Never Ever 3 (NE3)

1 Purpose

This document provides the requirements for Never Ever 3 (NE3), which is a marketing claim. It also provides the requirements used for the objective evaluation by the Livestock and Seed (LS) Program, Grading and Verification Division (GVD) of programs submitted for approval.

2 Scope

NE3 is available to companies of livestock and meat products that submit marketing programs to the LS Program for verification and monitoring. Companies must meet the requirements of NE3 through an approved USDA Process Verified Program. The requirements for the USDA Process Verified Program are defined in *GVD 1001 Procedure, USDA Process Verified Program*. The USDA Process Verified Program ensures that the NE3 requirements are supported by a documented quality management system.

3 References

GVD 1000 Procedure, Quality Systems Verification Programs, General Policies and Procedures
GVD 1001 Procedure, USDA Process Verified Program
USDA Process Verified Program Web site: http://processverified.usda.gov/

4 Responsibilities

Companies must meet the applicable requirements outlined in this Procedure, *GVD 1000 Procedure*, and *GVD 1001 Procedure*.

The GVD must meet the applicable requirements outlined Procedure, *GVD 1000 Procedure*, and *GVD 1001 Procedure.*

Any suggested changes to this Procedure should be submitted via email to the GVD Audit Program Manager.

5 NE3 Program Requirements

The requirements of NE3 are outlined in the following table.

1-No Antibiotics – Never Ever
2- No Growth Promotants – Never Ever
3-No Animal By-Products – Never Ever
http://processverified.usda.gov/

USDA Process Verified Program Never Ever 3		
1-No Antibiotics	**2-No Growth Promotants**	**3-No Animal By-Products**
No antibiotics can be administered whether through feed, water, or by injection, from birth to slaughter. This includes low-level (sub-therapeutic) or therapeutic level doses, sulfonamides, and ionophores. However, ionophores used as coccidiostats for parasite control may be used. See Note 1 below. ***If animals require antibiotics for treatment of illness, they must be treated and removed from the program.***	The administration of growth hormones, including natural hormones, synthetic hormones, estrus suppressants, beta agonists, or other synthetic growth promotants is prohibited from birth to slaughter.	Mammalian and avian by-products are not allowed in the feed. These by-products include animal waste (e.g. poultry litter) and by-products as defined by 9 CFR 301.2 (e.g. products derived from the slaughter/harvest process including meat and fat). Fish by-products and vitamin and mineral supplementation are permissible. See Notes 2 and 3 below.
Any animal that receives any of the "Never Ever 3" prohibited substances must be identified as nonconforming and removed from the program.		
Note 1: Programs requesting approval to use ionophores as coccidiostats must provide a parasite treatment and control plan as part of their quality management system and must meet the FSIS labeling requirements specific to the use of ionophores as coccidiostats to prevent parasitism.		
Note 2: If fish by-products are feed, it must be declared in the program's documentation and posted on the AMS web site.		
Note3: Vitamins and minerals, including salt, are not considered feed additives for this program and are not subject to the Never Ever 3 requirements.		
Note 4: US born animals verified under this program qualify as "Product of the USA".		