

Verified Beef Production Plus - Producer Checklist



SOP 1 Animal Health Management

- Store animal health products according to label directions.
- Record all individual animal or group treatments on a permanent record, including deaths/euthanization.
- Use all products according to label directions, or in the case of extra-label use, according to a written veterinary prescription.
- Securely restrain cattle to avoid potential bent or broken needles.
- Make sure syringes and other equipment deliver the intended amount of product.
- If a broken needle occurs, identify the suspect animal and record on a permanent record. If the animal is being sold, the next owner must be informed of the broken needle in the specific animal.
- If treating with the wrong product or dosage, identify the animal, record the incidence, contact a veterinarian and record actions taken.
- Those undertaking cattle tasks understand requirements of Beef Code of Practice 2013.
- Castration and dehorning is done as early as possible. Pain control is used with dehorning after horn-bud attachment, and for bulls castrated older than 9 months of age as per advice from veterinarian.
- Pens or indoor housing allows for drainage and comfortable, dry resting areas. Pens are not over-crowded.
- Castration of belly nuts is handled by trained persons with pain control.
- People are mentored on handling cattle and abuse/neglect is not tolerated.
- Feedlots over 5,000 head follow a written plan to manage, non-ambulatory/downer or injured cattle.
- Keep a copy of any written veterinary prescriptions used within the last two years.
- Euthanization is done in a timely manner with an acceptable method and by competent personnel.
- Branding is done by a knowledgeable person with appropriate equipment.
- Shelter is available in case of inclement or extreme weather.
- Feedlot staff know what to do if a feedlot animal calves and attention is provided.
- Cattle are monitored for illness and injury on a regular basis.
- Persons visiting or returning from international travel in rural areas with livestock take precautions, including complete clothing/footwear change and cleaning or disinfecting materials before entry on to cattle operation.
- Feedlots over 5,000 head will complete a cattle handling assessment as part of an on-farm validation audit at a frequency to be determined.

SOP 2 Feed and Water: Medicated and Non-Ruminant Feed

- Wood chips or wood shavings used for bedding contain no preservatives or other chemicals.
- Feeds containing prohibited material (ruminant by-products) are not fed to beef cattle.
- Cattle have not had access to non-ruminant feed (poultry, hog, horse, pet). If so, CFIA is contacted.
- All non-ruminant feed is stored separately and clearly labeled to avoid inadvertent feeding to cattle, or cross-contamination with ruminant feeds.
- Those feeding cattle know what to do in case of power outage or feed equipment failure.
- Cattle are fed according to nutritional needs and have access to palatable water or snow as appropriate.
- Feedlot rations are formulated in step-wise manner to allow for cattle adjusting to feed changes.

SOP 2 - Part 2 (only for operations with Medicated Feed or Water)

- Copies of written and signed veterinary feed prescriptions are available for all extra-label use of feed or water medications.
- Feed delivery person is informed of unloading requirements for medicated feed or ingredients, including intended storage area or bin.
- Delivery of medicated ingredients or medicated feed is cross-checked with ration or prescription.
- Medicated ingredients and medicated feed have a separate and clearly labeled storage area or storage bins.
- Equipment used for medicated feed or water is cleaned, flushed or a system of sequencing is used to avoid cross-contamination of non-medicated feed.
- Scales used to mix medicated feed are tested for accuracy at least once per year.
- Staff and/or family members understand mixing and feeding procedures for medicated feed and what to do if an error occurs.
- Medications are mixed according to label directions and documented ration. Actual amounts mixed are recorded.
- A system is in place to avoid delivery of medicated feed to unintended cattle.
- Reprocessed or flushed feed is used or disposed in a manner to prevent contamination of other feedstuffs.
- Cattle pens are clearly identified to ensure medicated feed rations are delivered to the right cattle.
- Medicated feed or water is fed according to label directions or written veterinary prescription.
- Amount of medicated feed fed per pen or group is recorded (see sample record).

SOP 2 - Part 2 - continued.

