BEEF EDITION 1

RaiseWell™

Each animal's life raised with reverence and care.

1.0 — Version

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RaiseWell™

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RaiseWell™

RaiseWell Certified is a comprehensive third-party standard for livestock and poultry that encompasses rigorous animal care and verified natural practices.

It ensures animals are ethically raised at every stage of their life, with no antibiotics or added growth hormones ever, and fed a diet with no animal by-products.

The program serves producers, brands, and retailers who uphold these principles with care and consistency, offering consumers confidence in transparent, ethically and naturally raised products.

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RaiseWell™

Eligble On-Pack Claims

Each RaiseWell claim is derived from practices written in the standard.

Carried out every day on certified operations and reviewed through annual, third-party audits.

Ethically Raised at Every Stage

Animals are humanely handled with care and attentiveness through every stage of life, from birth to final harvest, under a standard that prioritizes wellbeing, calm movement, pain-minimizing practices, and the expression of natural behaviors.

No Antibiotics Ever

Animals certified under the RaiseWell standard never receive antibiotics by any method. This includes injections, feed additives, water treatments, or topicals at any point in the animal's life.

No Added Hormones Ever

Certified animals are raised without added growth promotants, including synthetic or natural hormones, beta agonists, or estrus suppressants.

Traceable to Farm of Origin

Each animal is source verified through Where Food Comes From's third-party systems, with identification and records that link directly to its birth or initial receiving location.

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FSIS-Aligned On-Pack Seals

Full Color Lockups





Single Color Lockups



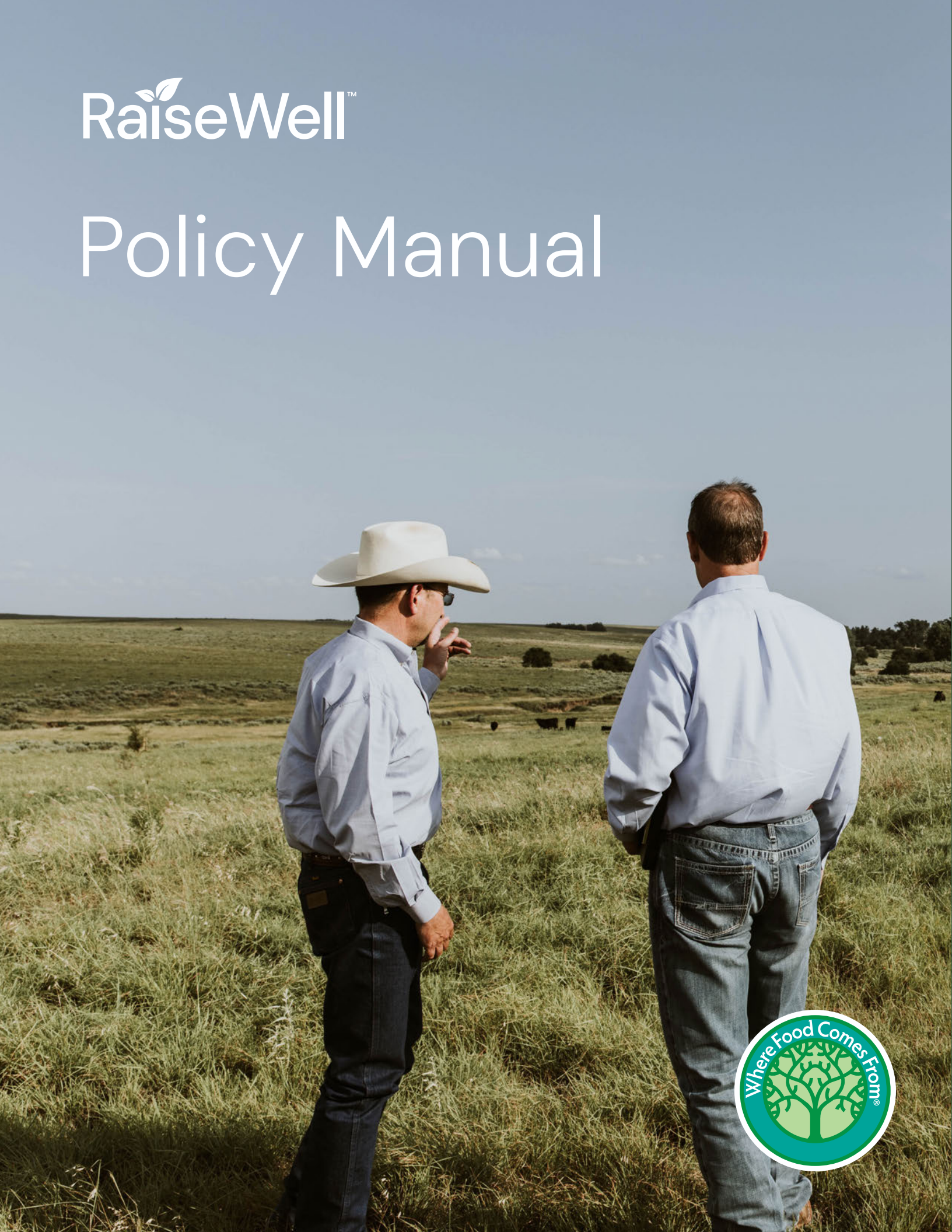


For on-pack use, FSIS requires that animal raising claims be backed by third-party certification and linked directly to accessible standard language.

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Policy Manual



Policy Manual Contents

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WFCF RaiseWell – POLICY MANUAL

Purpose This document outlines the responsibilities and requirements for services provided under the Where Food Comes From (WFCF) RaiseWell program.

Scope
RaiseWell Certified is a comprehensive third-party standard for livestock and poultry that encompasses rigorous animal care and verified natural practices. It ensures ethical practices and animal wellbeing are addressed in every stage of their life, with no antibiotics or added hormones or growth promotants ever, and fed a diet with no animal by-products. The program serves producers, brands, and retailers who uphold these principles with care and consistency, offering consumers confidence in transparent, ethically and naturally raised products.

Customers may enroll in additional WFCF raising claim certifications, which compliment the RaiseWell Certified program. Protocols related to these additive certifications are included in the WFCF PVP listing or other related program documents.

References
The following referenced documents are used for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

- *ISO 19011:2018 Guidelines for auditing management systems*
- WFCF RaiseWell Certification Transition Operational Procedure

WFCF RaiseWell Program Requirements

1 Responsibilities

1.1 Customers must meet all applicable requirements outlined in this document.

1.2 Customers must inform WFCF, without delay, of significant changes relevant to program approval.

1.3 WFCF conducts audit activities in accordance to *ISO 19011:2018 Section 6 Conducting an Audit.* Audit documentation is retained by the WFCF in an electronic format.

1.4 WFCF provides notice of any changes to its requirements, and verifies that customers carry out any necessary adjustments.

