



Grassfed Ruminant Production Evaluation Tool

To be used in conjunction with the Food Alliance Whole Farm/Ranch Inspection Tool and relevant Food Alliance livestock production inspection tool. Endnotes provide clarification.

Operation Name:	
Address:	
Evaluation Date:	
Evaluator/Inspector:	

Evaluation Criteria

1. All livestock production methods used must meet or exceed Level 3 in each of the standards areas of the Food Alliance Whole Farm/Ranch evaluation criteria and the relevant Food Alliance livestock production evaluation criteria.

- Criteria met.
 Criteria not met.

Comments:

2. All records, including affidavits, must be maintained and available for inspection for 36 months after animal is sold or harvested.

- Criteria met.
 Criteria not met.

Comments:

3. All animals are on range, pasture, or in paddocks for their entire lives.ⁱ

Verification (check as applicable to fully document compliance with criteria):

- Producer can demonstrate that the land base (combined owned and rented) contains enough acres to supply all the grazing requirements for the year, including forage-based acreage for young animals.ⁱⁱ
- If #1 is not enough, there is sufficient hay or silage on-hand to supply the difference.
- If there is not enough hay or silage currently on-hand, then there is enough storage capacity for hay and/or silage to provide sufficient forage during the grazing shortfall for all animals.
- If forage is purchased on an as-needed basis to supply grazing shortfalls, the producer can substantiate the amounts and delivery times by receipts from vendors from previous years.
- If stored forages are fed, they are fed on range, or in pastures or paddocks.
- Prior to weaning, animals may be fed mother's milk. If artificially reared animals are fed milk replacers prior to weaning, these milk replacers cannot contain antibiotics, hormones, or animal fats or other non-milk derived animal byproducts. Feedtags from these milk replacers must be retained and made available to the Food Alliance inspector.
- Other (please specify):

- Criteria met.
- Criteria not met.

Comments:

4. Animals may not be confined in pens, feedlots or other areas where forages or crops are not not grown during the growing season.ⁱⁱⁱ

Verification (check as applicable to fully document compliance with criteria):

- There are no feedyard facilities on the property or on rented facilities administered by the operation.
- If there are permanent feedyard facilities on the property, where crops are not grown during the year, the producer signs a statement indicating that grassfed animals are not confined in these facilities at any time during the year.^{iv}
- There is no feed mixing equipment designed for grain on the property.^v
- If there are bunkline feeders on the property that are used for grassfed animals, producer can verify that this equipment has been in utilized in ways consistent with the Food Alliance Certified Grassfed program.

- Any sorting, working, and loading facilities on the property are associated with short-term holding pens.
- Other (please specify):

- Criteria met.
- Criteria not met.

Comments:

5. Animals cannot be confined to short-term holding pens for more than 30 days per calendar year.^{vi} Animals in short-term confinement may be fed stored or green-chopped forages.

Verification (check as applicable to fully document compliance with criteria):

- If stored or green-chopped forages are fed in confinement, the producer maintains a detailed diary that shows the beginning and ending dates, and that the total number of days in confinement for an animal cannot exceed 30 days.
- Producer maintains a detailed diary that lists the beginning and ending dates of each period of confinement and the conditions prompting each period of confinement.
- Criteria met.
- Criteria not met.

Comments:

6. Animals are not fed grain or grain byproducts.^{vii} Roughage byproducts such as cottonseed hulls, peanut hulls, almond hulls and other roughage products (which are high in fiber (NDF^{viii}) or listed as roughage products by the AAFCO^{ix}) are permitted.

Verification (check as applicable to fully document compliance with criteria):

- Producer verifies that s/he has not purchased or fed grain or grain supplements to the animals at any time during the year.
- There are no grain-feeding bunks or bunkline feeders on the property.
- There is no grain mixing equipment on the property.
- There are no grain storage facilities on the property, or bags of grain or supplements.

