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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
Livestock and Seed Division
Washington, D.C. 20250

SCHEDULE GLA--NOVEMBER 1996
USDA SPECIFICATION FOR CHARACTERISTICS OF CATTLE ELIGIBLE
FOR APPROVED BEEF PROGRAMS CLAIMING ANGUS INFLUENCE

1. SCOPE

This specification sets forth the requirements for live cattle which qualify for certification in approved beef programs claiming Angus influence. Cattle may be qualified for these programs by meeting either the Genotype or Phenotype requirements specified below.

2. REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Genotype. Cattle eligible for Angus influence beef programs based on genotype must have positive identification (ear tags, tattoos, brands, etc.) and be traceable back to provable (e.g.; registration papers) Angus parentage. Qualifying cattle must be traceable to one registered parent or two registered grandparents. Programs which claim a specified percentage of Angus heritage must use this method.

2.2 Phenotype. Cattle eligible for certification in Angus influence beef programs based on phenotype (appearance) must be predominately (51 percent) solid black. Blue roan, gray, etc., are not considered to be black or a percentage of black. Such variations can qualify only when it occupies 49 percent, or less, of the body area with the remaining 51 percent, or greater, being solid black. 1/ Angus influence cattle may be either horned or polled. Carcasses of certified live animals which display certain non-Angus characteristics (e.g.; dairy conformation, Brahman humps) shall be excluded as specified in the carcass specifications for approved programs.

1/ At times, a black hair coat can become sun bleached and appear to be a shade of brown, particularly on the back. If the base of the hair close to the skin is black then that entire brown tipped area should be considered solid black. However, if the hair color is brown to the roots, it should be considered as brown in color and the area will not contribute to the 51 percent black requirement.

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3. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS

3.1 Genotype. Compliance with genotypic requirements shall be determined and controlled through a Livestock and Seed Division approved quality management program.

3.2 Phenotype. Three options are available to ensure that live animals comply with the specified requirements. They are (1) continuous USDA supervision, (2) ante-mortem lot inspection, and (3) program monitoring. Under the first two options USDA personnel shall certify that the animals meet the specified requirements prior to slaughter. Procedures for these two options shall be developed on an individual plant basis and shall be approved by the local Meat Grading and Certification Branch (MGCB) area office. Under option 3, the procedures described in 3.2.1 shall be followed.

3.2.1 Program Monitoring Procedures - Trained employees of the slaughter plant conducting the program shall identify the carcasses of cattle that meet the specified requirements with an approved stamp. These employees must display program identification whenever they are performing live animal identification duties. MGCB agents shall conduct unannounced, random checks of these employees= work as shown in Table I. MGCB agents shall observe the work for a period of not less than 2 minutes, nor more than 5 minutes, each time. The MGCB agent shall record any defects shown in Table II during each monitoring period.

TABLE I. MONITORING FREQUENCY

<u>Slaughter Rate</u> <u>Number of cattle/shift</u>	<u>Frequency</u> <u>of monitoring periods ^{1/}</u>
Up to 500	2
501 - 1,000	4
1,001 - 1,500	6
1,501 - 2,000	8
Over 2,000	10

^{1/} The MGCB agent shall randomly determine the times of actual observation before the beginning of the slaughter shift based on the plant's expected slaughter rate.

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TABLE II. PROGRAM DEFECTS

Defect Categories		Defects
Major	Minor	
101		At least 60 percent of the hair coat is not black.
	201	At least 50 percent, but less than 60 percent, of the hair coat is not black.
102		Untrained plant employee performing live animal identification.
	202	Trained plant employee performing live animal identification without displaying program identification.
103 *		Carcass in cooler with a program roll that does not have an approved stamp or a USDA "Accepted as Specified" stamp over the approved marking.
	203	Designated stamp not placed on approved area of carcass.

* The finding of this defect in the cooler at any time shall result in accelerated monitoring or 100 percent USDA supervision, as appropriate.

If no defects are observed under program monitoring the designated frequency of monitoring shall continue. However, an observation of any major defect, two minor defects within 5 days of program operation, or three minor defects within 20 days of operation, shall immediately result in accelerated monitoring. Under accelerated monitoring the frequency of monitoring shall be doubled. If no defects are observed during 10 days of operation under accelerated monitoring, the plant shall revert to the normal monitoring level. If a major defect or two minor defects are observed during the 10 days of accelerated monitoring the identification program shall be placed under 100-percent MGCB supervision for 20 days of program operation. After 20 days of operation under 100-percent supervision, the program will revert to accelerated monitoring before returning to regular monitoring as described in Table I.

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3.2.2 Training and Licensing Plant Employees - Livestock and Seed (LS) Division agents shall train and license individuals responsible for program integrity and operation at slaughter. These individuals will be responsible for training and supervising plant employees who conduct live animal identification, carcass stamping, and other duties. They shall be responsible for identifying employees to be trained and providing facilities and cattle for training purposes. Qualified LS Division trainers shall be assigned on an individual case basis. Upon satisfactory completion of training, plant employees shall display visible identification when they are performing authorized duties. In addition, a record designating that each trained employee has completed the approved training, signed by the trainer and trainee, shall be issued and must be on file at the slaughter plant.

3.2.3 Equipment - Program stamps used for identifying carcasses will be provided by the MGCB. Program stamps and roller brands will be secured by USDA employees when not in use. Only trained plant employees or MGCB agents are authorized to use this equipment.

3.2.4 Charges for Providing Service - The applicable MGCB hourly fee shall be charged for certifying this schedule under continuous USDA supervision and ante-mortem lot inspection procedures. For program monitoring, appropriate charges shall be determined by the local supervisors on a case-by-case basis.

Charges for training and licensing plant employees shall be based on the actual cost of providing training--hourly fee plus expenses--by the LMSB designated trainers. Hourly fees, including travel time, shall be based on the current non-commitment MGCB rate. Travel, per diem, and other related charges shall be reimbursed on an actual cost basis.