

# Quality

## and Animal Welfare Standards



**Miles Smith Farm, 2015**  
**56 Whitehouse Rd**  
**Loudon, NH 03307**  
Version 1.1

### **Table of Contents**

#### [Feed](#)

[100% Grass Fed](#)

[Grain Finished](#)

[OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION](#)

[ORIGIN OF ANIMALS](#)

[HEALTH MANAGEMENT](#)

[EMERGENCIES](#)

[ANIMAL MANAGEMENT](#)

[HOUSING AND SHELTER](#)

[HANDLING](#)

[TRANSPORT](#)

[SLAUGHTER](#)

[PROGRAM MANAGEMENT](#)

# **Feed**

## **100% Grass Fed**

Grass finished cattle must be fed according to these USDA approved requirements for grass fed beef. 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
- cereal grain crops in the vegetative (pre-grain) state
- Hay, haylage, baleage, silage, crop residue without grain, and other roughage sources may also be included as acceptable feed sources.

Animals cannot be fed grain or grain byproducts and must have continuous access to pasture during the growing season. Routine mineral and vitamin supplementation may also be included in the feeding regimen. If incidental supplementation occurs due to inadvertent exposure to non-forage feedstuffs or to ensure the animal's well being at all times during adverse environmental or physical conditions, the producer must fully document (e.g., receipts, ingredients, and tear tags) the supplementation that occurs including the amount, the frequency, and the supplements provided.

## **Grain Finished**

Cattle fed other than according to the grass fed requirements above will be considered "grain finished".

# **OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION**

- The farm has adequate farm insurance
- Each farm must be a working independent family farm, that is, one on which a family or individual:
  - Owns the animals.
  - Is engaged in the day to day management of the farm and its animals
  - Derives a share of his/her/their livelihood.
  - Produces a livestock product for sale or trade.

# **ORIGIN OF ANIMALS**

- All animals must be born and raised within the borders of the United States

# **HEALTH MANAGEMENT**

Health and management planning increases both positive welfare and productivity. Animal management must be focused on promoting health rather than treating disease.

- Records of vaccines administered will be kept.

- If there is disease or known risk of disease on farm vaccines must be used.
- Any sick or injured animals on the farm must be treated immediately to minimize pain and distress. This must include veterinary treatment if required.
- Animals treated with an antibiotic must not be slaughtered for this program before a period of time has passed that is at least twice the licensed withdrawal period of the antibiotic used.
- Animals treated with any off-license medication must not be slaughtered for the this program until at least seven days after medication, or an alternative withdrawal as advised by a veterinarian.
- Animals must not be treated with any medications prohibited for food animal use.
- Growth hormones or the use of any other substances promoting weight gain are prohibited.
- Probiotics to promote positive health are permitted.

### **Euthanasia**

- Animals experiencing pain or suffering from which they are unlikely to recover should be immediately and humanely euthanized on the farm.
- Euthanasia must be carried out in a manner that renders the animal immediately insensible to pain.
- Euthanizing animals in a way that causes unnecessary pain or suffering is prohibited. Prohibited methods include:
  - Electrocution
  - Suffocation
  - Exsanguination without prior unconsciousness
  - Poison
  - Blow to the head by blunt instrument

## ***EMERGENCIES***

- 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.
- 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.

## ***ANIMAL MANAGEMENT***

### **Management of beef cattle**

- Heifers should not calve before the age of two years.
- When conditions permit calving must take place outside on pasture.
- A clean environment with sufficient space must be provided for calving.

### **Castration**

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

## ***HOUSING AND SHELTER***

Shelter may be provided by natural features such as shade, trees, or by buildings. Housing may also be used as shelter, provided the animal can also have free access to pasture or feed without restriction.

## ***HANDLING***

- Efforts must be made to develop positive relationships between the farmer and animals through gentle handling.
- Abuse or maltreatment of animals is prohibited.
- All animals must be moved in a calm and consistent manner. Stress from loud noises and rapid movements must be minimized.
- 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.

## ***TRANSPORT***

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

- All animals must be healthy, ambulatory and uninjured to be transported unless they are being transported to receive veterinary treatment.
- The person transporting the animals must ensure they are transported without delay to their destination.
- A competent individual must take responsibility for ensuring that animals do not suffer any injury or distress at any point immediately before, during and after transport.
- All subcontractors, handlers and truckers must adhere to the standards in this document.
- Ventilation must be provided that allows the animals to breathe fresh air while on the transport vehicle.
- Transporting downed animals is prohibited.
- The transport vehicle must be constructed or bedded to prevent animals slipping.
- Calves must be fit to travel.

## ***SLAUGHTER***

- Downed animals must be euthanized where they lie in a manner that renders them immediately insensible to pain.
- Only animals that meet USDA guidelines will be accepted for processing.

## ***PROGRAM MANAGEMENT***

- The farm agrees to sign an affidavit attesting that they follow all of the standards listed in this document.