

Verified Beef Production Plus (VBP+) Self-Assessment

To help become familiar with the VBP+ program, this self-assessment outlines key areas relating to program outcomes. Please review and answer as best you can, and return to your provincial VBP+ coordinator who will assess to see what areas may need further understanding.

Name: _____ Beef Cattle Operation Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number _____ Email: _____

Food Safety on the Farm, Ranch or Feedlot	Check (✓) applicable column:			
	Always	Sometimes or Aware	Never	N/A
A. Animal Health Management				
Animal health products are used according label directions or a written veterinary prescription.				
A record is kept on animal health treatments, vaccinations, deaths and euthanized cattle. (individual or by group/pen)				
If a suspect broken needle incident occurs, the animal is identified and the incident is recorded. If has not happened, check (✓) here _____				
Syringes and animal health equipment are checked to see if the intended amount of product is injected/administered to cattle.				
Animal health products are stored according to label direction.				
B. Medicated Feed and Water is used? _____ yes _____ no				
Medications in feed or water are fed and mixed according to label direction or prescription. Records and prescriptions are available.				
Feed or water with medications are carefully managed to avoid inadvertent/ accidental feeding to the wrong cattle.				
B. Shipping Cattle				
Records are checked for product/drug withdrawal times before cattle are shipped.				
Records are checked for animals with any suspect broken needles before cattle are shipped. Next owner is informed if animal is sold.				
C. Pesticides and Manure				
Herbicides and pesticides for pasture or hay fields used in the operation are applied according to label direction. A record of usage exists.				
Herbicides, pesticides, treated seed, petrochemicals and used equipment such as batteries are stored/used and disposed so that cattle do not have access, or water or feed for cattle is not contaminated.				
Pens holding cattle destined for slaughter are subject to manure removal at least once annually.				
D. Training and Communication				
Family members/ staff understand tasks relating to responsible use of animal health products and medicated ingredients in feed or water.				
Family members and/or staff understand what to do or who to ask if errors are made in treating and/or processing, feeding or shipping cattle.				

Biosecurity	Check (✓) applicable column:			
	Always	Sometimes or Aware	Never	N/A
Incoming replacement heifers, cows or bulls are isolated for a time period, monitored for health and/or vaccinated or treated with animal health products as needed.				
Cattle returning from 4-H events, cattle shows/sales and vet clinics are isolated for a period of time before re-joining the herd.				
A record is kept of cattle purchases, and cattle leaving the operation (sold or shipped).				
International visitors or returning family members/employees are aware of possible livestock disease transfer when coming back into Canada.				
When traveling internationally in rural areas, adequate caution is taken, including complete clothing change, showering, and cleaning/adequate drying of materials before entry on to a Canadian livestock operation.				
People travelling out of country understand that no food or otherwise prohibited products should be transported back to Canada.				
Cattle are not allowed access to raw human sewage, such as septic pump-outs and disposal of raw sewage waste.				
Family members and/or staff know who to contact if there is a disease outbreak or disease emergency.				

Suggested questions to ask incoming visitors prior to coming to the beef cattle operation:

- a) Have they been outside Canada in the last two weeks?
- b) Have they been on a farm or exposed to livestock from outside Canada and USA?
- c) Have they been exposed to situation involving a reportable disease in the last 6 months?

Animal Care	Check (✓) any applicable responses to the following questions
Are you aware of Canada's Beef Code of Practice?	___ yes ___ no ___ not sure
Under normal conditions, how often are cattle checked for illness or injury?	___ Daily in winter, weekly in summer pastures ___ More often during calving ___ Daily Other: _____
Do you seek advice from a veterinary clinic(s) for animal health purposes?	___ yes ___ not really
If yes, please check in general what type of advice is sought?	___ Disease management ___ Emergency assistance ___ Feedlot or Herd health protocols
How are new persons mentored on how to handle cattle in your operation?	___ Instruction by owner ___ Oversight by manager or designate ___ Formal training ___ Shadow knowledgeable person and feedback ___ Some not allowed to handle cattle Other: _____
What would you do if cattle were being mistreated or improperly handled on your operation?	___ Instruct them on proper handling procedures ___ Tell owner/manager in charge ___ Re-train ___ Re-assign to another task ___ Don't invite them back to help Other: _____

If your neighbor or someone in your locality was neglecting or abusing cattle, what options would you consider?

