



United States Department of Agriculture
Marketing and Regulatory Programs
Agricultural Marketing Service
Livestock and Seed Program
Meat Grading & Certification Branch

MGC Instruction 912
April 24, 2007
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OFFICIAL MARBLING PHOTOGRAPHS

Purpose

The Livestock and Seed Program and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association recently reprinted the Official USDA Marbling Photographs. The purpose of reprinting was to obtain a sufficient number of sets to replace those currently in use prior to any significant deterioration due to wear and fading.

Procedure

Each supervisor and grader shall receive a new set of photographs coded USDA 3073 (see Attachment A). The effective date for using the new sets is April 30, 2007. Use of sets coded USDA 4013 shall be discontinued. However, unused sets may be distributed to schools and members of the industry for "unofficial" use.

As in the past, these photographs are the official illustrations of the lower limits of the appropriate 6 marbling degrees referenced in the official standards. Supervisors and graders are required to have the complete set of photographs readily available when performing official grading duties. Sufficient care must be taken to avoid exposing the photographs to moisture, heat, and direct sunlight, as these elements will adversely affect the color fixation.

The set of photographs is available for purchase by members of the industry and other interested parties by contacting the National Cattlemen's Beef Association at the following address:

National Cattlemen's
Beef Association
5420 South Quebec
Street
Greenwood Village,
Colorado 80111
Phone: 800-368-3138
Fax: 303-694-2851

Click on document to view

Marbling Photograph Code - PDF

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Beef Association**