

ANIMAL RAISING CLAIMS

Title: FODDER FED FEEDING SYSTEMS

Date: 27/10/17

1. Purpose

An Animal Raising Claim is a claim made in the Trade Description or export documentation about the animal or supply chain specifically relating to Animal Husbandry conditions, feeding, handling, drug treatments and/or geographical references. An approved program within the QMS must be developed to provide integrity to the Trade Description where Animal Raising Claims are used and must be clearly defined and legally based.

The three core components of the Animal Raising Claim:

Program Approval: Approval by AUS-MEAT Limited for the Livestock Sourcing through to the application of final Trade Description, incorporated within the AUS-MEAT approved Quality Management System (QMS) (export production).

Approved Arrangement: Approval by the Department of Agriculture (the Department) based on Program Approval by AUS-MEAT under the MOU between the Parties (export production).

Market Access: Pre-conditions for specific market access or operational requirements to meet importing country requirements including label approval (where applicable).

2. Scope

This guideline document covers a marketing claim of product sourced from Fodder Fed Paddock Feeding Systems where both Grass and Grain (referred to as Fodder) is part of the eligible diet.

NOTE: This is a Non Feedlot production system and does not comply with the AUS-MEAT Minimum Standards for Grain Fed Beef.

3. Definitions

*Fodder Fed *FF**: in the description of Australian Meat or Meat Products means:

The animal (cattle) has been fed on a Pasture / grass diet with access to additional fodder diet. This description covers products from animals that were:

- Finished on Fodder with access to Pasture; or
- Finished on Pasture with access to Fodder

Fodder is described as:

Fodder is a type of animal feed and is any agricultural foodstuff used specifically to feed domesticated livestock. Fodder refers particularly to food given to animals (including plants cut and carried to them), rather than that which they forage for themselves (called forage). Fodder includes hay, straw, silage, compressed and pelleted feeds, oils and mixed rations, and sprouted grains and legumes (such as bean sprouts, fresh malt, or spent malt).

Types of fodder include conserved forage plants (hay and silage), compound feed and premixes, often called pellets, nuts or (cattle) cake, crop residues (stover, copra, straw, chaff, sugar beet waste), freshly cut grass and other forage plants, molasses, seaweed, seeds and grains, either whole or prepared by crushing, milling, etc., sprouted grains and legumes, yeast extract (brewer's yeast residue), native green grass, bran, oilseed press cake (cottonseed, safflower, sunflower, soybean, peanut or groundnut), green maize, green sorghum and leaves from certain species of trees.

Allowable Marketing Claim(s): Fodder Fed, Grain Assisted, Corn Fed, Cereal Finished etc.

4. Background

An Animal Raising Claim is a claim made in the Trade Description or export documentation about the animal or supply chain specifically relating to animal husbandry conditions – in this case a *Fodder Fed* Claim.

An Approved Program within the Enterprise's QMS must be developed to provide integrity to the Trade Description where a *Fodder Fed* Claim is used. In Export Registered Establishments this program must be included within the Approved Arrangement and receive approval from the Department which may be based on AUS-MEAT Program Approval.

5 References

- Meat Notice MN 2016/02 – AUS-MEAT Responsibilities
- DAWR: [Approved Arrangement](#) Guidelines, Meat

6. Methodology

The minimum requirement for the inclusion of a *Fodder Fed* claim in a Trade Description is that all products labelled with the marketing claim must incorporate information explicitly stating that animals have been raised in a manner that meets the *Fodder Fed Accreditation Standards* (FFAS) definition.

Whole of Life (Never Ever) claims must be supported by lifetime traceability to support the claim including use of the NLIS Database, as applicable.

Animals to be processed into product with a *Fodder Fed* raising claim must be presented with a vendor declaration (Livestock Sourcing requirement). Feeding claims must be clearly described on relevant Point of Slaughter documentation - FFAS Declaration.

The raising claim may be verified by an independent third party process through a routinely verified on farm QA system which addresses the claims made (Approved Supplier Evaluation).

First Party Declaration (Self Attestation)

Livestock Sourcing Program

- Vendor Declaration of the animal husbandry conditions (1st party verification)
- Defined husbandry conditions incorporating relevant details of feeding practices and feeding period traceability.
- May include Livestock Contract documentation with defined feeding criteria relevant to the raising claim.

Second Party Verification - Establishment (on plant) Systems

Point of Slaughter Certification

- Verification using prescribed standards or Industry codes of practice as applicable for the animal husbandry declarations that are relevant.
- Point of Slaughter Certification may require counter signing by the Department
- Separation program (identification and traceability)
- Trade Description is accurate and complete
- Compliance with importing country requirements (Label approval etc.)

Third Party Certification

Accredited Certification Bodies

- On farm verification program (3rd party verification) e.g LPA QA.

Approved Supplier Evaluation

Where required by Importing Country Requirements (e.g. Canada) each component along the supply

chain must be subject to supplier selection, evaluation, approval and re-evaluation which shall comprise independent 3rd party audits. Development and maintenance of approved supplier lists and producer registration programs would assist the supply chain verification process. LPA QA is an example of a third party certified program.

Livestock Producers

- Vendor declarations (livestock buying contracts, declarations including NVD's)
- Feeding practices and records
- Production and turnoff records
- Introduced livestock purchases (outside stock)
- Lifetime traceability

Saleyard Procurement

Traceable sales documentation supported by completed Vendor declarations including required husbandry conditions information.

Approved Arrangement

An Approved Program with specific coverage:

- Livestock Sourcing program including Vendor declaration of specific husbandry conditions
- Defined husbandry conditions (feeding practices)
- Point of Slaughter certification may require counter signing by the Department
- Separation program (identification and traceability)
- Trade Description compliance (accurate and complete)
- Compliance with importing country requirements (Label approval etc.)

7. Monitoring

The Approved Program must include monitoring, corrective action and record keeping procedures to maintain the integrity of the program.

The monitoring method(s), monitoring frequency and how the monitoring is recorded need to be described with any measurements or observations to assess whether the program is operating within defined limits (how is it done, when is it done, how often is it done). This must be specific and state the pass/fail criteria. The frequency of monitoring must be defined.

8. Market Access

[US Label Approval](#) – All raising claim labels and labels including a language other than English on the label or on the carton or packaging must be approved by the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) prior to use. A copy of the relevant section of the Approved Arrangement (AA) endorsed by the Department of Agriculture may be provided to FSIS with the draft label approval submission to demonstrate justification for label claim.

[EC Regulation No. 1760/2000](#) – establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products.

Canada: CFIA [Food Labelling for Industry](#)

Note: Refer MICOR for any other importing country requirements and further information.

9. Records

The Approved Program (part of the Approved Arrangement) will identify any records that need to be maintained for verification purposes.

10. Industry Standards / Recognised Programs

[LPA-QA](#): On-Farm Quality Assurance (QA) program, incorporating the CATTLE CARE and Flockcare programs represents the second tier (Level 2) of the LPA framework.

Fodder Fed Accreditation Standard (FFAS) or Equivalent program.

11. Responsibility and Verification

Department of Agriculture ensures the legislative requirements for trade description are met by the verification of the trade description system and relevant functions.

AUS-MEAT Limited performs verification processes whereby AUS-MEAT takes day to day operational responsibility, including that for corrective action, for all trade description other than those basic descriptions that importing country authorities may require the Department, as the government regulating authority, to oversight.