Possibly report to another cattle person with expertise Don't know depends on severity

Possibly communicate to authorities if necessary Ask expert/cattle association

Other: _____

Animal Care continued	Check (✓) applicable column:			
	Always	Sometimes or Aware	Never	N/A
Cattle are fed and have access to water in a manner that meets their nutritional needs.				
If snow is a source of water for cows, it is loose /clean and a backup water source exists.				
Pens are designed and/or indoor housing is managed to allow for drainage and comfortable resting areas. Shelter is provided as required.				
Alternative management is provided to assist cattle that are less competitive or have lost weight (especially during winter season)				
The decision to euthanize an animal is done in a timely manner, with appropriate equipment, and using an acceptable method.				
Training on proper euthanasia (putting an animal down) is done.				
Persons making shipping decisions understand what is not acceptable when loading and transporting cattle.				
A policy or protocol exists on how to handle non-ambulatory cattle that cannot walk or stand on their own. People know what to do /not to do.				
Persons transporting cattle understand the basics of Canada's livestock transportation regulations.				
Persons undertaking castration and dehorning understand when pain control products need to be used as per veterinarian advice.				

Environmental Stewardship	Check (✓) applicable responses as an answer to the following questions
<p>Have you completed an Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) and if so, in what year? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, completed in: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not aware of EFP <input type="checkbox"/> Not available in my province</p> <p>If an EFP was completed, what were the 1-2 actions on your operation as a result?</p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>List any training courses relating to grazing or grass management, crop production or responsible environmental practices you have taken in the past 5 years:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	

Please identify some of the practices undertaken in the last 1-3 years for pasture/crop or soil health such as:

- Rotational Grazing Riparian Area Practices Use of Crop Rotations
 Cross-fencing Species at Risk Programs Off-site Watering Systems
 Local Watershed Planning Changing Grasses/Forage Mix Alternate/Cropping/Grazing
 Portable windbreaks/Change Wintering Ground Other: _____

Do you have a permit/license for Intensive Livestock or Confinement Feeding? No Yes

If yes: Type of Permit: Cow/Calf Backgrounding Lot Feedlot Combination

Do you have a nutrient or manure management plan? Yes No

Have you participated in McDonald's Beef Sustainability Pilot? No Yes Average Score: _____

Environmental Stewardship continued	Check (✓) applicable column:			
	Always	Sometimes or Aware	Never	N/A
Grasslands and grazing are managed in a manner that protects or enhances soil, forage and water health.				
Pasture or rangeland practices are adjusted as necessary to address drought, flooding, soil or wind erosion.				
Manure use/storage practices protect against surface run-off into water bodies and leaching into groundwater.				
Wintering grounds are managed to protect against runoff into water.				
Sensitive riparian areas are managed to protect water resource, as applicable.				
Deadstock is managed so that leaching into water bodies is avoided.				
On-farm chemicals are stored to avoid leakage to water system, and used in a manner that protects water health.				
Used material and waste is disposed in a responsible manner, and recycled where possible.				
If necessary, actions have been taken to manage invasive plant species on pasture or rangeland.				
The operation has clean-up material if a farm chemical spill happens.				
Practices are undertaken to conserve or reduce energy, as applicable.				
The operation includes wildlife habitat (mammals, reptiles, birds).				
Soil conservation practices are used for annual crops and feedgrains.				
OTHER: Staff and/or family members understand what is expected regarding safe working conditions.				

Thank you for completing this form, and please forward to your provincial VBP+ coordinator. This lets our coordinators know that you are ready for the next steps, such as further training or recognition via an on-farm validation audit. If there are any questions do not hesitate to contact your provincial coordinator.

Building trust through sustainable beef production.

www.verifiedbeefproductionplus.ca

