and predation remains an issue, live trapping may be used. (Please contact *Animal Welfare Approved* for guidance.)

10.0.4 Live traps must be checked twice daily.

10.0.5 All other forms of traps are prohibited.

10.0.6 All snares and leghold traps are prohibited.

10.0.7 The use of poisons against predators is prohibited.

10.0.8 If live trapping is not possible or is not successful then as a last resort lethal control of specific animals may be carried out when these are causing an immediate threat to farm livestock.

10.0.9 If there is a continuous threat from predators that cannot be managed by live trapping advice must be sought from *Animal Welfare Approved* regarding a control program.

10.0.10 Lethal control/euthanasia of predators must result in instantaneous irreversible unconsciousness and death.

10.0.11 If a predatory animal has been euthanized to protect the animals on the farm, there must be records kept of the species in question, number of animals, and euthanasia method.

10.0.12 Glue boards for the control of rats and mice are prohibited.

10.0.13 Licensed rodenticides placed such that non-target species have no access to them may be used for the control of rats or mice.

10.0.14 Lethal control/euthanasia of live trapped rodents must result in instantaneous irreversible unconsciousness and death.

## 11.0 RECORDS AND RECORD-KEEPING

This section lists the records that must be maintained on farm and the sections where they can be found.

11.0.1 Records of the source, date of purchase, and number of animals in the breeding herd (see also 2.0.5).

11.0.2 Records of a health plan (see also 3.0.4).

11.0.3 Records of the administration of veterinary medical products (see also 3.0.16).

11.0.4 Records of an emergency plan (see also section 4.0).

11.0.5 Records of sale or transfer of *Animal Welfare Approved* animals or products (see also 5.0.1).

11.0.6 Records of mortality, morbidity and culling (see also 5.0.2 and 5.0.3).

11.0.7 Records of a feeding plan including nutritional regime (see also 6.0.2).

11.0.8 Records of ingredients of feed for each class of stock, proportion of the constituents to the total feed on a dry matter basis, and/or sources of the constituent parts (see also 6.0.3).

11.0.9 Records of a pasture management plan (see also 7.0.7).

11.0.10 Records of a plan of management if animals are excluded from pasture for more than 28 days (see also 7.5.3).

11.0.11 Records of any close confinement of animals (see also 8.0.18).

11.0.12 Records of management of owned animals that are removed from the approved farm (see also 9.1.4 and 9.2.5).

11.0.13 Records of predatory animals who have been euthanized to protect the animals on the farm (see also 10.0.11).

11.0.14 Records of a plan for transporting animals (see also 13.0.1).

11.0.15 Records of any calves weaned prior to the age specified in standard 5.3.11 including reason for early weaning (see also 5.3.16).

*Note: For new farmers entering the program a period of 12 months will be provided to put the program plan and documents in place. The Animal Welfare Approved consultancy team will be able to assist in this process. The Animal Welfare Approved program will also provide templates for record-keeping upon request.*

## **12.0 HANDLING**

12.0.1 Efforts must be made to develop positive relationships between the farmer and animals through gentle handling.

12.0.2 All areas accessed by the animals must provide good traction, be well drained and kept clean and free of ice in the wintertime.

12.0.3 The use of hot prods or electric shocks is prohibited.

12.0.4 Abuse or maltreatment of animals is prohibited.

12.0.5 All animals must be moved in a calm and consistent manner. Stress from loud noises and rapid movements must be minimized.

12.0.6 All chutes and other facilities for loading must be designed to minimize stress to the animal and ensure that animals can breathe normally as they proceed through the loading process.

12.0.7 Herding dogs must be well trained.

*Note: Farmers who regularly train herding dogs must contact the Animal Welfare Approved office to discuss compliance with the standard above.*

12.0.8 If herding dogs are used their management must meet the *Animal Welfare Approved* guidelines for guardian or herding canine management.

## **13.0 TRANSPORT**

This section applies to all transport of animals including to slaughter, around the farm, between farms or delivery to farm.

13.0.1 A plan must exist to ensure that welfare of the animals is maintained during transport both around the farm and off the farm (see also 4.0.1.4).

13.0.2 All animals must be healthy, ambulatory and uninjured to be transported unless they are being transported to receive veterinary treatment.

13.0.3 The person transporting the animals must ensure they are transported without delay to their destination.

13.0.4 The person in charge of the animals being transported must ensure that the animals are not caused any injury or suffering while waiting to be loaded on to the transport vehicle, during transport, or after they have been unloaded.

13.0.5 All subcontractors, handlers and truckers must adhere to *Animal Welfare Approved* standards.

13.0.6 If delays during transport or unloading upon arrival at destination are anticipated, loading and transport must not commence until those complications are resolved.

13.0.7 During transport, all animals must be protected from harm and thermal stress.

13.0.8 In the event that any animals suffer injury or distress during transport they must be treated or euthanized as soon as practically possible.