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2 Contact Information

For additional information about the WFCF RaiseWell Program, please contact:

Where Food Comes From, Inc
202 6th Street, Suite 400
Castle Rock, Co 80104
Office: 866.395.5883
info@wherefoodcomesfrom.com

3 Applying for Service

3.1 Please submit a cover letter (hard copy or in electronic form) requesting services. The cover letter should include the following:

3.1.1 A clearly defined requested scope;

3.1.2 General information concerning the customer such as its activities, human and technical resources, and its relationships in a larger corporate entity, if any;

3.1.3 Information concerning all outsourced processes used by the customer that will affect the program; and

3.1.4 Addresses of all physical locations(s) to be covered by the scope of the program.

3.2 A complete copy (hard copy or in electronic form) of the customer's program documentation as described in the individual program procedure, as applicable.

3.3 The customer may withdraw from the application process at any time.

4 Auditor Requirements

4.1 Auditors must hold a bachelor's degree in Animal, Poultry, or Food Science and/or has related agricultural field plus 5 years of extensive experience in livestock/agriculture industry OR 15+ years of professional experience in the same field(s). In addition, extensive knowledge of agricultural systems is preferred.

4.2 Auditors must also sign a disclosure that they do not have a secondary job or relationship that would create a conflict of interest.

4.3 Auditors performing RaiseWell verification must be trained by WFCF (or applicable division) regarding company policies and standard procedures to conduct an audit, as well as specific audit checklist and animal observations. This training may be conducted virtually, through webinars/recorded digital training modules, or in-person.

4.3.1 Field training / shadowing is also required to conduct RaiseWell audits to ensure the auditor is able to make the appropriate assessments. This is completed after initial training is complete.

4.3.2 Ongoing and/or follow-up training will take place through the following methods: retraining in the field, team calls, company training events, digital training refresher modules, etc.

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5 Verification

5.1 On-site Verification

5.1.1 Annual audits are conducted to verify compliance with the standard.

5.1.2 The WFCF Account Manager, or designee, appoints the auditor to conduct the on- site audit.

5.1.3 The WFCF Account Manager, or designee, notifies the customer of the assigned auditor.

5.1.4 The date and arrival time are arranged between the customer and the auditor.

5.1.5 The on-site audit is conducted in accordance to *ISO 19011:2018 Section 6 Conducting an Audit.* The objective of an on-site audit is to verify the customer's conformance to the audit criteria.

5.1.6 The on-site audit is conducted at the premises of the customer from which one or more key activities are performed. Where relevant, the on-site audit includes other selected locations where the customer operates, to gather objective evidence that the customer is competent and conforms to the requirements of the audit criteria. Additionally, the auditor reviews the performance of a representative number of staff of the customer to gather objective evidence.

5.2 Off-site Verification

5.2.1 Under special circumstances and at the discretion of and approval by WFCF a remote, video verification may be conducted in the event of, but not limited to, one of the following special circumstances:

a) Ongoing inclement weather or a disastrous weather event
b) A local biosecurity concern
c) Ongoing customer illness
d) Verifier vehicle breakdown, weather delay or some other verifier issue (when delay in approval could impact customer business)

5.2.2 Off-site audits are requested for approval by the WFCF Account Manager to the appropriate division Director or Director of Technical Services.

5.3 Internal Control System (ICS)

5.3.1 Customers qualify for an ICS if they have the same management and protocols across multiple sites or are an integrator with established contracts in place that outline expectations and protocols to conduct day-to-day activities related to raising practices.

5.3.2 An approved ICS must be complete annual (rolling 12-months) onsite and documented reviews to determine if the sites within the approved system are meeting the requirements of the RaiseWell standard criteria. Records of the audits and their results must be maintained and made available upon request to WFCF auditors to verify compliance and ensure minimum program requirements are met.

5.3.3 An approved ICS may qualify for onsite surveillance audits conducted on 1/3 of the sites annually by WFCF. All sites are required to have an initial onsite audit. This is based on a risk assessment and the ability of the ICS to complete thorough annual audits internally.

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6 Verification Process

Each RaiseWell audit conducted includes:

6.1 Pre-Review: Process conducted by the Account Manager to assess what needs to be audited onsite. The Account Manager shall communicate this with the Auditor assigned to the site.

6.2 Preparation: The auditor shall determine the date and time to start the audit, as well as confirm location and audit tool being used. The auditor must also ensure familiarity with the audit tool being used and if there are questions or clarity needed, the Auditor will reach out to the appropriate division to gain understanding prior to going onsite.

6.3 Onsite Audit:

6.3.1 Opening Meeting – Introductions, explain scope of the audit, and confirm logistical details for the audit.

6.3.2 Complete verification, per the RaiseWell Audit Tool through record / documentation review, interview, and observations.

6.3.3 Closing Meeting – Thank the operation for their time and attention, discuss findings of the audit, and discuss next steps (audit review, reporting, and corrective actions – if necessary).

6.4 RaiseWell Certified Audit Scoring & Checklist Features

6.4.1 Question Categories in the RaiseWell-Certified audit include:

a) Critical Criteria: These criteria are not scored numerically, but instead are pass/fail criteria. A site MUST pass all Critical Criteria to be RaiseWell Certified.

b) Core Criteria: These criteria are scored numerically based on how it is verified and directly contribute to the overall audit score for a site. Each site audited must score a minimum number of Core Criteria to be RaiseWell-Certified. This minimum score is established by the RaiseWell Expert Committee.

c) Advanced Criteria: These criteria are scored to assess additional continuous improvement points that are still in development. They do not contribute to the overall audit score for a site.

6.4.2 Each question associated to the Core and Advanced criteria is scored according to the verification onsite. Points achieved for each question is 'all or nothing'. No partial points or credit is awarded to ensure consistency from auditor to auditor.

6.5 Audit Sampling

6.5.1 The goal of sampling during an audit is to observe a representative sample of the animals and facilities to make determination of whether or not the operation being audited has met a criteria or standard. Therefore, size and scope of the operation are important parameters that are used to support the sample size determination.

6.5.2 The number of animals, pens, or pastures to observe is dependent on the audit tool you are using. It may not be practical in all situations to observe all animals or all pens and thus, proper sampling methods must be executed.

6.5.3 Auditors MUST follow the guidance of the RaiseWell audit tool they are using. If the minimum number of animals or facilities are not able to be observed during the onsite audit, the auditor MUST document the reason(s) why and contact the site's Account Manager to determine next steps.

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7 Audit Findings and Verification Report

7.1 All audit findings, including identified non-conformances, continuous improvement points, and recommendations, are discussed with the customer at the conclusion of the on-site audit. If the auditor cannot reach a conclusion about an audit finding, the auditor refers to the WFCF Account Manager for clarification.

7.2 Audit findings may consist of the following:

7.2.1 *Primary non-conformance*: A major non-conformance that compromises the integrity of the program or product to the extent that program approval should be denied, suspended, withdrawn, revoked, or delayed until corrective action can be completed. Any absence or complete breakdown of a program requirement is considered a primary non-conformance.

7.2.2 *Secondary non-conformance*: A minor non-conformance that does not compromise the integrity of the program or product. Isolated incidences of non-conformance are considered a secondary non-conformance. A secondary non-conformance not corrected or addressed in a timely manner may be upgraded to a primary nonconformance.

