



USDA Grass Fed Program For Small and Very Small (SVS) Sheep Producers

1 Purpose

This Procedure and Application outlines the responsibilities and requirements of individuals or companies requesting to participate in the Agricultural Marketing Service, Grass Fed Program for Small and Very Small (SVS) sheep producers.

2 Scope

The provisions of this Procedure apply to small and very small producers/individuals or farms/ranches who participate in the USDA Grass Fed Program and for marketing animals that are in conformance to the USDA Grass Fed Program. The Scope also includes the review and approval of requesting participants.

3 References

Grass (Forage) Fed Marketing Claim Standard (October 16, 2007, Federal Register Notice (72 FR 58631). Grass (Forage) Fed—Grass and forage shall be the feed source consumed for the lifetime of the ruminant animal, with the exception of milk consumed prior to weaning. The diet shall be derived solely from forage consisting of grass (annual and perennial), forbs (e.g., legumes, Brassica), browse, or cereal grain crops in the vegetative (pre-grain) state. Animals cannot be fed grain or grain byproducts and must have continuous access to pasture during the growing season. Hay, haylage, baleage, silage, crop residue without grain, and other roughage sources may also be included as acceptable feed sources. Routine mineral and vitamin supplementation may also be included in the feeding regimen. If incidental supplementation occurs due to inadvertent exposure to non-forage feedstuffs or to ensure the animal's well-being at all times during adverse environmental or physical conditions, the producer must fully document (e.g., receipts, ingredients, and tear tags) the supplementation that occurs including the amount, the frequency, and the supplements provided.

4 Responsibilities

Individuals and farms/ranches must meet all applicable policies and procedures outlined in this Procedure and QAD 1000 Procedure, Quality Systems Verification Program General Policies and Procedure, except as modified in this Procedure. Applications should be submitted via email (if possible) to QAD.Auditservice@ams.usda.gov. If email is not possible hard copy application can be submitted to: USDA, AMS, LPS, Quality Assessment Division
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Stop 0258 – Rm3932S
Washington, DC 20250

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5 Audit Frequency

Applications will undergo a desk audit for initial approval of the farm or ranch. The approval will be for a two year period. Due to individual complexities of some operations an onsite audit may be required to ensure conformance to the Grass Fed Standard.

6 Definition of Small or Very Small

This program is designed to provide grass fed verification services to small and very small sheep operations. Using the smallest group identified in the Farms, Land in Farms and Livestock Operations 2012 Summary (February 2013), National Agricultural Statistics Service chart "Number of Ewes and Lambs Operations and Percent of Inventory by Size Group – United States: 2011 and 2012", to be considered for this program a producer would need to market lambs from 99 ewes or less each year in order to qualify. AMS would consider on a case by case basis if a sheep producer is over but very close to this number whether this verification process could be used.

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Application and Information for USDA Grass Fed Program for Sheep

Date:	
Producer Contact/Name	
Ranch/Farm Name	
Physical address of Ranch/Farm City, State, Zip Code	
Producer Contact Phone Producer Contact Cell Phone Producer Contact Fax Number	
Email Address	
Billing Address if different from Physical address	
A USDA AMS employee will be contacting you by phone and or email following submission of your Grass Fed application. The employee will explain the process and begin your assessment. Additional records and or phone calls may be required in order to finalize your application. Due to complexities of each individual operation an onsite audit may be required.	

Explain your Grass Fed Sheep Operation Below (additional pages may be included if needed)

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**Complete the Following Information to Identify Conformance to the Grass Fed Standard
(Provide Detail Information)**

Type of Farm/Ranch: Ewe/lamb (sell lambs off farm/ranch) Ewe/Lamb/finish operation, (finish lambs on farm/ranch) Backgrounder Feedlot	
Number/type of Animals wishing to enroll in program: Ewes Lambs Yearlings	
Do you have animal identification/records Ear Tags Tattoo Brands/paint brands	
Total number of Animals and Acres in operation to support Grazing animals	
Types of forage raised on operation to supplement feeding as necessary, also number of Acres	
Do you buy supplemental forages for feeding in non-grazing season: Type: Amount(s) Records kept:	
What is your typical grazing season/period	
Do you raise grains, or buy grain by products for use on farm/ranch. If yes, explain how products are not used in grass fed program	

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Do your animals consume any grain products, if yes explain	
Do your animals receive routine mineral, liquid, and or vitamin supplements (describe)	
Have your animals been supplemented with non-forage feedstuffs during times of adverse environmental or physical conditions (explain in detail according to Standard requirements)	
Have your animals had any inadvertent exposure to non-forage feedstuff (such as getting into neighbors grain fields or your own grain supply if available) if yes provide details according to Standard requirements	
Will you be marketing/labeling your animals with the USDA Grass Fed claim	
Do you purchase outside animals to be approved for the grass fed program	
How would you control animals that become non-conforming animals and not marketed as grass fed	
What type of records do you keep to verify conformance to grass fed program: Length of time records are kept:	

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An important component and requirement of this program is the AMS LPS QAD Web listing of all approved farms and ranches. At a minimum we must post the name and location of the farm or ranch. In signing this you are agreeing to allow us to list your farm or ranch on this listing.

Information provided in this application is needed to authorize USDA employees to perform the requested service (7CFR 54, 6, and 7CFR 62). You may by law, be fined up to \$10,000, imprisoned up to 5 years, or both for knowingly or willfully making false statements within this document (18 U.S.C. Section 1001). A separate USDA AMS Application for Service form (LS313) is also required to be completed and submitted for enrollment and billing purposes.

Printed Name (Producer)

Signature (Producer)

Date

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