

Abingdon Feeder Cattle Association's Virginia Quality Assured (VQA) Program



General Guidelines

- All vaccinations will be given according to BQA Guidelines and product label directions in the approved region of the neck.
- Weaned (separated from the cows) a minimum of 45 days.
- Vaccinations will be verified by a third party (Extension Agent, Veterinarian, Feeder Cattle Association Board Member)
- Calves intended for sale **must be consigned** at the Extension Office.
- Cattle must weigh a minimum of 400 pounds.
- All calves will be dehorned and healed.
- No tail trimming.
- Producers will maintain Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Certification.

STEERS

1. All steers must be healed (following castration) and showing **no bullish/stag features** (crest on neck, dropping penis, curly hair).
2. Steers are “Guaranteed” to be cleanly castrated with no animals displaying “stag-ish” characteristics. Animals found to be stags by the purchaser (verified by veterinarian, extension agent, or livestock grading official) will be subject to a \$100 per head fee payable to the purchaser.

HEIFERS

1. Heifers are “Guaranteed Open.” Producers consigning bred heifers will reimburse the purchaser \$200 per animal.
2. For heifers that die in the feedlot due to calving, a reimbursement from the producer of \$500 per animal will be given to the purchaser.
3. Animals found bred in the market and returned to the producer will be subject to a **\$50 per head fee** payable to the AFCA.

Sale of purchased animals

- Animals must be owned by the seller for a minimum of **120 days**. Producers intending to market purchased animals must notify their Extension Agent of marketing intentions 90 days prior to sale.
- No purchased Charolais-X or Red-X cattle will be accepted.

****VACCINATIONS / TIMINGS****

**Calves will need two vaccinations.
See VQA vaccine sheet for options.**

1. Calves on the cow (before weaning) will need:

1. Clostridials (Blackleg)
2. Respiratory Viruses (IBR, PI3, BRSV, BVD I & II)
3. Dewormed



2. At weaning, calves will need:

1. Booster Clostridials (Blackleg)
2. Modified-live respiratory (IBR, PI3, BRSV, BVD I & II)
3. Mannheimia haemolytica
4. Dewormed.
5. **To be vaccinated at least 21 days prior to delivery.**

3. Purchased animals:

1. 1st round of vaccines (Clostridials, Respiratory, and dewormed) after calves are “straightened out.”
2. 2nd round of vaccines within 60 days of sale and 21 days before pickup.

****Health products administered will be dependent upon the management strategy used with the cow herd. Contact your animal health professional or Extension Agent for assistance in developing a plan to meet VQA Health Goals.****

VQA Ear Tags

- The Abingdon VQA Program uses a high-frequency electronic tag. Animals will be scanned upon delivery and again on the scales. Ear tag numbers are recorded and will be included on weight statements.
- Tags are available from your local Extension Agent.
- Tags are \$2.00 each. Tag fee will be deducted on sale day when checks are written.
- Tag steers in the animal's **RIGHT EAR**. Tag heifers in the animal's **LEFT EAR**.
- **TAKE ALL HOME TAGS OUT.**



Grading / Evaluation

1. Animals will be evaluated on-farm by VDACS Livestock Marketing Representatives.
2. **Marketable Weights** - In most instances we can market steers that weigh between 400 and 975. We can easily market heifers in a weight range of 400 to 850. If you plan on marketing in the VQA Program, evaluate animals and choose a sale date in which your animals will fit in the marketable weight ranges.
3. Only Large and Medium Frame 1's and 2's will be sold. No Small frame or #3 muscle cattle will be accepted.
4. Breeds/colors accepted will include black, black-white face, and Charolais-X (no purebred Charolias). If animals are purchased, no Red-X or Charolais-X will be accepted.
5. Animals graded on the farm will be reevaluated on "Take-up Day" at the Livestock Market. Animals with defects and/or do not match their respective group **will be removed** by the Graders.
6. On Take-Up Day, **it is the responsibility of the producer** to check with the Livestock Market Clerk to be sure that all of the calves are acceptable.
7. Producers with animals that are ineligible for sale and left at the market after weigh-up is completed will receive a phone call reminder to pick them up.

Sales Process

- All calves are sold in group lots at auction using services provided by the Virginia Cattlemen's Association and DV Auction.
- All calves are sold to the highest bidder.
- The auctioneer will settle any and all bid disputes.
- Sale descriptions for cattle listed can be found at:
 1. Virginia Cattlemen's Website www.vacattlemen.org
 2. DV Auction <https://afca.dvauction.com>
 3. Descriptions can be picked up at the Extension Office.
- The sale will begin at 7:00 pm at Tri-State Livestock Market in Abingdon, VA.
- "Take-Up / Delivery Day" will be announced during the sale, and the date will also be listed on the Sale Order.

Delivery / Take-Up Day

- Animals will be delivered to Tri-State Livestock Market in Abingdon, VA
- Producers will provide a mailing address and phone number.
- Animals will be weighed individually on a first-come first serve basis.
- Weighing will begin at 7:00 am unless other announcements are made.
- Producers are encouraged to get animals to the market as soon as possible (no later than 12:00 noon.)
- Producers are responsible for determining if all animals were sale eligible. This information can be obtained at the market office. Ineligible animals will be penned awaiting their owners return.
- Checks will be available the day following the sale.

For more information about the VQA Feeder Cattle Sales, please contact your local Virginia Cooperative Extension Office.