7.2.3 *Continuous improvement point (CIP):* Observations or areas identified as opportunities for improvement. Although not identified as non-conformances, CIPs have the potential to become nonconformances if not corrected or addressed.

7.3 The audit findings, excluding CIPs, are outlined in the audit report, which is submitted to the WFCF Account Manager, or designee, for final review and disposition. The WFCF Account Manager has the discretion to modify the audit findings. WFCF is responsible for the content of the audit report.

7.4 CIPs are provided to the customer during the closing meeting, as they are known at the conclusion of the audit. Additional review is conducted by the Account Manager or designee, which may result in changes to the identified CIPs.

8 Correcting Identified Non-conformances

8.1 Customers must address all non-conformances and respond to all requests for corrective actions and corrections, as applicable, within the time frame specified in the audit report.

8.2 Requests are based on non-conformances identified during the audit. Customers must identify the cause(s) of the non-conformance, determine the necessary corrective action, and implement the corrective actions. Additionally, if the non-conformance resulted in the use or delivery of non-conforming product, the customer must identify the non-conforming product and make correction appropriate to the non-conformance. Written corrective action responses must be submitted in hard copy or electronic form.

8.3 The following actions must be taken by the customer, when applicable:

8.3.1 *Corrective Action*: Action to eliminate the cause of a detected non-conformance. Corrective action is taken to prevent recurrence.

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8.3.2 *Correction*: Action to eliminate a detected non-conformance. Correction does not address the cause of the non-conformance but rather the specific non-conforming product.

8.3.3 *Preventative Action*: Action to eliminate the cause of a potential non-conformance. Preventative action is taken to prevent occurrence.

9 Certification

9.1 Certification is based upon the audit findings and the recommendation of the auditor or audit team. The approval is issued annually. The WFCF Account Manager makes the final decision regarding approval status.

9.2 Certification status may be one of the following:

9.2.1 *Approval:* No non-conformances were identified during the audit. No actions are necessary by the customer.

9.2.2 *Approval with Conditions*: (1) Non-conformances, and any non-conforming product, were corrected prior to the decision of approval; or (2) only secondary non-conformances were identified during the audit. Non-conformances were identified during the audit. Customers must submit corrective actions and corrections as applicable within the time frame specified in the audit report. Additional desk audits and/or on-site audits may be conducted at the customer's expense.

9.2.3 *Denied Approval*: Denied approval may be issued prior to the initial program approval for any of the reasons outlined below. Customers must submit corrective actions and corrections as applicable to address any identified non-conformances before approval may be issued. Additional desk audits and/or on- site audits may be conducted at the customer's expense.

9.3 Upon reaching a decision, the WFCF Account Manager, or designee, sends the customer a cover letter, along with the verification report and any additional documentation. The verification report includes details of the audit, the approval status and any terms and conditions, as appropriate.

9.4 Certification Suspension and Withdrawal

9.4.1 Certification suspension is the temporary removal of a customer's approved status pending corrective action by the customer or formal program withdrawal by WFCF. The customer must cease all activities upon notification of program suspension. However, agricultural products or services verified under the program prior to suspension remain verified.

9.4.2 Certificate suspension may occur for any of the following reasons:

a) Failure to adequately address any program requirement.
b) Failure to demonstrate capability to meet any program requirement.
c) Failure to follow the customer's approved program.
d) Failure to maintain the customer's approved program.
e) Failure to provide corrective actions and correction as applicable in the timeframe

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specified.

f) Persistently failing to meet the requirements of the program or to abide by WFCF policies and procedures.
g) Implementing significant changes to an approved program without prior written notification to and approval by the WFCF Account Manager.
h) Failure to pay WFCF fees.

9.4.3 Certification withdrawal is the removal of a customer's approved status. The customer must cease all activities upon notification of certification withdrawal. In addition, agricultural products or services verified under the program prior to the withdrawal are no longer verified and must not be marketed as certified.

a) Permanent withdrawal may apply if a customer deliberately misrepresented the eligibility of agricultural products or services, introduced prohibited compounds or substances, or used program approval in a manner as to bring the WFCF into disrepute. WFCF will not provide service to the customer during the timeframe that the permanent withdrawal is in effect.
b) A customer may also request withdrawal.

9.4.4 The WFCF Technical Services Manager makes the final decision regarding program suspension or withdrawal. When appropriate, a WFCF Review Committee makes the final decision regarding program suspension.

9.4.5 Upon reaching a decision, the WFCF Account Manager, or designee, notifies the customer in writing of the suspension / withdrawal and the details of actions required to be reinstated. The details of actions do not include specific remedies to barriers of reinstatement.

9.4.6 Recurring suspension of a customer's certification may result in program withdrawal, or a reduction in the scope of the approval to exclude those parts where the customer has persistently failed to meet the requirements of the program, including competence.

9.4.7 The decision to reinstate a suspended or withdrawn certificate is at the discretion of the WFCF Technical Services Manager. Following a suspension or withdrawal, reinstatement may be granted only after the customer has successfully completed an audit and clearance of any outstanding non-conformances are verified.

9.4.8 Recognition of other certification programs or schemes is allowed for a 12-month period from the launch of the RaiseWell standard. This process is outlined in the WFCF Certification Transition Operational Procedure. If all animal care and verified natural criteria are not included the recognized certification program, an addendum may be needed to verify all RaiseWell criteria.

10 Maintaining Certification

10.1 Customers are required to maintain and implement requirements to the RaiseWell Standard as described in their approved program documentation.

10.2 Any significant changes, in any aspect of status or operation to the customer's certification must be submitted in writing to the WFCF Account Manager and approved

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prior to implementation. Such changes include the following:

10.2.1 Legal, commercial, ownership, or organizational status;

10.2.2 Organization, top management, and key personnel;

10.2.3 Policies and procedures;

10.2.4 Resources and premises;

10.2.5 Scope of program; and

10.2.6 Other matters that may affect the ability of the customer to fulfill requirements for the program.

10.3 Depending upon the nature and extent of the changes, the WFCF Account Manager may require a complete or partial on-site audit of the program prior to approval. In situations where an additional on-site audit is required, a new approval is issued for an appropriate time period based on the findings of the audit.

10.4 All certified locations are audited on an on-going basis unless a written cancellation request is received from the customer or certification is suspended.

10.5 All certified locations are subject to unannounced audits. The auditor documents the findings of unannounced audits in an audit report and submits the report to the WFCF Account Manager. Findings of unannounced audits are considered when determining conformance of the program for continued approval / certification, or may provide the basis for suspending approval.

10.6 Certified customers may cancel service at any time by submitting a written notification to the WFCF Account Manager.

10.6.1 Customers who cancel service must reapply to regain program approval / certification. When an application is received, WFCF undertakes the necessary activities, as outlined in this document before certification may be re-granted.

10.6.2 Customers are responsible for fees accrued prior to cancellation.

11 Reference to Certification

11.1 Customers with certification may refer to approval by WFCF in communication media, such as the internet, documents, brochures, or advertising. A licensing agreement is required.

