

Recommended Practices

Feedlot

Receiving:

1. All cattle must have a MNA Affidavit (MNA300) that has the cow/calf section and, if applicable, the backgrounder/stocker section completed and signed. Feedlot manager must receive this document ensuring all Meyer requirements have been met at the ranch level. Upon receipt, the feedlot manager should complete the feedlot section of this document, place a copy in the file and provide a copy to MNA representative at the time the cattle are contracted into the program.
2. Do not mix new cattle until they have been processed and tagged.
3. Lot tags are preferable with the feedlot having control of which lot numbers to use.
4. When feeding in the same pen, maintain separate identity on cattle from different sources.
5. Ideally, process the new cattle after arrival, resting long haul cattle for 24 to 48 hours.
6. Do not cut out ranch tags; instead cross reference them to the feedlot tag.
7. Follow BQA guidelines and give all injections in the neck.
8. Use products approved for Sub Q administration when possible.
9. Palpate the ears for evidence of calf implants. If any are found, notify MNA, as the lot of cattle will not be eligible for harvest by MNA.
10. Palpate the scrotum on steers for missed testicles. Bulls or stags are not eligible for sale to MNA.
11. All preventive biologicals, clostridials, and de-wormers are allowed.
12. Maintain control of needles by inspecting the syringe after each injection. If the needle is missing and can not be found, the animal must be marked as treated and not sold to MNA.
13. Antibiotics at processing are not allowed.
14. Refer to HFAC Standards for care and handling of cattle.
15. Maintain receiving and processing records for a minimum of 3 years.

Feeding:

1. Read labels to insure that animal products and antibiotics are not included in minerals or supplements.
2. Feed 1000 IU of vitamin E for the last 100 days.
3. Yeast products are a benefit in starting and feeding natural cattle.
4. Deccox and Amprolium are allowed as prevention for coccidiosis with a written prescription from a Veterinarian.
5. If the feedlot also grows or finishes conventional cattle and feeds Ionophores (Rumensin) and/or antibiotics (AS700, Tylan), make sure the conventional feed does not come in contact with the natural rations. Different feed wagons or flushing the conventional feed from the feed box with wet distillers or silage is recommended.
6. Maintain feed records for a minimum of 3 years.
7. MNA will collect ration samples periodically to test for compliance.

Treatment:

1. In certain cases, treatment with aspirin or similar products will bring the calf back to good health without disqualification.
2. If the use of an antibiotic is necessary, the animal must be identified with either a treatment tag or the feedlot tag must be marked. The animal cannot be shipped to MNA.
3. Ideally, treated animals are not returned to the home pen.

Shipping:

1. Prior to shipping, inspect each animal for proper identification. Remove animals from other lots if present.
2. Remove treated animals if they are returned to the home pen from the treatment area.
3. Verify that head counts are correct.
4. Complete and sign the Fat Cattle Shipping Affidavit (MNA350) each time you ship, keep copy in the file and fax a copy to 970-292-5542 within 24 hours of shipping cattle to the packing plant.
5. If due to identification, there is doubt that an animal has been treated, do not ship the animal to MNA.

Bio-Security:

1. Bio-security should be evaluated by each operation. Veterinarians and Extension personnel are good resources.
2. All visitors should check in with management prior to entering the operation.
3. Visitors should not be allowed direct access to livestock.
4. Any equipment used around livestock should be properly cleaned and sanitized prior to handling feed.

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