

PROCESS VERIFIED PROGRAM

***AMS
LIVESTOCK, POULTRY AND SEED PROGRAM
QUALITY ASSESSMENT DIVISION
AUDIT SERVICES BRANCH***



NCC Committee Meeting
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PVP Overview



- What the PVP is and what it is not
- History of the PVP
- Production Claim Types
- Audit Process for a PVP
- Documentation and Verification
- Communications

What is the PVP?



- ✓ PVP is a voluntary, audit-based marketing Program that provides independent verification that specific production practices or processing points, with or without marketing claims, are clearly defined, implemented, and transparent.
- ✓ PVP is based on quality management system principles/criteria which require companies to manage their processes while ensuring consistent reliable products and services.
- ✓ Under a PVP, a supplier's quality management system is verified through independent audits conducted by qualified AMS auditors.
- ✓ As with all of our audit services, they are user-fee funded; therefore there is a cost for AMS involvement.
- ✓ To facilitate marketing, approved PVP clients and their process points are listed on AMS PVP Webpage which shows approvals and transparency.

What the PVP is Not...



- NOT a regulatory program or regulatory based
- NOT a “label approval program or process”
 - Labels are regulated and approved by USDA FSIS
- NOT a “Standard” – rather it verifies a company’s requirements, which may or may not be a recognized standard



History of the PVP



In 1997, an audit-based breed control program was developed for live animals and products from such animals.

In the late 1990s, the Non-Hormone Treated Cattle (NHTC) Program was developed in response to the EU discovering prohibited growth hormones in beef products shipped from the U.S.

In 1999, the PVP was improved/ revised to include quality management system criteria consistent with ISO 9001 requirements. This provided the necessary oversight and confidence in third-party auditing firms that certified live animals to specified marketing claims.

In 2003, the PVP addressed the BSE problem in the U.S. that triggered the closure of most export markets for U.S. beef.

In 2006, the Poultry PVP began with Perdue Foods claiming their chicken is raised on an all vegetarian diet at a single complex to later expanding their PVP company-wide with multiple PVP claims.

Over 20+ years, the PVP has grown from the need for livestock claims to include many other facets within the agricultural community including the recent claims made by the poultry industry such as antibiotic claims and now Non-GMO claims.

Production Claim Types



Currently, the PVP includes 50 companies and approximately 190 claims. Additionally, AMS has PVP's with 50 plus poultry related facilities.

Examples of Production Claims Verified by AMS under PVP include...

- Raised without Antibiotics
- Responsible Antibiotic Use
- Raised on an all vegetarian diet
- No Hormones or steroids - companies of livestock and meat products
- Raised in accordance with the Industry Standards
- Age and source verified
- Non-GMO/GE



Audit Process

QAD 1000 Procedure – QSVP General Policies and Procedures



Application for Service

To request service, submit via email the following information to QAD.AuditService@ams.usda.gov:

- LPS 109, Application for Service and documented program with Quality Manual.
- A cover letter requesting services for each program in which the applicant wishes to participate.
- A complete copy of the applicant's program documentation as described in the individual program procedure.

Audit Process

QAD 1000 Procedure – QSVP General Policies and Procedures – cont'd



Initial Desk Audit

To obtain a USDA PVP, new applicants must submit a PVP quality manual to AMS and have a desk audit to determine if the quality manual documents a clear commitment by the firm to international quality management principles.

Audit Plan and On-site Audits

- After the desk audit review and approval, an assigned QAD auditor completes the onsite audit and completes the official report noting approval or if corrective actions are required.
- The clients with approved PVPs will undergo a surveillance audit at least on an annual basis but can be more often depending on the complexity of the program and their adherence to requirements.

Audit Findings and Report

Correcting Identified Non-conformances

Approval Status

Once approved, a PVP certificate is issued, and the applicant's name and information pertaining to their PVP is listed on the PVP web site for viewing by the public.



Documentation & Verification



Documented Program

- Describes the process being verified

Company Quality Manual

- Company's Commitment to QMS
- QMS incorporates processes to achieve production claim such as "Raised without Antibiotics"

USDA Process Verified Program

- Based on ISO 9001 Quality Management System
- Provides third-party assurance by USDA that a company is following their documented program.

Communications



- All PVP companies are in communication with AMS for any changes they make to their programs or AMS requires them to make
- All PVP companies undergo at least annual audits by AMS to verify continued conformance to the PVP and company's program
- AMS communicates with sister agencies or other governmental agencies when appropriate or involvement is needed
- AMS communicates with potential PVP companies as to the requirements of participation in the PVP before, during and after the application and approval process



Questions and Contact



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...or visit our PVP site on the Web at:

<http://processverified.usda.gov>

Thank you!