11.2 Customers with certification may refer to approval by WFCF with on-pack labeling through use of claims or logo use. A chain of custody audit for all slaughter and processing locations, as well as a licensing agreement is required.

11.3 Upon request by WFCF, customers must submit communication media for review by the WFCF prior to its use.

11.4 Customers must ensure that references are complete and not misleading or ambiguous.

11.5 Customers are responsible for correcting erroneous references in a sufficient manner that

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is appropriate to the situation.

11.6 If certification is suspended, withdrawn, or cancelled, the customer must discontinue its use of all communication media that contains any reference to an approved status immediately upon notification by WFCF in written notice.

12 Fees for Services

12.1 The fees for service are the responsibility of the customer requesting service as outline in the WFCF Contract and Statement of Work.

12.2 The fees for WFCF Services include the following:

- **12.2.1** *Audit preparation*: Time to review the approved program documentation and records from previous audits, and to prepare checklists.
- **12.2.2** *Audit time*: Time to conduct the audit, report the results of the audit, and conduct the corrective action audit, if applicable.
- **12.2.3** *Travel*: Travel time and expenses to and from the assigned auditor's official duty location and between audit sites. When traveling to provide services to multiple customers, charges will be pro-rated between the customers.
- **12.2.4** Other expenses related to providing services.
- **12.2.5** *Labeling*: WFCF labeling licensing fees as approved.

12.3 Auditors document all hours of service charged to customers. Charges are submitted to the WFCF office for billing purposes.

13 Standard Oversight

13.1 RaiseWell Standards are reviewed as needed, minimally on an annual basis.

13.2 An Expert Committee is established for the RaiseWell standard that includes WFCF team, academic and industry experts in the associated field.

- **13.2.1** WFCF team gathers feedback from producers/customers, auditors, buyers and our Account Managers to help guide improvements to the standard and audit checklist.
- **13.2.2** External (academic and industry) experts are responsible for reviewing the feedback and the standard on an annual basis, ensuring the standard is applicable, science-based and takes into account consumer expectations of food animal production practices.
- **13.2.3** The RaiseWell Expert Committee determines standard criterion and required certification scores.

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Beef Standard

EDITION 1 REVISED: 12/11/25



Beef Standard Contents

1 Introduction and Purpose

2 Animal Care Standard

- Animal Caregivers Husbandry Training
- Biosecurity & Secure Beef Supply
- General Care & Management Commitment
- Herd Health
- Feed and Water
- Cattle Handling
- Observations / Outcome Measures (Animal & Facility)
- Responsible Antibiotic Use
- Sick or Injured Cattle
- On-Farm Euthanasia
- Facilities
- Transportation
- Harvest and Processing
- Pasture Management

3 Verified Natural

- No Added Growth Promotants
- No Antibiotics Administered
- No Animal By-Products Fed
- Program Compliance

4 Appendices

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INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

For the purpose of this Standard, the following segments of the beef industry are defined:

- Cow / Calf – Ranch or farm operation that has permanent herd of cows which produces calves annually for later sale. Calves are born on these operations and are considered the birth / original premises for traceability purposes.
- Stocker / Backgrounder – Operations used as a transitional phase to allow calves more time to grow prior to entry (if they do enter) into the feedyard stage. Calves may graze on grasses or forages, or may be fed a ration in a dry lot / pen.
- Feedyard – This is the final phase (for cattle that do enter a feedlot) prior to cattle being slaughtered/harvested. Cattle may graze on grasses or forages, or may be fed a ration in a dry lot, pen, or barn.
- Harvest / Slaughter Facility – Establishments utilized to slaughter and/or process certified cattle, prior to product distribution. These may be federally or state inspected facilities and are critical to the supply chain. For the purposes of this standard the supply chain is responsible for identity preservation / traceability, proper animal handling, and any residue sampling criteria outlined.

The RaiseWell Certified program was developed to verify specific supply chain requirements and has two main components, each having their own set of standard criteria:

1. **Animal Care:** The purpose of the Animal Care Standard is to reinforce animal care measures are being taken in all stages of cattle production, including transportation. Embracing evolution and science to ensure animals are raised ethically, we incorporated the following concepts in the development of the Standard:
    - Five Domains Model (nutrition, environment, health, behavioral interactions, and experiences);
    - Five Freedoms framework (freedom from hunger and thirst, freedom from discomfort, freedom from pain, injury or disease, freedom to express normal behavior, and freedom from fear and distress); and
    - Three Circles Model (basic health and functioning, nature, and affective states).
2. **Verified Natural:** In addition, RaiseWell Certified requires specific raising claims outlined in the WFCF Verified Natural Beef procedures. These standards mirror the USDA-approved Process Verified Program requirements for livestock operations choosing to market animals or finished product with substantiated claims of:
    - No added hormones or growth promotants;
    - No antibiotics administered; and
    - No animal by-products fed.

Locations certified under the RaiseWell Certified program maintain a quality manual describing how the operation meets the program criteria. The RaiseWell Certified Standard is modified as necessary to continually integrate improved animal husbandry practices. At a minimum, a formal review of the program standards and audit checklist are completed by a third party each year. Recommendations for updates are brought forward to an external advisory committee for consideration / approval. Any necessary changes are made on an annual basis.

The RaiseWell Certified program is designed to address specific criteria related to animal care and natural raising practices but producers are encouraged to couple this certification with other optional WFCF raising claims such as CARE Certified, Vegetarian Fed, Verified Grassfed, Pasture Raised, breed and origin claims for additional consumer / customer needs and added value.

ANIMAL CARE STANDARD
BEEF OPERATIONS

Criterion Number	Criterion	Cow/Calf	Stocker / Backgrounder	Feedyard
RAC1. Animal Caregivers Husbandry Training				
RAC1a. CORE	The operation has an Animal Husbandry Training Program that describes frequency and method(s) of training for caregivers, contractors and other personnel.	X	X	X
RAC1b. CORE	All employees (full-time and part-time), contractors and all other personnel involved with feeding, handling or caring for cattle must hold current BQA training certificate (every 3 years).	X	X	X
RAC1c. CORE	The operation trains all caregivers annually in animal care principles and procedures. Training is documented to include date(s), trainer(s), trainee(s) and topic(s) covered.	X	X	X
RAC1d. CORE	The operation identifies a person responsible to oversee animal care practices.	X	X	X
RAC2. Biosecurity & Secure Beef Supply				
RAC2a. CORE	The operation has a documented Security Plan that addresses controls and procedures in the case of a foreign animal disease outbreak. The Security Plan addresses the following: • Plan for stopping movement of livestock; • Plan for segregation of healthy livestock from affected livestock; • Plan for notification to appropriate agencies regarding any suspected disease; and • Plan for depopulation and disposal.	X	X	X
RAC2b. CORE	The Security Plan is reviewed annually by management.	X	X	X
RAC2c. CORE	All employees are trained on the operation's Security Plan annually.	X	X	X
RAC2d. CORE	The operation maintains identification of cattle and associated records in order to trace cattle to immediate source into the operation and immediate shipment from the operation. This can be done by group or individual animal.	X	X	X
RAC2e. CORE	The operation's Security Plan minimally includes a Visitor Log.	n/a	n/a	X
RAC2f. CRITICAL	**Cattle must be sourced ranch/farm-direct (no auction/sale barn purchases are allowed).**	n/a	X	X
RAC3. General Care & Management Commitment				
RAC3a. CORE	The operation has a documented Animal Care Policy addressing expectation of caregiver / stock personnel and states that willful abuse, neglect or cruelty must be reported and will not be tolerated.	X	X	X

