



Quality Systems Verification Program (QSVP) Never Fed Beta Agonists Program

1 Purpose

This document provides the requirements for establishments that wish to supply pork or beef to customers that require verification of a marketing claim that the meat is derived from animals that were never fed beta agonists and is free of beta agonist residues.

2 Scope

The Never Fed Beta Agonists marketing claim is available to companies that produce livestock, beef and pork products and submit marketing programs to the Livestock and Poultry (L&P) Program for verification and monitoring. Companies must meet the requirements of the Never Fed Beta Agonists marketing claim through an approved USDA Quality Systems Verification Program (QSVP). This would include the USDA Process Verified Program (PVP) and the USDA Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program. The requirements for these programs are defined in the USDA Process Verified Program QAD 1001 Procedure: *USDA Process Verified Program* and the USDA Quality System Assessment Program QAD 1002 Procedure: *USDA Quality System Assessment Program*. The USDA QSVP ensures that the Never Fed Beta Agonists program requirements are supported by a documented quality management system.

3 References

7 CFR Part 62 – Livestock, Meat, and Other Agricultural Commodities (Quality Systems Verification Programs)

QAD 1000 Procedure: *Quality Systems Verification Programs, General Policies and Procedures*

QAD 1001 Procedure: *USDA Process Verified Program*

QAD 1002 Procedure: *USDA Quality System Assessment Program*

[USDA Process Verified Program website](#)

[USDA Quality System Assessment Program website](#)

4 Responsibilities

4.1 Companies must meet the applicable requirements outlined in this procedure, QAD 1000 Procedure, and either the QAD 1001 or QAD 1002 Procedure.

4.2 The QAD must meet the applicable requirements outlined in this procedure, QAD 1000 Policies and Procedures.

4.3 Any suggested changes to this procedure should be submitted via email to the QAD Audit Program Manager.



5 Specified Product Requirements

The specified product requirements listed below must be met through the USDA Quality Systems Verification Programs. The USDA QSVP ensures that the specified product requirements are supported by a documented quality management system; and that products are identified and traceable through the system.

5.1 Supplier Evaluations

5.1.1 Establishments must develop a program to evaluate and approve suppliers of hogs or cattle that have never been fed beta agonists.

5.1.2 Establishments that intend to perform verification at the suppliers' premises must state the intended verification arrangements in their quality manual.

5.2 Approved Supplier Lists

5.2.1 Establishments must maintain an approved list of suppliers who have been verified as capable to supply hogs or cattle that have never been fed beta agonists. A supplier could be a collection of production units that are under a common management system.

5.2.2 Suppliers that have USDA AMS approved programs (including programs managed by accredited third-party verifiers) that verify that hogs or cattle have never been fed beta agonists can be added to an approved suppliers list without the establishment conducting supplier evaluations.

5.3 Segregation of Live Animals and Final Products

5.3.1 Establishments are required to maintain controls to ensure the segregation of live animals that have been fed beta agonists from those that have not prior to harvest.

5.3.2 Controls shall also be in place to ensure that segregation is maintained throughout the harvest and fabrication process.

5.4 Verification Testing

5.4.1 Establishments must develop a verification testing regime using an AMS-approved test method on the basis of a carcass sampling plan that ensures that each approved supplier is tested at least once per quarter. Only suppliers that actually provide animals to the facility during the quarter will be required to be tested. The first lot from each supplier must be tested, then the number of samples tested by each slaughterhouse harvest facility must be at least at least 0.001% of animals harvested under the program each year. **Only kidney, liver or muscle may be tested. The samples may not be composited.**

5.4.2 If meat from animals that were raised by an approved supplier produces a positive test result, that supplier and product must be excluded from the program until corrective actions have been implemented and verified as effective. After corrective actions have been taken, the



establishment must test at least the first 5 lots of animals provided by that supplier following a positive test result.

6 Product Identification and Traceability

6.1 The company must maintain a documented product identification system to identify eligible products produced under the Beta Agonists Verification program.

6.2 The product identification system may be comprised of a list of specific products, as outlined in QAD 1030: *EV Program Additional Requirements*; or as an alternative, a product identification system in another format may be designated by the company.

6.3 The product identification system must be created in Microsoft Excel format and submitted to AMS with the company's program update.

6.4 The method for identifying the product under the product identification system must be transferable and traceable throughout production.

7 Corrective Action Audits

Establishments that are delisted, suspended or are under intensified testing because of a port-of-entry violation may be required to undergo an onsite corrective action audit by AMS. Corrective actions will be based on the information provided to FSIS about their port-of-entry violation.

8 Additional AMS Approved Never Fed Beta Agonists Programs

If hogs or cattle are derived from AMS approved programs, including, *Pork for the European Union (PFEU)* suppliers and the *Non-Hormone Treated Cattle Program (NHTC)*, Section 5 will not apply and there will not be any further carcass testing required outside of the current PFEU or NHTC testing program.

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