- If there are grain storage facilities on the property, the producer signs a statement indicating that grain or grain byproducts are not stored in these facilities at anytime during the year.
- If bags of grain/supplements are on the property, other non-Food Alliance Certified Grassfed animals must also be on the property, and the producer verifies that these bags are not fed to any animals in the Food Alliance Certified Grassfed program.
- If there are grain storage facilities on the property, the producer can verify that grain or grain byproducts were not fed to grassfed animals during the year.
- Producer can show feedtags or receipts from all feeds purchased since the last inspection.

- Criteria met.
- Criteria not met.

Comments:

7. Consumption of seeds naturally attached to herbage, forage and browse is considered incidental and is acceptable. Producer verifies that animals have not grazed grain crops or pulse crops^x containing mature seeds.

Verification (check as applicable to fully document compliance with criteria):

- Producer can describe all the forages that animals have consumed during the year.
- If livestock grazed crop residues, including residues from seed production, the producer can show records that show dates of crop harvest and dates of grazing, and can demonstrate that grazing occurred after seed/crop harvest.^{xi}
- Grazing corn residues is not permitted.

- Criteria met.
- Criteria not met.

Comments:

8. Exceptions to the feed-related provisions are limited to incidental supplementation due to inadvertent exposure to non-forage feedstuffs or to ensure the animals' well being at all times during adverse environmental/physical conditions that may threaten the well-being of the animals. Maximum supplementation that includes grain and/or grain byproducts cannot exceed 4 days for each year of an animal's lifetime.^{xii}

Verification (check as applicable to fully document compliance with criteria):

- Producer describes in detail any inadvertent exposure to non-forage feedstuffs that occurred since the previous inspection.

- Producer maintains a detailed diary that lists the beginning and ending dates of each inadvertent exposure and the activities he undertook to cope with that exposure.
- Producer describes in detail any emergency situations that occurred since the previous inspection. Emergencies are defined as short-term adverse environmental/physical conditions or events that could not be anticipated by the producer.
- Producer maintains a detailed diary that lists the beginning and ending dates of each emergency and the exceptional activities he undertook to cope with that emergency.
- If a government agency had declared an emergency for that area, the producer can provide documents that corroborate that declaration.
- Producer can demonstrate that any such supplementation was fed for four or fewer days during each year of an animal's lifetime.
- Producer can list the names and amounts of all the non-forage feedstuffs fed during such periods.
- Producer provides feedtags and receipts of any such supplements that were consumed under these conditions.
- Producer maintains a diary that contains information about these unusual situations, including dates, descriptions of the situations, the names and amounts of the feeds consumed, and any actions undertaken to avoid or prevent a reoccurrence in the future.
- Other (please specify):

- Criteria met.
- Criteria not met.

Comments:

9. Mineral and vitamin supplements may be provided free choice to adjust the animal's nutrient intake and to correct deficiencies in its total diet. Receipts, ingredient lists and/or feedtags must be retained from any supplements provided

Verification (check as applicable to fully document compliance with criteria):

- Producer can provide feedtags from all mineral and vitamin supplements.
- Ingredient lists can include feedtags from commercial products or ingredient lists on invoices for custom mixes.

- Mineral and vitamin supplements cannot contain grains or grain byproducts or other feed ingredients prohibited by this Food Alliance Certified Grassfed program.
- Incidental use of molasses in mineral and vitamin supplements is permitted.
- Other (please specify):

- Criteria met.
- Criteria not met.

Comments:

10. Protein supplements are permitted as long as they conform to constraints outlined by the USDA, and do not contain any feed ingredients listed under the AAFCO Collective Terms “Animal Protein Products,” “Grain Products,” “Plant Protein Products” and “Processed Grain Byproducts.”^{xiii,xiv}

Verification (check as applicable to fully document compliance with criteria):

- Producer can provide feedtags from all protein supplements.
- Ingredient lists or feedtags from commercial products or ingredient lists on invoices for custom mixes.
- Other (please specify):

- Criteria met.
- Criteria not met.