RAC3b. CORE	The operation can demonstrate that cattle under their care are routinely observed and monitored for general health, access to feed and water.	X	X	X
RAC3c. CORE	Management completes an internal review, minimally on an annual basis. This must include observations of cattle processing and loading/unloading.	X	X	X
RAC3d. CORE	Genetic selection is performed to ensure good outcomes for cattle, given the operation's geographic location and natural resources.	X	n/a	n/a
RAC3e. CRITICAL	**Breeding by practices other than natural service, artificial insemination, or embryo transfer is prohibited. Use of cloning and genetically modified animals is prohibited.**	X	n/a	n/a
RAC3f. CORE	Culling of animals is performed to ensure welfare for the animal. Animals in poor condition are not maintained.	X	n/a	n/a
RAC3g. CORE	Resource (grasslands, feed, water, etc.) contingency plans are in place for natural disasters such as fire, flood, drought, disease or pest outbreaks, predator conflict, or other.	X	X	X
RAC4. Herd Health				
RAC4a. CORE	Herd health plan that addresses the following: • All types of cattle (cow, bull, calf, replacements, etc.) at the operation. • Prevention of disease through vaccinations and parasite control and use of other technologies to promote health and productivity. • Processing practices performed at the premises such as castration, disbudding, tagging and branding of calves; pregnancy checking, artificial insemination, estrous synchronization of cows; semen testing of bulls. • Stressful procedures are completed as early as possible in the animal's life to minimize stress and pain. See RAC6 criterion for specifics on painful procedures. • Use of technologies for genetic selection and breeding practices. This can include synchronization strategies, bull selection criteria, artificial insemination, embryo transfer, etc. (if applicable). • Breeding and culling decisions (if applicable). • Nutritional needs being met for each stage of production.	X	X	n/a – See RAC4b.
RAC4b. CORE	Herd health plan that addresses the following: • All types of cattle (steers, heifers, etc.) at the operation. • Prevention of disease through vaccinations and parasite control and use of other technologies to promote health and productivity. • Processing practices performed at the premises such as horn tipping, tagging, and pregnancy checking (if applicable).	n/a – See RAC4a	n/a – See RAC4a	X

	• Cattle health product management (storage, use, and inventory/expiration). • Nutritional needs being met for each stage of production, inclusive of transition diets when needed.			
RAC4c. CORE	All animal health products are administered according to label instruction, following FDA and/or veterinary prescription.	X	X	X
RAC4d. CORE	Stockpersons follow BQA best practices for all animal health products to include recommended injection sites, as well as weight and age recommendations for castration and disbudding.	X	X	X
RAC4e. CORE	The operation has a documented broken needle protocol that includes details on what to do if the needle remains in the animal after administering injectables.	X	X	X
RAC4f. CORE	Cattle health products are stored properly and in accordance with manufacturer's label.	X	X	X
RAC4g. CORE	An inventory of cattle health products is maintained by the operation.	X	X	X
RAC4h. CORE	The operation has a protocol for monitoring cattle health product expiration and disposal.	X	X	X
RAC4i. CORE	Feedyards must have a protocol to address pregnant heifers that may include ultrasound to confirm absence of pregnancy. If pregnant, the operation must be addressed through medication or additional oversight to ensure the wellbeing of the heifer as primary goal. If hormone treatment is utilized, the heifer is no longer eligible for Verified Natural (see Nat 1a. Criteria)	n/a	n/a	X
RAC4j. CORE / CRITICAL	Orphaned calves are provided colostrum as soon as possible and within 24 hours of birth. **Calves receive colostrum within 6 hours after birth.**	X	X	X
RAC4k. CRITICAL	**Orphaned calves are fed milk at least twice daily and provided adequate feed if older than 30 days of age.**	X	X	X
RAC4l. CORE	Weaning practices are implemented to reduce stress for cow and calf. Examples of addressing stress may include: fenceline weaning, 2-step weaning, etc.	X	n/a	n/a
RAC4m. CRITICAL	**Weaning is performed at an average age of 6 months, with no individual calf less than 4 months of age at the time of weaning. Date(s) of weaning must be recorded. If the minimum age is not met due to reasons out of the producer's control (ie, drought or other uncontrollable impacts), the standard holder must be contacted for approval and requires documentation.**	X	n/a	n/a
RAC4n. CRITICAL	**Records must indicate date of first calf born. If multiple cow herds, dates must be recorded for each herd.**	X	n/a	n/a
RAC5. Feed and Water				
RAC5a. CORE	Cattle have access to feed supply as addressed in National Research Council's nutrient requirements for beef cattle and applicable stage of production.	X	X	X
RAC5b. CORE	Cattle have free access to water.	X	X	X

RAC5c. CORE	Feed/forage and water quality is monitored at least annually.	X	X	X
RAC5d. CORE	Changes in diet / feedstuffs are gradual and include sufficient fiber to prevent acidosis.	n/a	X	X
RAC5e. CORE	Feed trucks and wagons have magnets to minimize foreign material.	n/a	n/a	X
RAC6. Cattle Handling				
RAC6a. CRITICAL	**No willful acts of abuse or neglect are observed during the audit. If a willful act of abuse or neglect is observed, the site will not be certified.**	X	X	X
RAC6b. CRITICAL	**Electro-immobilization is prohibited.**	X	X	X
RAC6c. CORE	Cattle are handled using low stress handling techniques.	X	X	X
RAC6d. CORE	Methods used for herding (horseback, ATV, helicopter, on foot, etc.) do not cause harm to the cattle or handlers. If using dogs, they are well-trained and controlled at all times.	X	X	X
RAC6e. CORE	The operation uses only approved handling aids to drive or process cattle. Examples of approved driving aids include paddles, sorting sticks, flags, etc.	X	X	X
RAC6f. CRITICAL	**Castration is performed under 6 months of age and completed by surgery, banding or burdizzo. If banding, lido-bands must be used.**	X	n/a	n/a
RAC6g. CRITICAL	**Dehorning is prohibited. Tipping is allowed, but must be done with properly maintained equipment and with procedures to minimize blood and pain.**	X	X	X
RAC6h. CRITICAL	**Disbudding is completed before 3 months of age.**	X	n/a	n/a
RAC6i. CRITICAL	**Spaying is prohibited.**	X	X	X
RAC6j. CRITICAL	**Tail docking, for any reason, is prohibited.**	X	X	X
RAC6k. CORE	The operation has procedures in place to address calving complications with cows or heifers.	X	n/a	X
RAC6l. CORE	Chutes should be operated in a manner that minimizes stress for cattle. When cattle are handled using chutes, safety considerations such as observing falls, stumbles, head catch, side restraint and vocalization are considered.	X	X	X
RAC6m. CRITICAL	**Face branding of any kind (hot or freeze) is not allowed.**	X	X	X
RAC6n. CRITICAL	**Wattling and brisket tags are not allowed.**	X	X	X
RAC6o. CORE	Cattle processing is observed to assess low stress handling, use of handling aids, proper chute operation, and cattle observations. • Electric prod use is not primary driving aid, is minimized and not utilized unless there is imminent risk of injury to animal or the handler. • Cattle must be properly caught in squeeze chute. 100% of cattle must be caught in the front and back catch/gate appropriately. No mis-catches are observed.	X	X	X

