

Animal Welfare and Quality Standards



Miles Smith Farm, 2015
56 Whitehouse Rd
Loudon, NH 03307
Version 1.

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Feed

100% Grass Fed and Finished

Grass finished cattle will 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 will 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 will 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" feeding processes are described below:

In most cases, cattle are kept on grass, hay, or haylage until they are 700-800 lbs. They are then they move to a diet of hay, haylage, corn silage, cracked corn and dry distillers all mixed in a TMR. (Minerals and vitamins are included in all the rations. Free choice or mixed in when they start on TMR). As room is available and they reach 800 lbs or so, they are transitioned in groups over the course of four TMRs onto my finishing ration which is about 50% corn silage 25% cracked corn, and 25% distillers grain. Weight gain is about 3 lbs a day, so they remain on this ration for about 5 months. This is pretty standard for most of the calves purchased at about 500-600 lbs.

Some yearlings are already 800-1000 lbs so they move onto TMR faster and depending on their frame size and condition, they may spend as little as 120 days on feed. On the other hand some animals are lighter. These are oftentimes holstein cross calves which only weigh 200-400 pounds on arrival, but they are started on TMR and are used to a freestall/feedlot environment. They will loose weight rapidly if put on grass. These animals are fed a diet of hay, haylage, corn silage, cracked corn and dry distillers all mixed in a TMR until they get up to 800 pounds.

OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION

- The farm has adequate farm insurance
- Each farm will 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 will 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 will 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 will be used.
- Any sick or injured animals on the farm will be treated immediately to minimize pain and distress. This will include veterinary treatment if required.
- Animals treated with an antibiotic or other medication will not be slaughtered for this program before a period of time has passed that is the licensed withdrawal period of the medication used.
- Animals will 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.
- Periodic testing of these guidelines maybe conducted.

Euthanasia

- Animals experiencing pain or suffering from which they are unlikely to recover should be immediately and humanely euthanized on the farm.
- Euthanasia will 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 will be prepared and be understood by all of those working on the farm.
- The plan will 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 will take place outside on pasture.
- A clean environment with sufficient space will be provided for calving.

Castration

- Calves may be castrated. The procedure will 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 will be made to develop positive relationships between the farmer and animals through gentle handling.
- Abuse or maltreatment such as excessive use of prod sticks on animals is prohibited.
- All animals will be moved in a calm and consistent manner. Stress from loud noises and rapid movements will be minimized.
- All chutes and other facilities for loading will 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 will be healthy, ambulatory and uninjured to be transported unless they are being transported to receive veterinary treatment.
- The person transporting the animals will ensure they are transported without delay to their destination.
- A competent individual will 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 will adhere to the standards in this document.
- Ventilation will be provided that allows the animals to breathe fresh air while on the transport vehicle.
- Transporting downed animals is prohibited.
- The transport vehicle will be constructed or bedded to prevent animals slipping.
- Calves will be fit to travel.

SLAUGHTER

- Downed animals will 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.

Notification

- Prior to slaughter the farm will notify Miles Smith Farm if there is a deviation from these guidelines.