13.0.9 Ventilation must be provided that allows the animals to breathe fresh air while on the transport vehicle.

13.0.10 Overcrowding during transport is prohibited. The following space allowances in transport are recommended:

<b>Weight of beef animal</b>	<b>Space per beef animal</b>
Up to 100lbs (45kg)	4 sq. ft (0.37 sq. m)
Up to 240lbs (110kg)	6 sq. ft (0.55 sq. m)
Up to 440lbs (200kg)	9 sq. ft (0.84 sq. m)
Up to 1200lbs (545kg)	13 sq. ft (1.20 sq. m)
Over 1200lbs (>545kg)	16 sq. ft (1.50 sq. m)

13.0.11 The transportation vehicle must be thoroughly cleaned and dried prior to loading.

13.0.12 All animals must have continuous access to water until the moment of loading.

### **13.1 Transport of beef cattle**

13.1.1 Transporting downed animals is prohibited.

13.1.2 Animals should not be transported in isolation.

13.1.3 The transport vehicle must be constructed or bedded to prevent animals slipping.

13.1.4 Injured or lame animals must not be sold at auctions and if sent off farm must go directly to slaughter.

13.1.5 Injured or lame animals who are able to travel must not be sent to slaughter in the same compartment as healthy animals.

13.1.6 Animals from different farms must be separated in transport.

13.1.7 Animals from different social groups (pens) should be separated in transport.

13.1.8 Transport to slaughter must not exceed 8 hours.

*Note: A derogation may be granted if an approved slaughter plant is not available within 8 hours travel from the farm.*

## **13.2 Transporting calves**

13.2.1 Calves must not be transported around the farm or off the farm until they are at least one week old.

13.2.2 Calves should not be transported around the farm or off the farm until they are at least six weeks old.

13.2.3 In an emergency an orphan calf that cannot be reared on the approved farm may be moved at less than one week old as long as they have already been provided with colostrum.

13.2.4 Not allocated.

13.2.5 Calves must be fit to travel.

## **13.3 Sale of animals before slaughter**

13.3.1 All animals should be reared on their farm of birth.

13.3.2 Young stock, feeder or store stock must be sold direct to the farm where they will be raised.

13.3.3 Animals must not be knowingly sold into systems prohibited by these standards.

13.3.4 Routine sale to feedlots is prohibited.

13.3.5 The routine use of stockyards, auction houses and video auctions to sell animals is prohibited.

13.3.6 The Animal Welfare Approved program is a birth to slaughter program. Farmers who do not have any outlets for their animals that are acceptable to the Animal Welfare Approved program may still be eligible for approval if they have a plan to develop suitable outlets and can demonstrate year on year progress towards selling all stock through suitable outlets. Farmers that may come under this standard include:

13.3.6.1 Farms selling store and feeder stock to non-approved farms and other outlets.

13.3.6.2 Farms selling breeding stock to non-approved farms and other outlets.

13.3.6.3 Farms selling animals as pets, for 4H or FFA and showing.

13.3.7 Animals ready for slaughter must only be sold to customers who will take them to Animal Welfare Approved slaughter plants.

*Animal Welfare Approved* recognizes that it may be very difficult for farms to market all their stock as finished animals or to find acceptable markets for animals that are not being reared to slaughter on the approved farm.

*Animal Welfare Approved* will work with farms entering the program to develop a plan and timescale to end the practice of sale through prohibited outlets.

Please contact us for further information on meeting the standards on sale of animals.

## **14.0 SLAUGHTER**

14.0.1 On-farm slaughter is recommended.

*Note: On-farm mobile slaughter is not readily available. It is the goal of the Animal Welfare Approved program to make this process more widely available and acceptable for USDA-approved programs.*

14.0.2 Not allocated.

14.0.3 Slaughterhouses receiving animals in the *Animal Welfare Approved* program, or the process of slaughtering on-farm, must pass a review by the *Animal Welfare Approved* program for pre-slaughter handling, stunning, and killing.

14.0.4 The person delivering the animals to slaughter should stay with them to ensure that they are slaughtered according to *Animal Welfare Approved* guidelines in 14.0.3.

14.0.5 Downed animals must be euthanized where they lie in a manner that renders them immediately insensible to pain.

*Note: Please contact Animal Welfare Approved if further information on appropriate methods of euthanasia is required.*

14.0.6 Meat from downed animals must not be sold or carry the *Animal Welfare Approved* seal.

## **15.0 PROGRAM MANAGEMENT**

15.0.1 The *Animal Welfare Approved* program must be informed immediately of any changes on farm that result in a deviation from the standards.

15.0.2 Temporary deviations will be taken into consideration when unexpected circumstances that are not under the control of the farmer arise.

15.0.3 All other deviations from the *Animal Welfare Approved* standards can be cause for reconsideration of the farmer's participation or removal from the *Animal Welfare Approved* program and use of its seal, in conjunction with that farmer's products.

### **15.1 Derogations**

15.1.1 If, in the opinion of the Animal Welfare Approved Standards Board, a system meets all of the principles of the program but does not pass a specific standard or standards, derogation may be granted.

15.1.2 In order for a derogation to be granted, an inspection report must be submitted stating the deviation from the published standard, the reason for this deviation, the length of time this deviation from standards will occur and the welfare outcome should the derogation be granted.