- If medicated rations or water are fed to the wrong cattle, record the incidence and actions taken.
- Separate equipment is used for receiving (ie. auger), mixing and feeding non-ruminant feed to prevent cross-contamination of cattle feed.
- If feed is mixed with the incorrect amount of medication or wrong product, record the incidence, consult a veterinarian and record actions taken.

SOP 3 Cattle Shipping

- A records check for all drug withdrawal requirements and broken needles is completed before cattle are shipped to slaughter.
- The check for drug withdrawal requirements and broken needles is identified in a record including date.
- If cattle are being shipped or sold other than directly to slaughter, and they have not met their drug withdrawal times, then the next owner is informed.
- Persons handling cattle understand when /how electric prod can be used. Stock dogs not used in case where cattle not able to move forward.
- Extra traction is provided in loading and processing areas for avoidance of slipping.
- If cattle contain a broken needle, next owner is informed including identification of the animal.
- If cattle are inadvertently shipped without meeting withdrawal times, next owner or slaughter plant is informed and this contact date/ information is recorded.
- Those making shipping decision or loading know what is not acceptable cattle to load or transport.
- Trucks transporting cattle are ventilated and protection from extreme weather is provided.

SOP 4 Pesticide Control and Manure

- Manure is stored and used in a manner that benefits the soil and manages against excessive leaching of nutrients into water bodies and groundwater.
- Herbicides, pesticides, solvents, treated seed and petrochemicals are stored, used and disposed to avoid contamination of cattle feed or water.
- Pens holding cattle destined for slaughter are subject to manure removal at least once annually.

SOP 4 - Only if operation uses crop protection products

- Herbicides and pesticides used on pasture or hay fields within the operation are applied according to label directions and usage is recorded.
- Records regarding herbicide use on pasture are checked before cattle are allowed access.
- If a potential cattle exposure has occurred, an expert (eg. veterinarian or toxicologist) is contacted for recommended procedures or actions. Actions taken are recorded.

SOP 4 - continued

- Persons know how to handle unwanted chemical spills and have material available to clean up or manage as appropriate.

SOP 5 Training and Communication

- One person in the beef cattle operation has been trained in the VBP Plus program, and is updated on any new requirements as needed.
- Family members and/or staff understand their tasks relating to SOPs and Must Do requirements of the VBP Plus program. If mistakes happen, communication takes place.
- Someone is designated from your beef cattle operation to review "Must Do" VBP Plus requirements each year.
- Cattle operation has designated person to manage or mentor human resources.
- If someone is neglecting cattle in an outside operation, appropriate communication with experts takes place if needed.
- Cattle operation reduces waste, re-uses and recycles products/ materials as is feasible.
- Information is recorded if problems or errors with the Must Do requirements, including actions taken.
- Employees are treated with equity/respect, and safe and healthy working conditions exist. Staff /family members are trained or mentored on what is expected.
- Livestock managers know who to contact in case of a disease emergency.
- It is recommended operations share aggregate information to BIXS or other means, so that members of beef value chain may use for sourcing claims.

SOP 6 Land Management and Conservation

- Grasslands and grazing are managed in a way that improves soil health and protects watershed and riparian areas.
- Grasslands and other areas provide habitat for wildlife.
- Cattle operation's environmental farm plan provides awareness for stewardship and conservation practices.
- Cattle do not have access to raw human sewage.
- Cattle operations manage beneficial practices and any risk to soil, water and air in a responsible manner. Family and staff understand tasks relating to responsible practices.
- Operations seek to conserve energy, improve production efficiencies, adapt research and other innovation that assist stewardship of land and resources.
- Manure and soil nutrients are managed responsibly.
- Deadstock is disposed in a manner that avoids leaching into water bodies.
- Wintering grounds for cowherds are managed to avoid excessive manure build-up and run-off into water bodies.
- Invasive plant species are managed as appropriate.
- Practices are considered where proven to enhance carbon sequestration and/or mitigate greenhouse gas.
- Irrigation water is managed responsibly/ efficiently.