Comments:

11. All animals certified as Food Alliance Certified Grassfed must never be administered any antibiotics or hormones.

Verification (check as applicable to fully document compliance with criteria):

- If antibiotics or hormones are found on the property, producer can demonstrate that these products are only administered to animals not in the grassfed program.
- If antibiotics or hormones are administered to any animals, the producer must have records to show that those animals were separated from the grassfed animals and sold outside the marketing channels for grassfed animals.
- If a producer administers antibiotics or hormones to any animals, he must provide records for each incident showing the product name, dosage, administration dates, the identification of recipient animals, and the disposition of these animals.
- Other (please specify):

- Criteria met.
- Criteria not met.

Comments:

12. Sick or injured animals must be treated to relieve their symptoms.

Verification (check as applicable to fully document compliance with criteria):

- Producer has records of each incident of disease and injury.
- These records must include date, animal identification, a description of the disease or injury, treatment, and disposition of the animal.
- If any animals received antibiotics, producer must show that these animals were marketed separately from the grassfed animals.
- Other (please specify):

- Criteria met.
- Criteria not met.

Comments:

13. The producer develops and maintains a written record of all vaccines, medications or other substances used in their animal health care program. The producer must keep records of the purchase of any antibiotics purchased. Antibiotic receipts and injection records must be available on demand to the certifying agency.

Verification (check as applicable to fully document compliance with criteria):

- Producer can provide this written record.
- Records for vaccines must contain specifics including product names, reasons for use, and application dates.
- Records for medications or other substances must contain specifics including product names, reasons for use, application dates, and the identification of animals that received these products.
- Other (please specify):

- Criteria met.
- Criteria not met.

Comments:

14. If prohibited medications are required for treatment, the animal are individually identified, tracked and records kept to demonstrate that it is not sold as Food Alliance Grassfed Certified. Provided the identification and tracking are adequate, the animal may still be kept with other animals that do qualify as Food Alliance Certified Grassfed.

Verification (check as applicable to fully document compliance with criteria):

- Producer can show records that include date of treatment, animal identification, medication names and dosages, result of the treatment, and disposition of the animal.
- If a producer administers prohibited medications, records must be maintained to show that those animals were sold outside the marketing channels for Food Alliance Certified Grassfed animals.
- Other (please specify):

- Criteria met.
- Criteria not met.

Comments:

15. Animals are traceable by written record throughout their entire life from birth to harvest back to the farm or ranch they originated. This system must be designed so that inquiries can trace any animal within 48 hours. Records must include sale date, number sold, and destination.

Verification (check as applicable to fully document compliance with criteria):

- All animals for which it is normal, reasonable, and acceptable to have individual identifications have individual and unique identifications.^{xv} For sheep and goats, individual identifications are not required; group identification is acceptable.
- Producer has birth records for all animals. These records include individual or group identification, birth date, and where possible, dam identification.
- If animals were not identified at birth, producer can show that animals were given individual or group identifications as soon as practical and can explain why this delay was unavoidable.
- Producer has sale records of all animals sold from the operation. These records include sale dates and the individual or group identification of animals sold on those dates.
- Individual identification is required for every postweaning animal purchased and brought into the Grassfed system.
- Producer can demonstrate that the identification and record-keeping system will allow a 48-hour trace-back.
- Other (please specify):

- Criteria met.
- Criteria not met.

Comments:

16. For all purchased animals, affidavits are provided by the seller attesting to compliance with all criteria contained in the relevant Food Alliance livestock evaluation criteria and the Food Alliance Grassfed Audit Module.

Verification (check as applicable to fully document compliance with criteria):

- For all animals purchased, producer must provide purchase documents showing date of purchase, individual identification, and appropriate Affidavits.
- Other (please specify):

- Criteria met.
- Criteria not met.

Comments:

Guidance for Complying with Food Alliance Grassfed Ruminant Evaluation Criteria

Fixed Criteria Include:

1. No antibiotics or hormones.
2. No animal fats or other non-milk derived animal protein products in milk replacer.
3. No animal protein products, plant protein products, grains, or processed grain by-products. (See below.)
4. Allowable feeds include forage and roughage products. (See below.)
5. The lists provided below are not all-inclusive. If you have a question as to whether a particular feed source is allowed under the Food Alliance Grassfed Certification Program, please contact Shaila Cook, Certification Manager (503.481.0271 or shaila@foodalliance.org).

