



## Tallgrass Beef Company Product Verified Program Protocols

### 1) Identification:

Recorded documents must be available for any animal accepted into the TBC program from birth through point of sale. All animals in the program should be identified with an electronic ID tag, or another Tallgrass Beef Company (TBC) approved individual animal ID tag, no later than weaning age (8 months maximum). Each animal must have an affidavit that includes breed, age, movement history, veterinary interventions, birth date, weaning date, and ultrasound data. This affidavit will be required for inclusion in the Tallgrass Beef™ (TGB) programs and can be used by the producer to improve herd management decision making. Affidavits must accompany the animals at delivery to the processing plant. The producer is encouraged to contact TBC if consulting is needed.

### 2) Diet:

**Tallgrass Beef™:** Each animal must remain on its mother's milk for a minimum of 60 days. Once animals are weaned, their diet will be any combination of grass, legumes/forbs and herbs and/or stored feeds made from grass and legumes such as hay or haylage.

Animals may be finished on grass or stored forage feeds. **Prohibited** in this diet will be any feedstuff other than grass, hay or stored forage feeds, unless otherwise approved by TBC. Prohibited products include grains, corn silage, animal by-products, fish by-products, bakery by-products, candy, potato products, etc.

If grains, corn silage or other non-TBC approved by-products are fed, the animals consuming this feedstuff will **not** be eligible for the Tallgrass Beef™ program but can be candidates for other Natural programs that are cooperating with TBC.

***Absolutely no animal by-products are allowed in feedstuffs provided to animals in the Tallgrass Beef program. All ruminant, poultry, fish & seafood by-products are prohibited in feedstuffs. All animals will be harvested at 30 months of age or before.***

**If you have any questions on the use of specific feedstuffs, please call (877) 822-8283, or refer to our website at [www.tallgrassbeef.com](http://www.tallgrassbeef.com)**

### 3) Veterinary:

All veterinary treatments or worming medications must be recorded in a record keeping system. Proper herd health management including vaccinations and routine deworming are permitted and encouraged. A record keeping system must be available for inspection.

**Tallgrass Grassfed Beef™:**

- No sub-therapeutic (feed grade) antibiotics are permitted. Antibiotics for therapeutic purposes are permissible. If a sick animal is treated with antibiotics the animal's identification, diagnosis, date, antibiotic and amount administered must be recorded and available for review by TBC. *Antibiotic withdrawal periods must be twice as long as the label requires.*
- No hormones are allowed in feed or as implants.
- No feed grade fly control agents are permitted.
- No ionophores or beta-agonists are permitted

#### **4) Handling of Animals:**

Animals must be handled according to the standards of the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program developed by the NCBA (National Cattlemen's Beef Association). Humane handling procedures in loading, trucking, and restraint for harvest are required. Efforts must be made to keep the animals as calm as possible throughout the harvest and transport process. Please refer to our website, [www.tallgrassbeef.com](http://www.tallgrassbeef.com), for a more complete description of proper handling recommendations.

#### **5) Ultrasound (US):**

All animals in the program must be carcass ultrasounded at least once, at a maximum of 50 days pre-harvest. Required ultrasound data is to include: Backfat Thickness, Ribeye Area, Ribeye Shape Score, Percent Intramuscular Fat, and Tenderness Score. An individual animal live weight must be recorded at time of ultrasound unless otherwise approved by a certified TBC technician.

#### **6) Live animal specifications for Tallgrass Beef™ label:**

- Steers and Heifers: Maximum of 30 months of age with a carcass weight between 500-900 lb.
- Fat cover must be ultrasound verified to be a minimum of 0.25 inches at a maximum of 50 days prior to harvest.
- Actual Ribeye Area must be a minimum of 10.0 in<sup>2</sup>.
- Minimum Percent Intramuscular Fat must be 3.5%.
- Ribeye Shape Score must equal or exceed 0.50.
- Tenderness Score of 25 or less.

#### **7) Pricing Structure:**

For cattle that are sold to TBC as finished cattle, the producer will be paid \$1.75 per lb of hot carcass weight for cattle that meet or exceed the minimum Tallgrass Beef™ specifications. Cattle will have to meet our ultrasound qualifications prior to being delivered to the plant for harvest.

Cattle purchased by TBC at any other stage of their lives will be subject to individual contract agreements.

The TBC Pricing structure is subject to change upon a minimum 30 day written notice from TBC. The TBC Product Manager will schedule all cattle deliveries to the plant and coordinate payment to the individual producer. Payment on cattle will be mailed via U.S. Postal Service within 5 business days after the date of cattle harvest.

#### **8) Final Product Verification:**

Carcass quality grade and maturity will be determined at the packing plant after a 48-hour chill to verify conformance with protocol standards (see section #6). Non-conformance discounts will be applied to all carcasses not meeting specified protocol. These discounts are considered to be farm/ranch management issues and will be as follows:

- Light and heavy carcasses: (< 500 lb. or > 900 lb.) = \$10.00/cwt.
- Dark Cutters, Bruising, Other: -\$25.00/cwt.
- Quality Grade: Low Select or Less: -\$10.00/cwt.

**Note:** Tallgrass Beef Company, LLC retains the right to refuse any cattle that do not meet TBC specifications as determined by pre-harvest ultrasound. Specifications are subject to change upon a minimum 90 day notice.

For any further information, please feel free to contact Tallgrass.



Visit us on the web at [www.tallgrassbeef.com](http://www.tallgrassbeef.com)

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**For questions on animal genetics and genetic strategy, please contact:**

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**For other questions related to livestock management or ultrasound, please contact:**

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