



Virginia Quality Assured Feeder Cattle Program

A Partnership for Marketing & Performance

Program Goals

1. Market quality Virginia feeder cattle with verifiable health and genetics history.
2. Improve the communication between buyers and sellers of feeder cattle.
3. Enhance the reputation of Virginia feeder cattle.

General Requirements

1. To qualify for VQA, feeder cattle must be certified by a third party, such as a veterinarian, extension agent, VQA personnel, or someone who has been trained as a certifier. Cattle producers must be Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) certified with a processing map and verification form must accompany cattle.
2. Vaccinations are to be given according to label directions, except the initial dose of vaccines requiring booster may be given at any time after four (4) months of age; thus extending the period between the initial and booster injections.
3. All required vaccinations include protection against clostridial diseases. Bovine Respiratory Disease Complex (modified live), and Pasturella according to label directions for administration and withdrawal. Deworming is also required and implanting is optional.
4. Cattle must be graded by Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services personnel. Cattle must weigh a minimum of 400 pounds and grade as L-1, M-1 or L&M2 frame/muscle score and 4 – 6 flesh scores. Unfit, ill, excessively aged or rejected calves may not carry the VQA tag.
5. Heifers are guaranteed open and steers must be castrated, healed and guaranteed against stags.
6. All calves are dehorned and healed.
7. Cattle are owned by the seller for at least 60 days with verified sires that are in the top 30% for Yearling Weight of their respective breed in the year the sire was born.
8. Calves should be videoed whenever possible for sale time presentation and promotion.

