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USDA SPECIFICATION FOR CERTIFICATION OF BEEF CARCASS QUALITY AND YIELD CHARACTERISTICS OF OFFICIALLY GRADED BEEF

This specification is for certification by an Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) agent of U.S. Prime and Choice steer and heifer beef carcasses which: (a) are derived from cattle that meet the phenotypic requirements of the USDA Specification for Characteristics of Cattle Eligible for Approved Beef Programs Claiming Angus Influence (GLA), and (b) meet the following set of requirements:

1. Marbling score of:
   a. Simply Essentials Black Angus Beef – Prime – Slightly Abundant 00 or higher;
   b. Simply Essentials Black Angus Beef – Upper Choice – Modest 00 to Moderate 99,
   c. Simply Essentials Black Angus Beef – Choice – Small 00 to Small 99,
   d. Simply Essentials Black Angus Beef – Select – Slight 00 to Slight 99,

2. Lean color, texture, firmness, and overall skeletal characteristics, each of which must meet the requirements of A maturity;
3. Medium or fine marbling texture;
4. Practically free (not detracting from visual quality) of capillary rupture in the ribeye muscle;
5. Free of “dark cutting” characteristics;
6. Moderately thick or thicker muscling and tend to be moderately wide and thick in relation to their length; and
7. No hump exceeding 2 inches in height.

Items 1 and 2 shall be determined in accordance with the “Official United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef.”

Item 3 shall be evaluated using the USDA-AMS-LS-SB-02 Marbling Texture card.

Item 6, muscle thickness, is evaluated by averaging the thickness of the various parts, considering not only the proportion (%) each part is of the carcass but also the general value of each part. Superior muscle thickness implies a high proportion of meat to bone and a high proportion of the weight of the carcass in the more valuable parts.

Item 7 shall be measured from a line formed by the extension of the top line (including the fat) and measuring the lean muscle (excluding the fat) perpendicular to that line in the center of the hump.

CERTIFICATION:

An AMS agent will certify acceptable carcasses. Carcasses to be examined for compliance with the requirements of this specification shall be clearly identified when presented to the AMS agent for certification. Procedures for identification, certification, the removal of

david.bowden@usda.gov
Digitally signed by david.bowden@usda.gov
DN: cn=david.bowden@usda.gov
Date: 2016.02.16 16:40:35 -05'00'

preliminary identification marks (or other methods of control) from non-qualifying carcasses, and control of certified carcasses shall be in accordance with established Quality Assessment Division (QAD) procedures.

The costs of all grading and certification services performed by the AMS agent involving examinations, supervision, official documentation, and related services shall be borne by the person, group, or plant requesting the service.

LABELING:

Labeling of Simply Essentials Black Angus Beef Program products shall be in compliance with Food Safety and Inspection Service regulations and policy guidelines, QAD instructions and Livestock, Poultry and Seed Program Policy Standardization Procedure 2 (LPS Policy SP2).