

USDA SPECIFICATION FOR CERTIFICATION OF BEEF CARCASS
QUALITY AND YIELD CHARACTERISTICS OF OFFICIALLY GRADED BEEF

This specification is for certification by an Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) agent of U.S. Select and Choice steer and heifer beef carcasses which: (a) meet the Ridgefield Farm's live animal specification (GL46; April 2001), (b) are practically free (not detracting from visual quality) of capillary rupture in the ribeye muscle, (c) are free of "dark cutting" characteristics, and (d) meet the following set of requirements:

1. Lean color, texture, firmness, and overall skeletal characteristics, each of which must meet the requirements for A maturity in the U.S. grade it qualifies for;
2. Marbling score of Slight 00 to Moderate 99;
3. Medium or fine marbling texture; and
4. No hump exceeding 2 inches in height.

Items 1 and 2 shall be determined in accordance with the "Official United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef."

Item 3 shall be evaluated using the USDA-AMS-LS-SB-02 Marbling Texture card.

Item 4 shall be measured from a line formed by the extension of the top line (including the fat) and measuring the lean muscle (excluding the fat) perpendicular to the line in the center of the hump.

CERTIFICATION:

Carcasses to be examined for compliance with the requirements of this specification shall be clearly identified when presented to the AMS agent for certification. Procedures for identification, certification, the removal of preliminary identification marks (or other methods of control) from non-qualifying carcasses, and control of certified carcasses shall be in accordance with established Meat Grading and Certification (MGC) Branch procedures. The AMS agent shall certify acceptable carcasses and complete the Live Animal/Carcass Certification Worksheet (Form LS-5-6).

The cost of all grading and certification services performed by the AMS agent involving examinations, supervision, official documentation, and related services shall be borne by the person, group, or plant requesting the service.

LABELING

Labeling of Ridgefield Farms Premium Hereford Beef products shall be in compliance with FSIS regulations, MGC Branch instructions and Livestock and Seed Program Policy Standardization Procedure 2 (LS Policy SP2; issued July 25, 2002).