

Verification Possibilities . . .

Non-Hormone Treated Cattle

The Non-Hormone Treated Cattle (NHTC) program has been in effect since 1989, when the European Union (EU) and the U.S. agreed to control measures to facilitate the trade of non-hormone treated beef. Guidelines for NHTC program include:

- Cattle must be grown in approved farms/feedlots and delivered to the slaughter establishment with shipping documentation that includes the statement “Cattle Meet EV Program Requirements for the EU.”
- An approved USDA Quality System Assessment (QSA) program is required.

All farms, ranches and feedlots who raise beef destined for shipment to the EU as NHTC cattle must be audited, and approved by the Livestock and Seed Program, ARC Branch, and all cattle management groups who approve farms, ranches, and feedlots for shipment to the EU as NHTC must be listed on USDA’s web site at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov>.

The farm or feedlot interested in producing animals for slaughter and subsequent shipment to the EU must have their control systems approved in advance. Each of these systems must comply with the program requirements for traceability and identification. Documentation is key.

Farm/Feedlot Procedures:

- Operating procedures must be documented (animal ID, feeding program, transfer of animal to another premise, etc.).
- Each animal must have a unique identification (distinctive eartag, referred to as a Program Compliant Tag).
- Every step in the process where controls are needed to trace NHTC cattle must be documented, such as rations.
- All employees and family members involved with NHTC cattle must be trained and knowledgeable of program.
- Producer affidavits attesting to the NHTC animals must be signed and documented for each production segment.
- Internal audits will be conducted at every phase of the processes.
- Records must be maintained for at least one year after the export of meat and must be available for inspection by a third party.

Live Animal Requirements:

- No hormonal growth promotants (HGP) EVER; commonly referred to as growth hormones. Examples include: any type of implant, MGA, Optaflexx.
- Animals must be traceable to farm or ranch of birth and identified prior to leaving their place of birth with a program compliant tag (PCT).
- Animals must be obtained from and traceable to approved companies.
- Records of all rations fed must be maintained and identify the source and ingredients of pre-mixed feed and supplements.
- Shipping documents must accompany all cattle.

For more information on the NHTC program and marketing opportunities contact the:

Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Ag Promotion Division
800-422-6692 or
E-mail: agr.promo@nebraska.gov

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