	• 95% of cattle should not vocalize in the chute, prior to processing activity. • Falls are assessed as an animal exits the chute. No more than 2% of the cattle fall when exiting the chute. • Stumbles are assessed as an animal exits the chute. No more than 10% of the cattle stumble when exiting the chute. • Jumps and racing may also be assessed as an animal exits the chute. This is an advanced criteria and no more than 20% of the cattle should jump or race when exiting the chute. *While proper processing is required in all phases of production, observations of all the above are only required to be captured at the feedyard phase since these events may not be routinely occurring when an audit is conducted at a cow/calf or backgrounding operation. For this reason, protocols and interview questions will serve as verification in the cow/calf and backgrounder phases.*			
RAC6p. CRITICAL	**Electric prods are not used during handling unless there is an imminent risk of injury to the animal or the handler or deemed necessary to not prolong additional stress to the animal. If the electric prod use is deemed necessary, the prod must not be used on sensitive parts of the animal (eyes, ears, nose, genitals, or rectum).**	X	X	X
RAC6q. CRITICAL	**Isolating an animal is prohibited, except when done temporarily for the welfare of the animal or quarantining an off-farm animal prior to introduction to the herd. Records of such isolation must be kept.**	X	X	X
RAC7. Observations / Outcome Measures – Animal & Facility				
RAC7a. CORE	Body Condition Score of cattle is routinely observed. No more than 5% of the herd observed have a low body condition score (analogous to BCS <2 in the 9-point beef BCS system). Temporary exceptions (i.e., BCS of 2) may be granted if there has been prolonged, severe drought and producer has evidence of emergency feeding program.	X	X	n/a
RAC7b. CRITICAL	**Diet should be sufficient to maintain a Body Condition Score (BCS) of at least 4, ideally 5. Ideally, BCS is observed at weaning, 90 days before calving, at calving, at breeding, and during late summer/fall for cattle on range.**	X	n/a	n/a
RAC7c. CORE	The operation assesses cattle lameness and hoof health routinely. When observed using the 4-point scale (See Appendix B), 95% of cattle have a mobility score of 1 or a treatment program is implemented. Cattle with a limp or hoof conditions (foot rot, foundered, etc.) are identified and under care for improvement.	X	X	n/a
RAC7d. CORE	Cattle observed with abnormalities (i.e., open wounds, abscesses, eye conditions, hoof conditions, etc.) are less than 10% of the herd and under treatment for the respective abnormality, where applicable.	X	X	n/a

RAC7e. CRITICAL	**When observed, 95% of the cow herd is identified. This can be a group/lot or individual identification method. Examples include: visual ear tag, electronic ear tag, ear clip (bangs vaccination), brand, etc.**	X	n/a	n/a
RAC7f. CRITICAL	**Cattle marketed as RaiseWell Certified are tagged with RFID prior to leaving the ranch of origin. Stocker / Backgrounder locations shall read and verify incoming calves with qualifying RFID.**	X	X	X
RAC7g. CRITICAL	**Cattle must not have more than two (2) visual / dangle ear tags. Other forms of identification such as EID's, buttons, and bangs clips are allowed and do not factor into the visual / dangle tag count.**	X	X	X
RAC7h. CRITICAL	**If applicable, branding must be done, on average, prior to 3 months of age and may range from 1 month of age to 4 months of age. Records must indicate date(s) of branding to verify compliance.**	X	X	X
RAC7i. CORE	Home pens & specialty pens are observed to ensure feed bunks are accessible to cattle, clean and free of manure and foreign objects. Spoiled feed is to be removed.	n/a	n/a	X
RAC7j. CORE	Home pens & specialty pens are observed to ensure water tanks have fresh, clean water available at all times. Water tanks should be free of manure, excessive algae growth, and other foreign objects.	n/a	n/a	X
RAC7k. CORE	Home pens & specialty pens must provide enough space for all cattle to stand up, lie down and move freely to express natural behaviors. Stocking density is observed during the audit to verify compliance. A minimum of 250 ft^2 per head is required.	n/a	n/a	X
RAC7l. CORE	Home pens & specialty pens must provide cattle comfort and relief from extreme weather conditions, including but not limited to weather events with extreme heat, cold, and/or precipitation.	n/a	n/a	X
RAC7m. CORE	Home pens, specialty pens and all working facilities must be in good working order.	n/a	n/a	X
RAC7n. CORE	Cattle in the home pens are observed to assess mud score, using the 5-point scale. When observed, 75% of the pens assessed have an average mud score less than 3.	n/a	n/a	X
RAC7o. CORE	Cattle in the home pens are observed to assess locomotion/lameness. When observed using the 4-point scale (See Appendix B), 95% of cattle have a mobility score ≤ 2.	n/a	n/a	X
RAC8. Responsible Antibiotic Use				
RAC8a. CORE	Judicious/responsible use of antibiotics is followed, including those administered via injection, feed (VFD) or water (prescription).	X	X	X
RAC8b. CORE	The operation has evidence of Vet Client Patient Relationship (VCPR).	X	X	X
RAC8c. CORE	The operation treats the fewest number of animals possible to minimize spread of disease and promote judicious use of antibiotics. Mass treating groups of cattle is limited and only performed when necessary.	X	X	X

