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~~UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE~~
~~Agricultural Marketing Service~~
~~Livestock, Poultry and Seed~~
~~Division~~
~~Washington, D.C. 20250~~

LIVE ANIMAL SPECIFICATION
AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION'S
SPECIFICATION FOR CHARACTERISTICS OF CATTLE ELIGIBLE FOR
APPROVED BEEF PROGRAMS CLAIMING ANGUS INFLUENCE
~~THE SCHEDULE GLA--NOVEMBER 1996~~
~~USDA SPECIFICATION FOR CHARACTERISTICS OF CATTLE ELIGIBLE~~
~~FOR APPROVED BEEF PROGRAMS CLAIMING ANGUS INFLUENCE~~

1. SCOPE

This specification sets forth the requirements for live cattle which qualify for certification in approved beef programs claiming Angus influence. Cattle may be qualified for these programs by meeting either the Genotype or Phenotype requirements specified below.

2. REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Genotype. Cattle eligible for Angus influence beef programs based on genotype must have positive identification (ear tags, tattoos, brands, etc.) and be traceable back to provable (e.g., registration papers) Angus parentage. Qualifying cattle must be traceable to one registered parent or two registered grandparents. Programs which claim a specified percentage of Angus heritage must use this method.

2.2 Phenotype. Cattle eligible for certification in Angus influence beef programs based on phenotype (appearance) will have a main body that must be solid black¹, must be predominately (51 percent) solid black, with no other color behind the shoulder, above the flanks, or breaking the midline behind the shoulders, excluding the tail. Blue roan, gray, etc., are not considered to be black or a percentage of black. Such variations can qualify only when it occupies 49 percent, or less, of the body area with the remaining 51 percent, or greater, being solid black. Angus influence cattle may be either horned or polled. Carcasses of certified live animals which

¹ At times, a black hair coat can become sun bleached and appear to be a shade of brown, particularly on the back. If the base of the hair close to the skin is black, then the entire brown-tipped area should be considered solid black. However, if the hair color is brown to the roots, it should be considered as brown in color and the area will not contribute to the 51 percent black requirement.

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display certain non-Angus characteristics (e.g., dairy conformation, Holsteins, Brahman humps) will be excluded as specified in the carcass specifications for approved programs.

3. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS

3.1 Genotype. Compliance with genotypic requirements shall be determined and controlled through a Livestock, Poultry, and Seed Program approved quality management program.

3.2 Phenotype. Three options are available to ensure that live animals comply with the specified requirements: (1) Continuous USDA supervision, (2) Ante-mortem lot inspection, and (3) Program monitoring. Under the first two options, USDA personnel certify that the animals meet the specified requirements prior to slaughter. Procedures for these two options will be developed on an individual plant basis and shall be approved by the local Quality Assessment Division (QAD) supervisor. Under option 3, the procedures described in 3.2.1 are followed.

3.2.1 Program Monitoring Procedures. Trained employees of the slaughter plant conducting the program will identify the carcasses of cattle that meet the specified requirements with an approved stamp or other identifying mark approved by the local QAD supervisor. These employees must display program identification whenever they are performing live animal identification duties. QAD agents will conduct unannounced, random checks of these employees' work as shown in Table I. QAD agents will observe the work for a period of not less than 2 minutes, or more than 5 minutes, each time. The QAD agent will record any defects shown in Table II during each monitoring period. When the plant chooses to mark the carcasses with other identifying marks other than the "A" stamp, the plant will provide to QAD a written plan identifying the designated area. This will be posted in QAD graders' office so that any QAD employee can have access to it.

