

Food Labeling Program Standards for Beef Cattle

Animal Welfare Standard	Industry Guideline	USDA Certified Organic Program	Certified Humane Program	American Humane Certified Program	Animal Welfare Approved Program
Antibiotics	Permitted	Prohibited	Permitted for treatment of disease only	Permitted for treatment of disease only	Permitted for treatment of disease only
Growth Hormones	Not prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
Access to Pasture	Not required; confinement to feedlots allowed	Access to pasture required; feedlots prohibited	Not required; cattle may be maintained in feedlots	Not required; cattle may be maintained in feedlots	Access to pasture required throughout lifetime when climate permits
Identification	Hot branding and ear notching allowed; jaw brands are not to be used	Not addressed	Hot iron branding & ear cutting prohibited; ear tagging permitted	Hot iron branding & ear cutting prohibited; ear tagging permitted	Hot iron branding & ear cutting prohibited; ear tagging permitted
Castration	Recommended be done before 4 mos.; no recommendation regarding anesthesia	Physical alterations to be performed in a manner that minimizes pain & stress	Recommend be done at earliest age possible; anesthesia required for surgical removal after 2 mos. of age	Recommend be done at earliest age possible; anesthesia required for surgical removal after 2 mos. of age	Recommend be done before 2 mos. of age; use of anesthesia required
Removal of Horns	Recommended be done before 4 mos.; no recommendation about anesthesia	Physical alterations to be performed in a manner that minimizes pain & stress	Debudding in first 4 mos. using hot iron ok with or without anesthesia	Debudding in first 4 mos. using hot iron ok with or without anesthesia	Dehorning is prohibited. Debudding only permitted on calves 2 mos or younger
Spaying of Heifers	Not prohibited	Not addressed	Prohibited	Prohibited	Prohibited
Minimum Weaning Age	No limit; usually 7-8 mos. of age	Not addressed	Not addressed	Not addressed	6-9 mos. of age
Electric Prod Use	Permitted but must be less than 50 volts	Not addressed	Permitted in emergencies only	Permitted in emergencies only	Prohibited