RAC8d. CRITICAL	**Operation adheres to FDA Guidance 209, 213, and 263 which pertain to judicious and responsible use of medically-important antibiotics.**	X	X	X
RAC8e. CRITICAL	**The operation does not allow animals to suffer, when treatment could be provided with the use of antibiotics, to keep the animals enrolled in the program. Treated animals must be uniquely identified and not represented as RaiseWell Certified.**	X	X	X
RAC9. Sick or Injured Cattle				
RAC9a. CORE	The operation maintains treatment protocols for sick and/or injured cattle.	X	X	X
RAC9b. CORE	The operation documents all treatments provided to cattle including animal(s) treated (ID), date of treatment, product administered and dose.	X	X	X
RAC9c. CRITICAL	**Withdrawal periods are tracked and strictly adhered to, ensuring cattle are clear of any animal health products when shipped for slaughter. If cattle are not clear when sold, detailed information is shared with the buyer of the cattle to include product, date administered and animal identification.**	X	X	X
RAC9d. CORE	Cattle that are under extensive treatment are kept separate from large herd and monitored daily. Ideally, cattle are able to see other cattle to minimize stress, even if the need for isolation during treatment is needed. Additionally, shelter and bedding must be provided.	X	X	X
RAC9e. CRITICAL	**Bullers are addressed through a site-specific protocol, that includes how to identify affected animals, treatment (if needed), and removal from the home pen.**	n/a	X	X
RAC9f. CRITICAL	**Non-ambulatory cattle are never dragged or lifted by its limbs using a rope or chain. Rather, if an animal not able to move on its own needs to be moved, it is rolled into a loader bucket and secured.**	X	X	X
RAC10. On-Farm Euthanasia				
RAC10a. CRITICAL	**Non-ambulatory cattle unable to eat or drink, or not showing improvement within 36 hours of managed care are humanely euthanized. If the farm veterinarian determines that an animal cannot be successfully treated, it must be humanely euthanized immediately.**	X	X	X
RAC10b. CRITICAL	**Euthanasia is completed using an approved method, as noted in the Bovine Practitioners Guide.**	X	X	X
RAC10c. CORE	A documented Euthanasia Procedure is available and consistent with the Bovine Practitioners Guide for timely and humane euthanasia.	X	X	X
RAC11. Facilities				
RAC11a. CORE	Working facilities are clean, maintained in good working order and repairs are performed in a timely manner.	X	X	X
RAC11b. CORE	Water tanks or troughs are cleaned routinely and provide fresh, clean water to cattle.	X	X	X
RAC11c. CORE	Fences in grazing and dry-lot situations are maintained and repairs are made in a timely manner.	X	X	X

RAC11d. CORE	Pens housing cattle are scraped/cleaned routinely so comfort and health of cattle is optimized.	X	X	X
RAC11e. CORE / CRITICAL	For operations utilizing barns to house cattle, considerations are provided for stocking density, bedding and air quality. Cattle comfort is observed during the audit to assess housing conditions. **Slatted flooring is not allowed.**	X	X	X
RAC11f. CORE / CRITICAL	The operation has a predator control program in place. **The first form of defense for predators includes provisions to keep predators from entering the herd.**	X	X	X
RAC11g. CORE	The operation addresses extreme weather conditions to ensure comfort for cattle. Extreme heat, cold and precipitation are considered for appropriate natural or man-made shelter, shade or protection. Some examples of heat mitigation may include: shade (man-made or natural, sprinklers, additional water sources, etc.). Some examples of cold mitigation may include: windbreaks or shelter (man-made or natural, additional bedding, etc.	X	X	X
RAC11h. CRITICAL	**During extreme heat, early morning or late evening shipping must be utilized. Avoid shipping when the Temperature Humidity Index is above 78.**	X	X	X
RAC11i. CRITICAL	**Cattle must have continuous access to the outdoors. Continuous housing is not allowed.**	X	X	X
RAC11j. CRITICAL	**Cattle do not have direct access to any harmful chemicals.**	X	X	X
RAC11k. CORE	It is encouraged that cattle are provided access to enrichments to promote expression of natural behaviors. Enrichments can be natural or man-made and examples may include: brushes, scratching post, mounds, etc.	X	X	X
RAC12. Transportation				
RAC12a. CORE	Transporters of cattle have been trained according to the BQA Transportation program.	X	X	X
RAC12b. CRITICAL	**All cattle loaded at the operation are considered fit for transport, able to handle the rigors of transportation and are not severely injured or ill. Severely injured or ill cattle can only be transported to receive additional / veterinary care.**	X	X	X
RAC12c. CORE	Incompatible animals are segregated in different trailer compartments, unless previously socialized.	X	X	X
RAC12d. CRITICAL	**Maximum transport time (via truck) shall be no longer than 24 hours. When transporting cows, minimize transport within 4 weeks of calving.**	X	X	X
RAC12e. CRITICAL	**When transported by ocean or air, a documented protocol is established to address:** • **Pre-conditioning;** • **Certification of health by accredited veterinarian;** • **Provisions for feed and water during the transport that includes cattle are minimally fed every 24 hours and have continuous access to water;** • **Stocking density aligned with guidelines outlined in the Guidelines for Intrastate and Interstate Shipment**	X	X	X

	of Cattle (2020) and AABP Transportation Guidelines (2019). • **Provisions for daily monitoring of cattle for general health;** • **Procedures for proper euthanasia (if needed during transit); and** • **Provisions for transit delays and if necessary, off-loading of the cattle.**			
RAC12f. CRITICAL	**Standardized chain of custody shipping documents indicating cattle raising claims (RaiseWell) must accompany all associated cattle and include:** • **Starting load time, ending load time, and truck departure time;** • **Ship from and ship to locations; and** • **Identification of treated cattle (as applicable).**	X	X	X
RAC12g. CORE	Equipment (loading/unloading chutes) and trailers used to load and/or haul cattle must be in maintained and in good repair.	X	X	X
RAC12h. CORE	Loading or unloading should be assessed, when able, to assess low stress handling, use of handling aids, and cattle observations. • Electric prod use is not primary driving aid, is minimized and not utilized unless there is imminent risk of injury to animal or the handler. • Falls are assessed and no more than 2% of the cattle fall in the receiving or shipping process. *While proper loading and unloading is required in all phases of production, observations of all the above are only required to be captured at the feedyard phase since these events may not be routinely occurring when an audit is conducted at a cow/calf or backgrounding operation. For this reason, protocols and interview questions will serve as verification in the cow/calf and backgrounder phases.*	X	X	X
RAC13. Harvest and Processing				
RAC13a. CRITICAL	**Annually, all harvest facilities pass a third party animal handling audit, consistent with <u>The Meat Institute Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit</u>.**	n/a	n/a	n/a
RAC13b. CRITICAL	**Annually, all harvest and processing facilities pass a third-party chain of custody audit to ensure identity preservation throughout the establishment's process (cattle receiving through packaging / distribution).**	n/a	n/a	n/a
RAC14. Pasture Management *(not required if CARE Certified)*				
RAC14a. CORE	Monitoring program in place to track progress toward objectives related to forage management, infrastructure management and improvements, soil/soil carbon, water, vegetation, and wildlife.	X	X	X
RAC14b. CORE	Practices are in place that support optimum forage and pasture roughage yields and promotes native plant and vegetative diversity.	X	X	X

RAC14c. CORE	Monitoring is in place for forage, biodiversity, soil erosion, and water (extent of waterbodies, availability of stock water).	X	X	X