TABLE I. MONITORING FREQUENCY

Slaughter Rate Number of cattle/shift	Frequency of monitoring periods *
Up to 500	2
501 - 1,000	4
1,001 - 1,500	6
1,501 - 2,000	8
Over 2,000	10

** The QAD agent will randomly determine the times of actual observation before the beginning of the slaughter shift based on the plant's expected slaughter rate.*

TABLE II. PROGRAM DEFECTS

Defect Categories		Defects
Major	Minor	
101		At least 51 percent of the hair coat is not black Not solid black (evidence of another color) behind the shoulders and above the flanks.
102	202	Untrained plant employee performing live animal identification. Trained plant employee performing live animal identification without displaying program identification.
	203	Carcasses offered to QAD grader for certification that does not have approved stamp or mark as meeting the requirements.
	204	Designated stamp not placed on approved area of carcass.

Routine program monitoring is performed using the designated frequencies for defect detection, known as “normal monitoring level”. When a QAD agent observes any major defect, two minor defects within a 5-day period of program operation, or four minor defects within a 15-day period of operation, the applicant moves to an accelerated level of inspection.

Accelerated monitoring begins on the next production day for the shift on which the defects occurred. If no defects are observed during a 10-day period of operation under accelerated inspection, the plant reverts to the normal monitoring level.

If one major defect or two minor defects are observed during the 10-day period of accelerated inspection, the identification program will be placed under 100-percent QAD supervision for a period of 10 consecutive days of program operation.

After 10 days of operation under 100-percent supervision with no defects observed, the program will revert to accelerated inspection and meet those requirements before returning to normal monitoring levels as described in Table I.

Each shift is monitored independently, meaning that a defect recorded on night shift will not affect the level of inspection for day shift. Therefore, a plant could be on normal inspection on dayshift and accelerated inspection on night shift.

The frequency of monitoring always remains the same; the number of defects allowed changes from each level.

~~If no defects are observed under program monitoring the designated frequency of monitoring shall continue. However, an observation of any major defect, two minor defects within 5 days of program operation, or four minor defects within 15 days of operation shall result going to tightened level inspection numbers starting the next production day for whatever shift this incurred on. Under tightened level inspection numbers, the frequency of monitoring shall be the same. If no defects are observed during 10 days of operation under tightened inspection, the plant shall revert to the normal monitoring level. If a major defect or two minor defects are~~

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observed during the 10 days of tightened inspection, the identification program shall be placed under 100 percent QAD supervision for 10 days of program operation. After 10 days of operation under 100 percent supervision, the program will revert to tightened inspection before returning to regular monitoring as described in Table I. Each shift will stand on their own history. Meaning, a defect scored on night shift will not affect the level of inspection for day shift. You could be on normal inspection on dayshift and tightened inspection on night shift.

Note: The frequency of monitoring always remains the same; the number of defects allowed changes from each level.

~~3.2.2 — Training and Licensing Plant Employees — QAD supervisors shall train and license individuals responsible for program integrity and operation at slaughter. These individuals will be responsible for training and supervising plant employees who conduct live animal identification, carcass stamping, and other duties. They shall be responsible for identifying employees to be trained and providing facilities and cattle for training purposes. Upon satisfactory completion of training, plant employees shall display visible identification when they are performing authorized duties. These visible identification tags may be designed by the plant as long as it is approved by the local QAD supervisor. In addition, a record designating that each trained employee has completed the approved training, signed by the trainer and trainee, shall be issued and must be on file at the slaughter plant. It shall be kept up to date and must be presented to any QAD agent upon request as well as a copy in each QAD office.~~

~~3.2.3 — Equipment — Program stamps or other identifying marks used for identifying carcasses will be provided by the plant and must be approved by the local QAD supervisor. Only trained plant employees or QAD agents are authorized to use this equipment.~~

~~3.2.4 — Charges for Providing Service — The applicable QAD hourly fee shall be charged for certifying this schedule under continuous 100% USDA supervision and ante-mortem lot inspection procedures when under tightened level inspection. The hourly cost along with travel cost, per diem, and other related charges shall be paid by the applicant.~~

~~Charges for training and licensing plant employees by QAD supervisors shall be based on the actual cost of providing training hourly fee plus expenses. Hourly fees, including travel time, shall be based on the current non-commitment QAD rate. Travel, per diem, and other related charges shall be reimbursed on an actual cost basis.~~