

Virginia Quality Assured Feeder Cattle Program - A Partnership for Marketing & Performance



Gold Tag Program

- VQA Health & Weaning Requirements
- Cattle owned at least 120 days by consignor



Purple Tag Program

- VQA Health & Weaning Requirements
- Cattle owned at least 120 days by consignor
- Sires are verified to be the 70th percentile or better for Yearling Weight EPD in their birth year or Terminal Sire Index

General Requirements of Program

- Feeder cattle are certified by a third party that VQA program standards are represented, consigning producers are Beef Quality Assurance certified and cattle are accompanied by a form verifying health, preconditioning and genetic (if applicable) inputs
- Vaccinations are given according to label directions no less than 4 months of age and boosters given no less than 14 days prior to shipment
- Required health program including vaccinations for the following given according to label directions and within BQA guidelines:
 - Modified live respiratory viruses (IBR, BVD Types 1 & 2, PI3, BRSV)
 - Mannheimia Hemolytica
 - Clostridial Diseases (commonly called 7-way or blocking vaccine)
- Cattle are graded by Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services personnel. Cattle must weigh a minimum of 400 pounds, have a frame/muscle score of L-1, M-1 or L&M2 and a flesh score of 4 – 6. Unfit, ill, excessively aged or rejected cattle may not carry the VQA tag
- Heifers are guaranteed open. Steers must be castrated, healed and guaranteed against stags
- All calves are polled or dehorned and healed prior to shipment
- All calves are weaned a minimum of 45 days prior to shipment, broke to eat forage/commodity feed from a bunk and are able to drink from an automatic waterer