The following names and definitions are taken from the 2009 Official Publication of the American Feed Control Officials Incorporated, *Official Names and Definitions of Feed Ingredients as Established by the Association of American Feed Control Officials: Collective Terms*.

Animal protein products include:

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|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Animal blood, dried | 25. Meat by-products |
| 2. Animal by-product meal | 26. Meat meal tankage |
| 3. Buttermilk, condensed | 27. Meat solubles, dried |
| 4. Buttermilk, dried | 28. Milk, dried feed grade |
| 5. Casein | 29. Milk protein, dried |
| 6. Casein, dry hydrolyzed | 30. Poultry by-products |
| 7. Cheese rind | 31. Poultry by-products meal |
| 8. Crab meat | 32. Poultry hatchery by-products |
| 9. Fish by-product | 33. Shrimp meal |
| 10. Fish liver & glandular meal | 34. Skimmed milk, condensed |
| 11. Fish meal | 35. Skimmed milk, condensed cultured |
| 12. Fish protein concentrate | 36. Skimmed milk, dried |
| 13. Fish residue meal | 37. Skimmed milk, dried cultured |
| 14. Fish solubles, condensed | 38. Whey, condensed |
| 15. Fish solubles, dried | 39. Whey, condensed cultured |
| 16. Fleshings hydrosate | 40. Whey, condensed hydrolyzed |
| 17. Hydrolyzed hair | 41. Whey, condensed product |
| 18. Hydrolyzed leather meal | 42. Whey, condensed solubles |
| 19. Hydrolyzed poultry by-products aggregate | 43. Whey, dried |
| 20. Hydrolyzed poultry feathers | 44. Whey, dried hydrolyzed |
| 21. Lactalbumin, dried | 45. Whey-product, condensed |
| 22. Leather hydrolysate | 46. Whey-product, dried |
| 23. Meat & bone meal | 47. Whey solubles, condensed |
| 24. Meat & bone meal tankage | 48. Whey solubles, dried |

Grain products include:

1. Barley
2. Corn
3. Grain sorghum
4. Mixed feed oats
5. Oats
6. Rice
7. Rice, ground brown
8. Rice, ground paddy
9. Rice, ground rough
10. Rice, broken or chipped
11. Rice, brewers
12. Rye
13. Triticale
14. Wheat

Plant protein products include:

1. Algae meal
2. Beans, dried
3. Canola meal
4. Coconut meal
5. Cottonseed cake
6. Cottonseed flake
7. Cottonseed meal
8. Cottonseed meal, low gossypol
9. Cottonseed meal, whole pressed
10. Guar meal
11. Linseed meal
12. Peanut meal
13. Peas
14. Potato protein
15. Rapeseed meal
16. Safflower meal
17. Soy protein concentrate
18. Soybean feed
19. Soybeans, ground
20. Soybean meal
21. Soybean meal, kibbled
22. Soybeans heat processed
23. Soy flour
24. Soy grits
25. Sunflower meal
26. Sunflower meal dehulled
27. Yeast, active dry
28. Yeast, brewers
29. Yeast culture
30. Yeast , primary dried
31. Yeast, torula dried

Processed grain by-products include:

1. Aspired grain fractions
2. Brewers dried grains
3. Buckwheat middlings
4. Condensed distillers, solubles
5. Condensed fermented corn extractives with germ meal bran
6. Corn bran
7. Corn flour
8. Corn germ meal (wet & dry milled)
9. Corn gluten feed
10. Corn gluten meal
11. Corn grits
12. (Kind of grain) distillers dried grains
13. (Kind of grain) distillers dried grains/solubles
14. (Kind of grain) distillers dried solubles
15. (Kind of grain) flour
16. Grain sorghum germ cake
17. Grain sorghum germ meal
18. Grain sorghum grits
19. Grain sorghum mill feed
20. Hominy feedMalt cleanings
21. Malt sprouts
22. Oat groats
23. Oat feed meal
24. Peanut skins
25. Pearl barley by-product
26. Rice bran
27. Rice polishings
28. Rice middlings
29. Sorghum grain flour, gelatinized
30. Sorghum flour, partially aspired, gelatinized
31. Wheat bran
32. Wheat flour
33. Wheat shorts
34. Wheat germ meal
35. Wheat germ meal, defatted
36. Wheat mill run
37. Wheat middlings
38. Wheat, red dog

