



## Livestock, Poultry and Seed Program

# Grass Fed Program for Small and Very Small (SVS) Producers

## Why an SVS Program? Why Should I Apply?

- The Grass Fed SVS Program is a USDA initiative to help smaller cattle and sheep producers that are looking for a more economical approach to marketing their livestock, possibly for a higher market price
- This Program allows you to buy and sell from other “USDA Certified Grass Fed” operations if you want to be a “backgrounder or finisher” of grass fed animals. It allows producers to market their products as “USDA Certified Grass Fed”
- USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) will acknowledge AMS certificates as sufficient documentation to approve the “Grass Fed” label claim on product(s)
- For a “USDA Certified Grass Fed” claim to be used on meat products, the harvest/processing facility must be involved in a USDA QSA audit-based Program

## How are “SVS” Producers defined?

- Producers with 49 head of calves per year or less and lambs from 99 ewes or less are considered SVS



## SVS Program Information for Live Animals

- The SVS Program is focused on the live animal production side only by marketing live cattle or sheep
- It provides the live producer with documentation to back up a “Grass Fed” claim for their livestock

## The USDA Grass Fed Standard

To meet the standard, livestock:

- can only consume grass and forage (except for milk prior to weaning)
- cannot be fed grain or grain by-products
- must have continuous access to pasture during the growing season
- can receive routine mineral and vitamin supplementation



### SVS Application Process:

- Access the application at: [www.ams.usda.gov/GrassFedSVS](http://www.ams.usda.gov/GrassFedSVS) (see upper right)
- LPS 313 Application for Service
- QAD 1020 and 1020S Procedure and Application for SVS
- Both forms should be completed and submitted by email to [QAD.auditservice@ams.usda.gov](mailto:QAD.auditservice@ams.usda.gov) or by fax to (501) 227-4114

### What Happens After I Apply?

- The Quality Assessment Division (QAD) will review the application (QAD 1020)
- QAD will contact you to verify questions and answers on application, or to get clarification
- QAD will approve your application and Program
- QAD will send you a “USDA Grass Fed Certificate” for the live animals enrolled in the Program
- You will be listed on the AMS website as a SVS Grass Fed business

### Cost of services

- \$108 will be billed upon approval of applications
- Approval for a 2-year period

### Live Producers Who Custom Harvest and Market Their Own Meat Products:

- May provide SVS Grass Fed Certificate to buyers to confirm meat products are from USDA Certified Grass Fed animals
- To be labeled as USDA Certified Grass Fed, the harvest/processing facility needs an approved AMS QSA Program (at a USDA FSIS facility, or a State facility that is under the Federal/State Cooperative agreement), to transfer the claim to the label as USDA Certified Grass Fed

### How can I find out more about the USDA Grass Fed SVS Program?

We encourage stakeholders to contact AMS regarding marketing these products.

- Contact Steve Ross, National Assessment Services Supervisor at: (202) 309-1506; or by email at [Steve.Ross@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Steve.Ross@ams.usda.gov)
- Contact Lacey Heddlesten, Supervisory Ag Marketing Specialist at: (620) 260-9873; or by email [Lacey.Heddlesten@ams.usda.gov](mailto:Lacey.Heddlesten@ams.usda.gov)
- Call Our Main Office Number at: (202) 720-3271

You can also learn more by visiting [www.ams.usda.gov/GrassFedSVS](http://www.ams.usda.gov/GrassFedSVS).