



# Verified Beef Production Plus – Program Checklist

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## SOP 1 – Animal Health Management

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- Use all products according to label directions, or in the case of extra-label use, according to a written veterinary prescription.
- Store animal health products according to label directions.
- Make sure syringes and other equipment deliver the intended amount of product.
- Record all individual animal or group treatments on a permanent record, including deaths/euthanization.
- Securely restrain cattle to avoid potential bent or broken needles.
- 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.
- Records and written veterinary prescriptions are kept for two years.
- Those undertaking cattle tasks understand requirements of Beef Code of Practice 2013.
- Euthanization of an animal is done in a timely manner with an acceptable method, by competent personnel.
- Cattle are monitored for illness and injury on a regular basis.
- People are mentored on handling cattle and abuse/neglect is not tolerated.
- Shelter is available in case of inclement or extreme weather.
- Pens or indoor housing allow for drainage and comfortable, dry resting areas. Pens are not over-crowded.
- 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 6 months of age as per advice from veterinarian.
- Castration of belly nuts is handled by trained persons with pain control.
- Branding is done by a knowledgeable person with appropriate equipment.
- Feedlots 5,000 head and over follow a written plan to manage non-ambulatory/downer or injured cattle.
- Feedlot staff know what to do if a feedlot animal calves and attention is provided.
- Feedlots 5,000 head and over will complete a cattle handling assessment as part of an on-farm validation audit at a frequency to be determined.
- 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.

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## SOP 2 – Feed and Water

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- Cattle are fed according to nutritional needs and have access to palatable water or snow as appropriate.
- Those feeding cattle know what to do in case of power outage or feed equipment failure.
- Feedlot rations are formulated in step-wise manner to allow for cattle adjusting to feed changes.
- Wood chips or wood shavings used for bedding contain no preservatives or other chemicals.
- All non-ruminant feed is stored separately and clearly labeled to avoid inadvertent feeding to cattle, or cross-contamination with ruminant feeds.
- 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.

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

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- Feed delivery person is informed of unloading requirements for medicated feed or ingredients, including intended storage area or bin.
- Medicated ingredients and medicated feed have a separate and clearly labeled storage area or storage bins.
- Delivery of medicated ingredients or medicated feed is cross-checked with ration or prescription.
- Copies of written and signed veterinary feed prescriptions are available for all extra-label use of feed or water medications.
- 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.
- 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.
- Staff and/or family members understand mixing and feeding procedures for medicated feed and what to do if an error occurs.
- 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.
- Cattle pens are clearly identified to ensure medicated feed rations are delivered to the right cattle.
- Reprocessed or flushed feed is used or disposed in a manner to prevent contamination of other feedstuffs.

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### SOP 2 – Part 2 (continued)

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- If feed is mixed with the incorrect amount of medication or wrong product, record the incidence, consult a veterinarian and record actions taken.
- If medicated rations or water are fed to the wrong cattle, record the incidence and actions taken.

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### SOP 3 – Cattle Shipping

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- A records check for all drug withdrawal requirements and broken needles is completed before cattle are shipped to slaughter. This check is identified in a record including date.
- 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.
- If cattle are being shipped or sold other than directly to slaughter, and they have not met their drug withdrawal times, the next owner is informed.
- Those making shipping decision or loading know what is not acceptable cattle to load or transport.
- 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.
- Trucks transporting cattle are ventilated and protection from extreme weather is provided.

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### SOP 4 – Pesticide Control and Manure

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

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### SOP 4 (Only if operation uses crop protection products)

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- 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 (e.g. veterinarian or toxicologist) is contacted for recommended procedures or actions. Actions taken are recorded.
- Persons know how to handle unwanted chemical spills and have material available to clean up or manage as appropriate.

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### SOP 5 – Training and Communication

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- One person in the beef cattle operation has been trained in the VBP Plus program.
- 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 and persons are able to answer questions on Must Do's.
- Information is recorded if problems or errors with the Must Do requirements, including actions taken.
- 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.
- 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.
- If someone is neglecting cattle in an outside operation, appropriate communication with experts takes place if needed.
- It is recommended that operation shares aggregate information to BIXS or other means, so that members of beef value chain may use for sourcing claims.

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### SOP 6 – Land Management and Conservation

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