VERIFIED NATURAL*
BEEF OPERATIONS

Criterion Number	Criterion	Cow/Calf	Stocker / Backgrounder	Feedyard
Nat 1. No Added Growth Promotants				
RNat 1a. CRITICAL	**The administration of growth promotants, including natural hormones, synthetic hormones, production promotants, estrus suppressants, beta agonists, or other synthetic growth promotants is prohibited from birth to slaughter.**	X	X	X
RNat 1b. CRITICAL	**The administration of growth promotants, including natural hormones, synthetic hormones, production promotants, estrus suppressants, beta agonists, or other synthetic growth promotants for the purpose of estrus synchronization and/or bred heifer abortion is prohibited for cattle that are marketed and utilized in the production of RaiseWell Certified product.**	n/a	n/a	X
Nat 2. No Antibiotics Administered				
RNat 2a. CRITICAL	**No antibiotics can be administered, by any method (e.g., through feed or water, topical, or by injection), from birth to slaughter for livestock. This includes low-level (sub-therapeutic) or therapeutic level doses, sulfonamides, ionophores or any other synthetic antimicrobial.**	X	X	X
Nat 3. No Animal By-Products Fed				
RNat 3a. CRITICAL	**Animals may not be fed animal (mammalian, avian, and aquatic) by-products derived from the slaughter/harvest processes including meat and fat.**	X	X	X
Nat 4. Program Compliance				
RNat 4a. CRITICAL	**If any prohibited substances are administered, the treated animal must be positively identified as non-conforming and excluded from the program.**	X	X	X
RNat 4b. CRITICAL	**Animals must move through third-party approved locations to maintain the Verified Natural claim through the supply chain.**	X	X	X
RNat 4c. CRITICAL	**Supply chains utilizing RaiseWell logo must include post-slaughter verification testing for antibiotic and/or growth promotant use is required quarterly (at minimum).**	n/a	n/a	n/a

**In the live animal raising context, the term 'natural' is used throughout this standard to align with WFCF USDA Process Verified Claim for Verified Natural Beef.*
https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/Official%20Listing%20of%20Approved%20Process%20Verified%20Programs%20for%20Sevice%20Providers.pdf

Appendix A – Body Condition Scoring (9-Point Scale)

BCS1 - Emaciated  The animal is severely emaciated and weak. Bones of the shoulder, ribs, back, hooks and pins are sharp and visible. No fat deposits or muscling are evident.	**BCS2 – Very Thin**  Appearing emaciated, but not weak. Significant loss of muscle throughout, and no fat deposition. Bone structure is sharp and easily visible.	**BCS3 - Thin**  Little fat cover over the shoulder, loin and rump. Foreribs have slight fat deposition, but back ribs are evident. Backbone is highly visible. Muscle loss in hindquarters is evident.
BCS4 - Borderline  Back ribs are easily visible. Muscle loss is noticeable over shoulders, loin, and hindquarters, but approach is normal. Transverse and spinous processes are rounded and not sharp when palpated. Hooks and pins have minimal fat coverage.	**BCS5 - Moderate**  Slight fat deposition in brisket. Muscling throughout is normal. Spine and transverse processes cannot be seen but feel rounded with firm pressure. Sides of tailhead are filling out and hooks and pins are fat covered, but distinguishable.	**BCS6 - Good**  Smooth muscle and fat deposition throughout. Ribs are fully covered. Hindquarters are plump and full, and coverage appears springiness over the foreribs and on each side of the tailhead. There is evident fat deposition in the brisket.
BCS7 - Fleshy  The brisket is full but not distended. Spinous and transverse processes can only be felt with very firm pressure. The topline is taking on a square appearance. There is abundant fat coverage on each side of the tailhead with evident patchiness.	**BCS8 - Obese**  The neck of the animal appears short and thick. The brisket is distended with fat, and the animal takes on a squared appearance over the topline. Bone is structure is not easily to identify, and the animal appears smooth along the sides. Fat deposition is evident in udders (when applicable).	**BCS9 – Very Obese**  Tailhead is buried in fat deposition. The animal appears short-necked with a full, distended brisket. There is significant fat deposition visible in the udder (when applicable). Bone structure is no longer visible. The excessive fat deposition may impair the animal's mobility and locomotion.

Source: Illustrations from the University of Minnesota and paraphrased text descriptions from the University of Missouri Extension (2021).

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Source: Images from the Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service (AFS-3283, 2024).

Other BCS resources available through New Mexico State University Circular 575 (Managing and Feeding Beef Cows Using Body Condition Scores) and Beef Quality Assurance Field Guide.

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Appendix B – Mobility Scoring (4-Point Scale)

Score	Description
1	Normal. The animal walks easily with no apparent lameness or change in gait.
2	The animal exhibits minor stiffness, shortness of stride, or a slight limp but keeps up with normal cattle while walking in a group.
3	The animal exhibits obvious stiffness, difficulty taking steps, an obvious limp or obvious discomfort and lags behind normal cattle walking in a group.
4	The animal is extremely reluctant to move even when encouraged by a handler. Statue-like.

Source: The 4-point mobility scoring scale and descriptions from the Meat Institute (2015). Please view this video for real-life and illustrated examples of cattle movement for each mobility score: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIslfHCvkpg

Important considerations when mobility scoring cattle:

- Mobility scoring is observed while the animals are walking, and when a verifier can clearly see the animal's gait.
- Verifiers should remain blind to outside factors and objectively score the animals based on visual observations.
- The ideal location to score mobility is one that allows the best view of the animals, including feet and legs, and the entire side profile of the animal can be seen.
- The evaluation location space for the animals to walk in should allow the animals to move freely and unencumbered and where the animals can be properly assessed.
- An animal unable to rise from a recumbent position is considered a downer or a non-ambulatory animal.

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Appendix C – Mud Scoring (5-Point Scale)

Score	Description	Example Image
1	No tags, clean hide.	
2	Small lumps of mud on the hide in patches on legs, sides and underbelly.	
3	Small and large lumps of mud in larger areas of the legs, sides and underbelly.	
4	Small and large lumps of mud in larger areas along the hindquarters, underbelly, and front shoulders.	

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5	Manure and mud on the hide continuously on the underbelly and sides of the animal from front to rear.	

Source: Images and descriptions from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and Beef Quality Assurance (BQA).

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Appendix D – Temperature Humidity Index (THI) Chart

The combined effects of both the ambient temperature and humidity must be considered when shipping cattle. The cattle Temperature Humidity Index (THI) chart helps to determine the risk level when planning cattle handling and transportation during the warmer months. Shipping should be avoided when the THI is calculated and reads above 78.

Beef Cattle Temperature Humidity Chart

Temperature (°F)	Relative Humidity (%)											
	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85
100	84	85	86	87	88	90	91	92	93	94	95	97
98	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	93	94	95
96	81	82	83	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93
94	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
92	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	85	86	87	88	89
90	78	79	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	86	87
88	76	77	78	79	80	81	81	82	83	84	85	86
86	75	76	77	78	78	79	80	81	81	82	83	84
84	74	75	75	76	77	78	78	79	80	80	81	82
82	73	73	74	75	75	76	77	77	78	79	79	80
80	72	72	73	73	74	75	75	76	76	77	78	78
78	70	71	71	72	73	73	74	74	75	78	76	76
76	69	70	70	71	71	72	72	73	73	74	72	75
	Temperature Humidity Index (THI)											

Normal <75	Alert 75-78	Danger 79-83	Emergency >84

Source: The chart is from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

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