Forage products include:

1. Alfalfa hay, ground
2. Alfalfa meal, dehydrated
3. Alfalfa meal, sun cured
4. Coastal bermuda grass hay
5. Corn plant, dehydrated
6. Dehydrated silage (ensilage pellets)

7. Flax plant product
8. Ground grass
9. Lespedeza meal

10. Lespedeza stem meal
11. Soybean hay, ground

Roughage products include:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Almond hulls, ground 2. Apple pectin pulp, dried 3. Apple pomace, dried 4. Bagasse 5. Barley hulls 6. Barley mill by-product 7. Beet pulp, dried 8. Buckwheat hulls 9. Citrus meal, dried 10. Citrus pulp, dried 11. Citrus seed meal 12. Corn cob fractions 13. Cottonseed hulls 14. Flax straw by-products 15. Husks, psyllium seed | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 16. Malt hulls 17. Oat mill by-product, clipped 18. Oat hulls 19. Oat mill by-product 20. Peanut hulls 21. Rice hulls 22. Rice mill by-product 23. Rice mill run 24. Rye mill run 25. Soybean hulls 26. Soybean mill feed 27. Soybean mill run 28. Sunflower hulls 29. Straw, ground 30. Tomato pomace, dried |
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Endnotes

ⁱ This means that all animals must be maintained at all times on unbroken ground or on land with forage cover. Unbroken ground is rangeland, vines or any other non-tilled acreage. Forage cover includes crop residue on farmed acreage (pea, aftermath straw, vegetable residues, etc).

² The provisions of this section do not preclude commonly used grazing practices such as high-density/low-frequency or strip grazing, when large numbers of animals may graze growing forages in small paddocks for short periods of time.

ⁱⁱⁱ Forage is defined as any herbaceous plant material that can be grazed or harvested for feeding, with the exception of grain.

^{iv} These facilities can be used in emergency situations.

^v Mixing or pelleting forages with or without minerals is permissible.

^{vi} If the safety and well-being of the animals is threatened, a longer period of confinement may be warranted. However, the appropriateness of a longer confinement period will be determined by the Certification Manager on a case-by-case basis.

^{vii} As required by the AMS/USDA, the diet of grassfed animals must be derived solely from forage consisting of grass (annual and perennial), forbs (e.g., legumes, Brassica), browse, or cereal grain crops in the pre-grain state.

Animals also may be fed hay, haylage, baleage, silage, crop residue without grain, and other roughage sources while on pasture during periods of low forage quality or inclement weather. Animals may be fed crops normally harvested for grain (including but not limited to, corn, soybean, rice, wheat and oats) only if they are foraged or harvested in the pre-grain state.

viii Neutral Detergent Fiber

ix Association of American Feed Control Officials

x Pulse crops are grain legumes such as soybeans, field beans, lentils, lupins, peas, peanuts, and other similar plants.

xi If an unusual situation develops that a seed field (grass, clover, or other crops) becomes available to grazing prior to seed harvest, the livestock producer cannot graze his animals on these fields because this is really equivalent to grazing wheat or oats in the grain stage.

xii This works out to less than 1% of the total energy consumed during the animal's life.

xiii According to the AMS/USDA, cereal grains, grain byproducts (starch and protein sources), cottonseed and cottonseed meal, soybeans and soybean meal, and nonprotein nitrogen sources such as urea and animal byproducts are not allowed as supplemental ingredients for grassfed animals.

xiv Use of molasses as a primary energy source is not permitted.

xv For sheep, participation in the Scrapie Flock Certification Program (SFCP) satisfies this requirement.